

**They Served Then and
They Serve Now**



CHRONICLE

The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

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“Thank you for your service” - Helpful or Harmful?

Bridget Ludwa O’Hanlon

Rarely does a day pass where we, as a nation, don’t hear something about thanking or supporting our troops. While we should certainly avoid the outright disdain we felt towards the troops during Vietnam, has the pendulum swung too far the other way? Are we genuinely honoring their service and sacrifice when we flood them with discounts and free meals? Are we inadvertently isolating the military community, by failing to honor other forms of service to our country? In doing so, might we be keeping our Veterans on pedestals, doing little to offset the sense of “otherness?”

Having recently celebrated Veterans Day, it is fresh in my mind the number of freebies advertised to thank the Veterans community for our service and sacrifice. While I certainly would never advocate that businesses ought to avoid honoring the military in such a way, I do question the social impact of this phenomenon. Until recently, our nation collectively thanked our military community one day a year, resuming a deafening silence regarding the unique needs of Veterans the rest of the year. Over the past few years, businesses have offered Veterans discounts year round, more car owners display external gestures of appreciation towards the military, and there have been opportunities for specialized programs for Veterans. What kind of impact does this

have on the Veterans community? I’ve seen uniforms unnecessarily worn in public, feeling fairly certain those individuals intently seek some freebie, whether a free meal or drink from a sympathetic and unaware civilian. More and more often, I hear Veterans using their service as a means to circumvent established processes and systems; civilians involved in those interactions have noticed, and it reflects poorly on the military community. While I commend the good intentions of businesses wanting to extend thanks to the military community by offering freebies or discounts, this approach does little to fully embrace Veterans into our society, creates an entitlement mindset, and, I would argue, further isolates those in the military community.



Veterans are not the only members of society who have served our country. While we should continue honoring that service, we should perhaps think about how to equally honor those who served outside of a military capacity. My aim is not to minimize the genuine differences in military versus civilian service, but simply intended to start a conversation. Police officers put their lives on the line on a daily basis, working within their sphere of influence to preserve peace and justice in our communities. Firefighters, within their respective sphere, work to preserve our pursuit of happiness when they respond to relieve strangers in their community of dangerous situations. Teachers in our community bear the burden of educating the future of our country, and are not al-

ways fully equipped with the tools necessary to properly do so. Volunteers in our communities give their spare time and energy, to preserve what sense of community they can. Those in AmeriCorps or Peace Corps actively devote at least a year of their lives to service. Not only are these forms of service not honored with the same level of respect given to the Veterans community, but some of those forms of service are explicitly vilified. When we fail to recognize these other forms of service, we place Veterans on a pedestal, and we place them there alone. Perhaps if we honored those other forms of service, with even a similar level of enthusiasm as we do for Veterans, it might alleviate the sense of “otherness” many in the Veteran community experience. Perhaps Veterans would feel some bond with those other people: a shared sense of service to one’s country.

Bridget Ludwa O’Hanlon Student Advisor Veterans Upward Bound-Cuyahoga Community College MSS 501D 2900 Community College Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44115-3196

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

The Veterans Administration, a history lesson, and the story of a Navy pilot shot down over Vietnam; All in all, one hell of an issue

In this edition, we're starting a couple new pages. The first is a history lesson, and the second is the VA page. The history page was suggested by Bennet Nettleton, whose interest in history is as passionate and knowledgeable as Jimmy the Greek's interest in odds. Nettleton is a former history teacher and sent this note: "I don't want to write a lecture on a particular event or person. I don't think it would serve your audience of veterans.

"On the other hand, if I could write a column of highlights, just snippets, really, I think veterans would enjoy reading it. Along the way, it might move some veterans to further explore many of their contributions to America."

When the editorial board read his first submission, the vote was unani-

mous. Even better, every member of the board insisted on reading the entire column.

We hope you enjoy it as much as the editors enjoyed it. If you'd like to critique Bennet's column, let us know. One editor suggested pictures from some of the items, and if we get one more editor to second the motion, we will, beginning in our March April edition.

I can be reached at (216) 789-3502 or forgedirons@yahoo.com. In this edition is a page devoted to news of the Veterans Administration and serves an important mission: Keep veterans current with their benefits, the plans of the VA, and news from the



VA. Too many veterans are unaware of services and benefits offered to veterans, and the editorial board thinks it is the mission of DD 214 Chronicle to keep veterans informed and current. With the slow death of the Plain Dealer, and lack of interest by other news outlets, important news for veterans is often unreported.

With every edition (DD 214 Chronicle just started its fourth year of publishing for the huge veteran population in northeast Ohio,) we strive to make every story worth your valuable time.

Along the way, I find myself picking favorite stories. In this edition, there are two: The first is the harrow-

ing story by Commander Kenny Fields, a Navy flier who was shot down over North Vietnam. The second is by Bridget Ludwa O'Hanlon, Student Advisor with Tri-C's remarkable program, Veterans Upward Bound.

One of our new columnists is Bennet Nettleton, a former history teacher. When we talked about his column, he said, "If soothsayers and fortune tellers want to predict the future, all they really have to do is study the past."

Finally, if you have an opinion on DD 214 Chronicle stories or features, take pen in hand and let us know. You may also know stories that should be shared by our readers in five counties. Our e-mail address is forgedirons@yahoo.com and our mailing address is 2041 Morrison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

Mail Call

A Walk in the Park

The picture from the American Legion Peace Gardens (Nov/Dec) is hard to find, but when I was a kid, and we ran up and down the fields on both sides of Liberty Boulevard, it was the site of many visitors. It was created to honor our servicemen and women who served in World War I. That was in 1936, just a few years prior to WWII. You may not know it, but there was also a line of oak trees near the boulevard, each with a plaque at its base. The plaques are long gone, and the name of Liberty Boulevard was changed to honor another American hero, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Many veterans protested the change and wanted MLK Boulevard to begin farther south. Thank you for having your photographer take a picture of this hidden, historical monument.

John Ebenger, USMC
Avon Lake

DD 214 Chronicle Almost Starts House Fire

Wow, DD214 Chronicle, your last issue almost spontaneously combusted on my breakfast table. Reader responses to Lou Pumphrey's article on Jane Fonda are ablaze with the flamboyant passions of a most destructive, unchivalrous and controversial war that smolder even after the slipping away of four long decades.

Army (and Vietnam) veteran Pumphrey steps forth with his peace flag from a background of committed Christian nonviolence; the other side, veterans also, all but crucify him and shout out the overriding imperative to defeat Communism at any and all costs.



Yet these voices, rising at opposite compass points, have an important thing in common: the speakers still care deeply about their wars, their country, our history.

How many others do?

In this new America of the all-volunteer military, of the one percent taking upon its shoulders the defense burdens of the rest, who else among us gives a rat's ass?

Let other people worry about it, none of my business, I've got important stuff to do.

Thanks to Lou and thanks to his opponents (even the guy canceling his subscription) who keep our political conversations out front, alive, vibrant and infinitely interesting. And thank you, Chronicle, for having the guts to lay out these explosive arguments and disturb our precious complacency.

Arthur H. Dorland, Navy vet
East Cleveland

DD 214 Chronicle, a Rag

Cancel my subscription to your rag. I'm on board with William R. Schmenk (South Euclid). Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden certainly were trai-

tors. You seem to forget 58,000 men and women died for our country, John. Thank you.

Dennis F. Monahan
Cleveland

Ganley Dealership Insults and Angers Veteran

I am a retired Navy veteran. I just received your issue of DD 214 Chronicle, Nov/Dec, 2013. Well written.

As I read your paper, I got frustrated on a matter that came up on 9/11.

I was on my way to a meeting at a VFW hall, and as I passed several banks, a restaurant, and an auto dealer. I noticed their flags were at full staff. I stopped at the banks and politely asked them to lower the flags to half-mast in honor of 9/11. No problem. I also asked the restaurant and they obliged.

I stopped at the dealership and again asked for their cooperation. Their answer: "We don't have to." And they didn't. I left before I started trouble.

They were given the privilege of selling foreign cars but will not honor this.

The dealer --- Ganley Motors of Parma --- who sells Hyundai! I never have or ever will purchase a foreign car. I belong to a local Honor Guard Unit and consider it a privilege to do so. It's too bad my brothers and sisters had to spill their blood for people like this.

Richard Ruck
Newburgh Heights

Gen. George C. Marshall, Gen. Douglas MacArthur on War and its Aftermath

Politicians — few of whom have, or ever will, serve in actual combat or suffer from the horrors they unleash — start wars. But we ordinary men and women, enlisted or drafted, must do their dirty work. We kill the defined "enemy, destroy their villages, towns and cities, and often their innocent women and children as well. Politicians won't do this brutal, cruel work that they start with their patriotic rhetoric and fervor.

Just one U.S. undeclared war — Afghanistan from 2001 to the present — has already caused deaths of

thousands of Afghan civilians directly from insurgent and foreign military action, as well as the deaths of possibly tens of thousands of Afghan civilians indirectly as a consequence of displacement, starvation, disease, exposure, lack of medical treatment, and crime resulting from the war. This should be intolerable to a decent America. So what if one day, we ordinary people said, "No! We're not fighting any more of your needless wars!"

Note that Veterans For Peace does not oppose all wars; only needless wars. World War II was *not* a needless war. Japan almost destroyed the U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Hitler's armies ranged across Europe, North Africa and Russia. So Congress declared war against Japan and Germany and America gave its total commitment to fight, and finally win, unconditional victory.

But no U.S. war since — Korea, Viet Nam, Gulf Wars, Iraq, Afghanistan — has earned such total public commitment. None was an official war declared by Congress. Each caused deep political division across America. And in not one of these undeclared wars did America earn a full victory. These are the needless, politically-inspired wars that VFP seeks to end, wars we hope every veterans organization would want to end as well.

Read what unquestioned-patriot Gen. Douglas MacArthur (Supreme Commander Allied Forces in South Pacific area, World War II) says about war: "I know war as few other men now living know it, and nothing to me is more revolting. I have long advocated its complete abolition, as its very destructiveness on both friend and foe has rendered it useless as a means of settling international disputes."

And Gen. George C. Marshall (World War II Chief of Staff, later U.S. Secretary of State and third U.S. Secretary of Defense): "The only way human beings can win a war is to prevent it."

Chapter 39 Veterans For Peace, NEOH will work with all accredited veteran organizations to oppose continued U.S. needless wars. Peace is patriotic!

Walter S. Nicholes, president
Chapter 39 Veterans For Peace,
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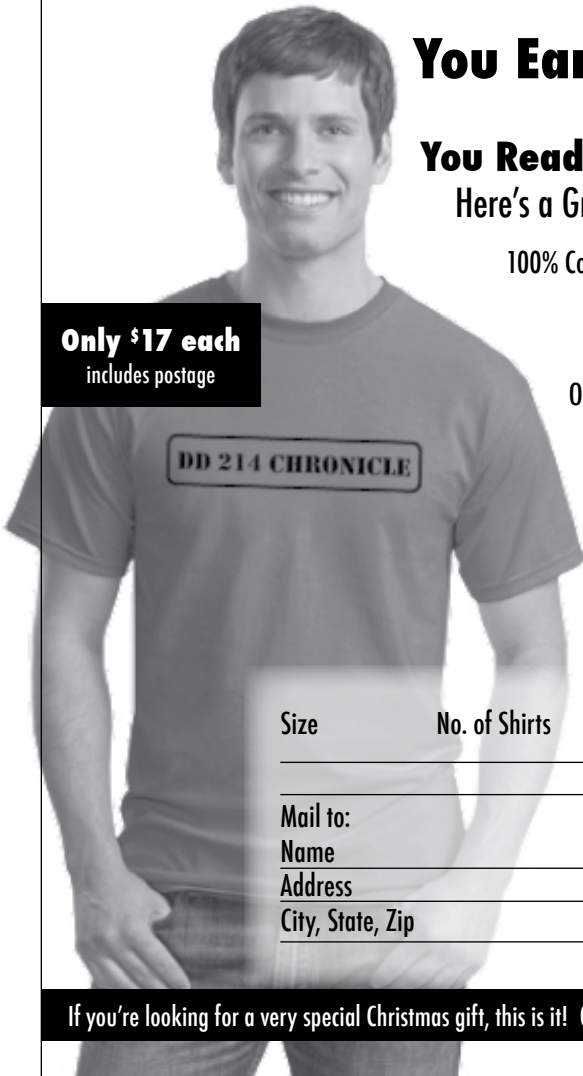
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**You heard it at home,
but you won't hear it in
boot camp/basic training**

By Rich Watts



You're grounded.
Clean your room.
No, you may not have the car on Saturday.
No wearing boots indoors. How many times do I have to tell you?
Turn off that video game or it's going in the garbage.
If your report card stays like this, the last place you're going is college.
Stop bothering your little sister. I mean now.
What do I look like, your maid?
You shouldn't have spent this much on my Christmas gift.
How much for prom? Forget about it.

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Test Run at Parker's Grill & Tavern

By Harry Besharet

In the restaurant trade, nothing succeeds like a full house of virtues: Great food cooked by professionals, a professionally-trained staff, attention to detail, comfortable and comforting décor, and location, location, location.

At Parker's Grill & Tavern, Cleveland's loss is Avon Lake's gain. I say that because the guys who run Parker's prepped for a long time at one of downtown Cleveland's great steakhouses, Morton's.

At Morton's, Paul Kalberer was the executive chef and James Mowbray was the general manager. Kalberer's business is in the kitchen, so rarely is he seen. Not so with Mowbray, who is front and center.

When first I go to a new restaurant, what I like to do is have nothing but a brace of drinks (martini, stirred, not shaken, and enhanced not with vermouth, but a couple drops of Scotch,) and a selection of appetizers. Maybe a salad. This way, I can get a feel for the food quality and service. Plus, I watch the main dishes being carried by the wait staff. I make a mental note of the entrée I want when I go next time. Another



mental note I make is, how close to each other are tables? I don't want to listen to other conversations and I don't want anyone listening to mine.

Walking in the front door is a treat. The place is big, roomy, with a high, pressed tin ceiling. It is a big dining room, but tables and booths are comfortably spaced. The noise level, from both bar and dining room is nice; a low hum of conversation in-

terrupted every so often by laughter.

The first visit's vittles were mussels (man, I love mussels), crab cakes (which are served with remoulade sauce, a New Orleans specialty that has migrated north,) and shrimp (hot and spicy!)

Appetizers were generous (which is nice,) and very, very good (which is vital.) As the wait staff zipped back and forth, I spotted a number

of burgers. The burger list is extensive and each is a half-pound, which means you'll be letting the driver's seat drop back a notch or two. One burger went by and I couldn't recognize it. I asked the waitress what it was, and loved the answer. "It's our Oskar burger. It's done just the way you like, and then the chef loads it up with crab meat, asparagus, and Hollandaise sauce." Geez, add an imported beer and I think you cover the five major food groups with that dish.

Next column: I'm going to skip apps and be prepared for selections from the entrée side of the menu. It's eclectic (barbecue ribs, jerk sirloin, and walleye) and deciding which dish to enjoy is not going to be easy. Or, as my jealous brother-in-law likes to say, "It's a tough job, Harry, but I think you're up to it."

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Changing of the Guard at Veterans Service Commission; New Executive Director Served as Army officer, VA Outreach Worker; Brings Education and Commitment to Post

By Rich Watts

Jon Reiss, new executive director at the Veterans Service Commission, knows veterans and knows the difficulties many veterans suffer. He is part of a military family, a former Army officer, a caseworker with the VA, and has more energy than a medium-sized generator.

He assumes the post admirably and efficaciously served by Robert Schloendorn, who is retiring. Reiss joins a Commission team with a reputation for assisting and helping veter-

ans waylaid by circumstances beyond their control.

Commission members are President Robert Potts, Jr. (Vietnam Veterans of America,) Mel Baher (American Legion,) Clayton Uzell (Veterans of Foreign Wars,) Daniel Weist (Disabled American Veterans,) and Frank Pocci (AMVETS.)

Reiss' Dad was a career trooper, his uncle served two tours as a tunnel rat in Vietnam and a third tour as a door gunner. Reiss and his twin

brother both decided at a young age that the military was in their futures.

After 4 years of college and Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), Jon served over five years on active duty as a Signal Officer.

As a Signal Officer, he served in Kuwait as the Officer in Charge of Communications for the Coalition Forces. He also served in Fort Huachuca as the training officer, operations officer and assistant S3 for 504th Signal Battalion. In 2007, Jon deployed

with the 11th Signal Brigade where he served as the Operations Officer for Task Force Thunderbird in Iraq.

Reiss has more than military experience. His education includes a BBA in Information Systems (University of Toledo,) Masters Certificate in Non-Profit Management, and Masters degree in Public Administration (both from Cleveland State University.)

Reiss knows veterans and the

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

problems suffered by veterans; after his military service, he was Intake and Admissions Coordinator for the Wade Park Veterans Domiciliary. It was in that position he learned the pain and confusion suffered by homeless veterans.

His most telling story from his work with the Dom is a reflection of his commitment to veterans. "Those guys go through a lot, and then to compound it, their pride as veterans is not conducive to asking for help. Still, they are very strong, resourceful, and amazingly resilient. So part of my goal in doing outreach was developing relations with these men and women. I wanted them to feel comfortable with me, to trust me enough to let me get them in the Dom."

The job was challenging. "Sometimes the first couple times you approach a guy, he won't even talk with you. A couple approaches later, they're familiar with your face and a couple times later, they may listen to what you have to say. Eventually, the result is getting the person into the Dom where they can get the services they need. It is also at the Dom they can get the resources they need and ultimately get back their independence."

The Hospice of the Western Reserve

By Annabelle Lee Dowd

Inspiration for our modern hospice system doesn't have a long history. What history it has is marked by kindness, professionalism, and comfort for those who are terminally ill. Just as important, it provides empathy, sympathy, and understanding for grieving family and friends left behind.

Hospice was the inspired creation of Dame Cicely Saunders, who was a student nurse in England during World War II. Based on her own experience, she knew what was needed for the dying: the preservation of dignity, the management of pain, emotional and spiritual support, and counsel for families.

By the mid-Seventies, hospice care was introduced here. It is

one of America's most successful ventures, though many of us are unaware of its benefits until we need them.

Enter the Hospice of the Western Reserve, which fulfills the hospice mission: Its philosophy is simple, direct, and driven by a deep awareness of the support needed by its patients, family, community, and staff.

Its core values guide the mission, training, operation, and service to our communities.

"Hospice of the Western Reserve affirms the dignity of life and advocates for patient and family comfort and quality during life's final phase. We believe that hospice patients have the right to continue life to the fullest extent possible according to their

circumstances, and we believe in fostering opportunities for continuing growth and fulfillment.

"We further recognize patients' decision-making rights in relation to continued medical treatments and we advocate the right to withdraw treatments whose benefits are outweighed by their burdens. We also support the use of medication to alleviate pain even if there is a risk of death as a secondary and unintended consequence."

Hospice of the Western Reserve has two facilities: David Simpson Hospice House, at 300 East 185th Street, in Cleveland, which overlooks Lake Erie, and Ames Family Hospice House, at the corner of Crocker and Clemens roads in Westlake.

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Baldwin Wallace University: Where Veterans are Welcomed

by Edward J. Walsh

There are two virtues that apply to Baldwin Wallace University: the university has been educating men and women who contribute greatly to society, and the university will be educating men and women who will contribute greatly to society.

For all its rich history, which dates to 1845, the university is current and forward-thinking. BW, its abbreviated name, guides and teaches students from northeast Ohio, the nation, and the world. Serving more than 3,000 undergraduate students, 800 who learn at night and weekend classes, and more than 800 graduate students.

For the purposes of DD 214 Chronicle, BW's history is important, but more important is BW's commitment to U.S. military veterans. BW has been named a Yellow Ribbon school and its commitment to veterans is nothing short of outstanding.

For new veterans who think BW, a private, four-year university, is beyond reach, think again.

Because BW participates in the Yellow Ribbon program, eligible military veterans are offered the opportunity to attend BW basically tuition-free. It includes both graduate and post-graduate studies. Staff at BW is specially attuned to the needs of veteran students.

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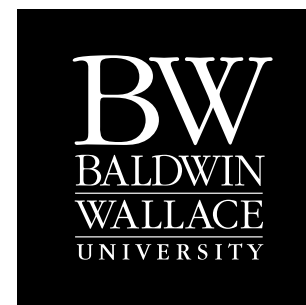
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History: Far More Interesting Than the Present

By Bennet Nettleton

January

In 1790, President George Washington delivered the first State of the Union address.

Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi. The year was 1935.

President George Bush, in 1991, was authorized by Congress to use military force against Iraq. It followed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

President Franklin Roosevelt threw down the gauntlet after he and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at Casablanca, in 1943. The men worked on WWII strategy and Roosevelt said peace would come only "by the total elimination of German and Japanese war power. That means the unconditional surrender of Germany, Italy, and Japan."

The war in Iraq started in 1991 as Allied aircraft raided Iraqi air defenses. It was broadcast live on CNN, and Desert Shield morphed into Desert Storm.

Cassius Clay was born in 1942 and only 22 years later, leveled Sonny Liston in the world heavyweight boxing championship. He later converted to the Muslim religion and changed his name Muhammad Ali. When he was drafted to fight in Vietnam, he refused duty as a conscientious objector on religious grounds.

In 1981, Ronald Reagan became the oldest president. He was 69 and during the inauguration parties, announced the return of 52 Americans held hostage in Iran for 444 days.

Our first land victory in the Pacific in 1943 was on New Guinea. It was the beginning of the end for Japan.

In January, 1968, North Korea seized the USS Pueblo, which was in the Sea of Japan. The Communists claimed the ship was on a spying mission. A year later, after the ship had been stripped, the crew was freed, although there was one fatality.

Britain's wartime prime minister, Winston Churchill (1874-1965), passed away. When he became the prime minister at the beginning of the war, he said, "If Hitler invaded hell, I would make at least a favourable reference to the devil in the House of Commons" A master of his language, he accurately described Hitler's reign as "a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime."

Shoichi Yokoi, a Japanese soldier, was discovered in 1972 on the island of Guam. He had been hiding out in the jungle for 28 years, unaware the Second World War had been over for a long, long time.

Al Capone, one of America's best known criminals, succumbed to syphilis in 1947. He was 48.

After heavy Allied bombing of Berlin and other German cities in 1943, the Nazis put members of Hitler Youths behind anti-aircraft guns.

Douglas MacArthur author of two of America's greatest quotes, passed away in 1964. As commander of Allied forces, he was forced to leave the Philippines as Japan took the islands. He said at the time, "I shall return." He did. When, in 1951, he was dismissed by President Harry Truman, he added another important quote, "Old soldiers never die. They just fade away."

In 1973, the Vietnam War came to a close when an agreement was signed in Paris by North Vietnamese and American officials. The U.S. suffered 58,000 deaths, 300,000 wounded, and 2,500 missing in action. Five hundred sixty six POWs were

held by the North Vietnamese and 55 were reported dead.

Congress combined the Life Saving Services and the Revenue Cutter Service in 1915 and created the U.S. Coast Guard.

In 1933, German president Paul Von Hindenburg named Adolf Hitler Chancellor of Germany.

At the end of January, 1968, the North Vietnamese launched its Tet Offensive. Five major cities and 36 provincial cities in South Vietnam, as well as the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, came under attack. Although the attacks were defended and American forces were

successful, the graphic news reports led more and more Americans to denounce the war.

U.S. Army private Eddie Slovik, 24, was executed by a firing squad. In 1945, he was found guilty of desertion and sentenced to death. It was the first execution in the Army since the Civil War.

February

In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified. It granted Congress the authority to collect income taxes.

U.S. Army transport ship Dorchester was struck by a German torpedo. The ship did not have enough life jackets. Four U.S. Army chaplains took their life jackets off and gave them to soldiers. The chaplains, in prayer, went down with the ship. This extraordinary act of selflessness and heroism happened in the icy waters off Greenland.

Apache Chief Cochise, arrested for raiding a ranch, escaped U.S. Army custody in 1861. He declared war on the U.S. The Apache Wars lasted 25 years.

The Boy Scouts of America was created by William Boyce in 1910. The idea was not a new one. BSA was modeled on the British Boy Scouts.

At a cost of 2,000 American and 9,000 Japanese killed, the U.S. captured Guadalcanal in 1943.

Second Lieutenant Alexander Nininger was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. His heroism was part of the Battle of Bataan in 1942.

Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. In addition to leading the nation in the Civil War, Lincoln freed the slaves, wrote and delivered his Gettysburg Address, and established Thanksgiving.

During World War II in Europe, British and American planes bombed Dresden, Germany. The year was 1945 and created a firestorm that lasted four days. It could be seen for 200 miles and resulted in the deaths of an estimated 135,000 civilians.

Soviet Russia withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989. The human cost of its involvement in the civil war was enormous: More than 15,000 Russian soldiers were killed.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, using an Executive Order in 1942, relocated more than 110,000 Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast. Their businesses were shut down, their property sold, and schools were shuttered.

The first Japanese attack on the U.S. mainland, in World War II was the shelling of an oil refinery on the West Coast. Only minor damage in the 1942 attack was inflicted.

In 1993 author and historian William L. Shirer passed away. As Hitler rose to power, Shirer was a reporter in Europe. He wrote the highly-acclaimed history of Hitler and Nazi Germany, "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich."

THE VOW

"We will wait and pray 'til they all come home."
That was our anthem during World War II.

Today, we add this: ***"...and if they are broken...
we will fix them as best we can...and we will
do it with the help of their families...and the
Greater Cleveland Fisher House."***

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The Greater Cleveland Fisher House is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible. Contributions can be made at any Key Bank branch.

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On The Cover:

PFC Matthew Zajac, U.S. Army
with his father, Mike Zajac



THE GREATER CLEVELAND FISHER HOUSE



They'll be coming home for the holidays... this year and for years to come. And if they are broken, we will give them a (PLACE) home where they and their families can heal together ...

Please Help Us Today As We Help The Greater Cleveland Fisher House

The Greater Cleveland Fisher House is the Northeast Ohio affiliate of the Fisher House Foundation. The Foundation is best known for the network of comfort homes built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers.

The Greater Cleveland Fisher House will give wives, husbands, children, and the mothers and fathers of injured, wounded or seriously ailing veterans from all conflicts a place to stay within a few hundred yards of their loved ones being treated at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center, The Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, Metro or any specialty hospital in the area treating pa-

tients of the V.A. a place to stay free of charge

The Greater Cleveland Fisher House will be a 16,000 square foot home with 18 suites and will house up to 42 family members. The cost to build the Fisher House will total approximately \$7 Million. \$750,000 is now raised. The goal of the Greater Cleveland Fisher House Task Force is

to raise a total of \$3 Million. Once this goal is reached, the Fisher House Foundation will build the Greater Cleveland Fisher House on the grounds

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of the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center.

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Give ...to help us build it.

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tax-deductible. Contributions can be made at any Key Bank branch. Checks can be made payable to: Greater Cleveland Fisher House

The Greater Cleveland Fisher House 2013 Honor Roll (as of November 30, 2013)

The 900,000 veterans of Ohio are profoundly thankful and grateful to the scores of individual donors, business, organizations, foundations and community groups who in 2013 gave to help us build the Greater Cleveland Fisher House. It is clear support for veterans and their families.

Businesses/Civic Clubs/Community Organizations

ShurTech Brands
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US Bank
Bank of America
The Brew Kettle
The Cleveland Browns Alumni Assoc.
The Strongsville Browns Backers
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Northeast Ohio Foundation for Patriotism
Luke Henkel's Run
The Hillier Family
WorkPlace Media
Strongsville Rotary
Today's Dentistry
St. Vitus Parish
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Quaker Steak & Lube of Columbus
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Moose Lodge 490

Ladies of the Parlour Quilt Guild
Wheels for Warriors
West Harley Owners Group
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Warthogs Motorcycle Club
Knights of Pythias - Owatonna Lodge 62
Grand Temple - Pythian Sisters 02
Evansport Methodist Church
Millersburg Elementary
West Holmes High School
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Labor

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Pipefitters Local 120
Cleveland Building & Construction Trades
Heat & Frost Insulators Local 2
Cleveland EERC 777

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The Cleveland Browns Foundation
The Bidwell Charitable Fund
The Getz Foundation
The Lausche Foundation
The Gogate Foundation

Veteran Service Organization

American Legion, State of Ohio
American Legion AUX Department of Ohio
Sons of the American Legion 13th District
American Legion Euclid Ladies Aux 343
American Legion Euclid Ladies Aux 343
American Legion Post 221
American Legion Riders Post 221

American Legion Post 601
American Legion Riders Post 627
American Legion Post 68
American Legion AUX Post 118
AMVETS Ladies AUX Post 1338
Ladies AUX VFW Post 9520
VFW Post 9520
VFW Post 349
VFW Post 3313
VFW Post 3345
Men's AUX VFW Post 3345
Men's AUX VFW Post 1974
VFW Post 7647
VFW Post 7754
VFW Post 2842
VFW Post 3494
Blue Star Mothers of Coschocton
Euclid Veterans Association
Disabled American Veterans- Chapter 72
Catholic War Veterans
Polish Legion of American Veterans
Jewish War Veterans
North Madison Memorial Unit
Sons & Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Assoc. of Ohio - Chapter 12-1
Goodtimers Combat Veterans Motorcycle Assoc. Support
Colonel Herbert - 1st Division Assoc.
Ohio Ride to the Vietnam Wall Assoc.
Rolling Thunder Chapter 1
Rolling Thunder Chapter 8
2nd Brigade Motorcycle Club

VA Offers Dental Insurance Program

WASHINGTON (Nov. 15, 2013) – VA is partnering with Delta Dental and MetLife to allow eligible Veterans, plus family members receiving care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), to purchase affordable dental insurance beginning Nov. 15, VA officials announced today.

“VA continues to explore innovative ways to help Veterans get access to the care and services they have earned and deserve,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “This new dental program is another example of VA creating partnerships with the private sector to deliver a range of high-quality care at an affordable cost, for our Nation’s Veterans.”

More than 8 million Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care can choose to purchase one of the offered dental plans. This three-year pilot has been designed for Veterans with no dental coverage, or those eligible for VA dental care who would

like to purchase additional coverage. Participation will not affect entitlement to VA dental services and treatment.

There are no eligibility limitations based on service-connected disability rating or enrollment priority assignment. People interested in participating may complete an application online through either Delta Dental, www.deltadentalvadip.org, or MetLife, www.metlife.com/vadip beginning Nov. 15. Coverage for this new dental insurance will begin Jan.



1, 2014, and will be available throughout the United States and its territories.

Also eligible for the new benefits are nearly 400,000 spouses and dependent children who are reimbursed for most medical expenses under VA’s CHAMPVA program. Generally, CHAMPVA participants are spouses, survivors or dependent children

of Veterans officially rated as “permanently and totally” disabled by a service-connected condition.

Dental services under the new

program vary by plan and include diagnostic, preventive, surgical, emergency and endodontic/restorative treatment. Enrollment in the VA Dental Insurance Plan (VADIP) is voluntary. Participants are responsible for all premiums, which range from \$8.65 to \$52.90 per month for individual plans. Copayments and other charges may apply.

Historically VA’s free dental services have gone to Veterans with dental problems connected to a medical condition that’s officially certified as “service connected.” Free dental services will continue for those Veterans.

For more information on VADIP, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vadip, or contact Delta Dental at 1-855-370-3303 or MetLife at 1-888-310-1681.

Veterans who are not enrolled in the VA health care system can apply at any time by visiting www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll, calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visiting their local VA health care facility.

Technical Skills Training Programs

PRIORITY OF ENROLLMENT
WILL BE GIVEN TO VETERANS



NO COST: Funding available to cover tuition, books and certification exam fees.

Network Support Specialist Program

Learn to assemble a computer system, operate and troubleshoot medium-size route and switched networks, monitor and troubleshoot basic tasks of a Cisco WLAN & more.

CREDENTIALS EARNED:

- CompTIA A+ Certified Technician
- Cisco Certified Network Associate
- Cisco Certified Network Associate Wireless

Contact Mr. Green for information.

Medical Administrative IT Technician Program

Learn to provide technical maintenance and troubleshoot information technology systems including medical records software in a medical environment. Provide medical/clinical office support including the control the security and quality of records.

CREDENTIALS EARNED:

- CompTIA Health Care Information Technician
- Certified Medical Administrative Assistant
- Certified Electronic Health Record Specialist Certification

Contact Mr. Brown for information.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Workers who are long-term unemployed (27+ weeks) and other unemployed and underemployed workers
- Pass assessments in math, English and computer IT (health care medical concepts assessment also required for medical administrative program)
- Pass BCI and FBI background checks (no criminal history)
- See website for complete requirements

Training funded through a Department of Labor (DOL) Employment, Training and Administration (ETA) grant.

Email joblink@tri-c.edu for more information | www.tri-c.edu/joblink

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Semper Fidelis: Lady Leathernecks Make History

Three women have completed the grueling course to become combat infantry Marines. Each deserves hearty congratulations. They are: Julia Carroll, Katie Gortz, and Christina Fuentes Montenegro. All are PFCs.

Congratulations and toasts are in order.

Infantry training in the Marine Corps is long, hard, challenging, demanding, yet ultimately satisfying. The women join America's historic and best trained fighting force.

There is no such animal as a 'former Marine.' Marines, whether on active duty, reserve status, or retired, remain Marines for the rest of their lives.

Women Marines have long served America and it began in 1918, when Opha Mae Johnson enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve. For nearly a century, women Marines have served and been vital components in the Armed Forces.

Ooh Rah, Devil Dogs!

"The willingness of America's veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude." - Jeff Miller



Your Story, Your Life

The Gift Only You Can Give Your Family

Many veterans take their stories to the grave, much to the regret of their children, family and friends. It is understandable: many memories have been tucked away and veterans believe they are better left undisturbed. Family and other loved ones beg to differ. Award-winning journalist and author (of seven books) John Tidyman can help turn your memories into a memoir. Tidyman served as a combat infantryman in the Vietnam War, and understands the role military service played in your life. Only you can give this gift to your family and friends. Your memoir will become a vital part of your family's history and will allow family and friends to know you far better. Your memoir is a unique gift for your loved ones. Only you can give this gift.

For detailed information about your memoir, call or write:

John H. Tidyman, editor
DD214 Chronicle
2041 Morrison Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
(216) 789-3502 • forgedirons@yahoo.com

When I was building the Vietnam Memorial, I never once asked the veterans what it was like in the war, because from my point of view, you don't pry into other people's business. - Maya Lin

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American Legion Auxiliary Unit 214 Celebrates Veterans Day with Navy Pilot Shot Down Over Laos

(Commander Kenny Fields USNR, Retired, addressed the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 214 at its Veterans Day dinner. Following are excerpts from his talk.)

I signed up with the Navy recruiter to fly jets from the flight decks of aircraft carriers. During the physical examination to determine if I was medically fit for the Navy flight program, I was told to step on the weight scales. The medical corpsman noted my weight and casually stated that I was a few pounds shy of the minimum allowed for Navy pilots. He told me I had flunked the exam, that I could put my clothes on, and that I could go home as soon as his supervisor signed the papers which would void my enlistment contract.

I was devastated.

But a higher power intervened. As I put clothes on, a more senior corpsman walked in and he, by the grace of God, just happened to be an old high school friend. Smiling at me, he asked why I was there. After hearing my bad news, he retorted, "That's BS. With your puny weight, you held your own against larger football players."

He then turned and smartly led the junior corpsman into the next room



for counseling. When the junior corpsman returned, lo and behold, I magically now weighed more than the scale had shown. I had passed my physical.

Six years later, on May 31, 1968, my A-7 Corsair was catapulted off the deck of the aircraft carrier, USS America, for a combat mission during the Vietnam War. Thirty minutes later, I was shot down in Laos by enemy anti-aircraft fire. My rescue, 40 hours later, was one of the largest, most dramatic, most improbable rescues of the Vietnam War.

During climb-out after a bomb run, a portion of my jet's right wing was blown off by enemy gunfire and my plane began tumbling out of control. For the next few seconds, I was preoccupied. My head was inside the cockpit, scanning instruments and fighting my wildly gyrating control stick, in a frantic effort to get my jet

under control.

Five seconds or so after my plane was hit, my forward air controller keyed his mike and issued a panic-sounding advisory, "Eject, eject."

His alert advice made me glance at the rapidly approaching ground and I ejected, just a couple seconds before my jet hit the ground.

While I floated 300 feet or so down in my parachute, enemy soldiers shot at me with rifles, and I landed 50 feet from one of them in a bamboo grove. While I was ridding myself of my parachute, he closed with 25 feet and seconds later, he fired a shot which broke a small branch beside my head.

Unfortunately, I had landed in the midst of Phatet Lao guerillas and a 10,000-man NVA division which had withdrawn from the earlier battle at Khe Sanh.

During the next five hours, enemy troops were constantly breathing down my neck during a nerve wracking chase to capture or kill me before nightfall. Over the next two nights and 39 hours, I felt like I was on a never-ending rabbit hunting trip back home in West Virginia, only the roles were reversed. I was the rabbit in hiding and each time I encountered the enemy, sometimes within five feet, it was always a worse situation than the previous one.

Encounter after encounter, I didn't throw my hands up. I wouldn't give in and they wouldn't stop chasing me.

I played my rabbit role well enough and through my skills honed during childhood, I evaded the enemy troops a first night, the next day, and a really scary and eventful second night, before I was rescued on the third day.

But the enemy opposition was so ferocious and intense that, because of my shoot-down, a total of seven planes were lost or damaged beyond use. And during the 189 sorties by the Air Force, one pilot was shot down attempting to rescue me, was captured, and spend five and a half years as a POW. Fortunately, he too is a living veteran and we are now close friends.

Veteran Groups and Government Play by Different Rules

The DD 214 Chronicle Editorial Board

Veterans can play the slots, poker, blackjack, the ponies, and the Lottery, but when it comes to gambling in their own halls, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine says it's illegal and his office is going to shut them down.

He will have some bite to accompany his bark: It's the law.

But Mr. Bumble, one of Charles Dickens' most interesting characters, adds, "The law is an ass." In our humble opinion, the Attorney General can find better targets for the application of law and justice.

Veterans' halls are filled with men

and women who honorably served the country in uniform. When they took the oath, they relinquished protection under the Bill of Rights and instead agreed to live under the Uniform Military Code of Justice, a federal law.

DD 214 Chronicle holds that legal gambling is government's strategy to make money from gambling. It has worked well. But government, which long prohibited gambling, and sent many citizens to prison, turned the law on its ear when it realized the revenues it could realize via legalized gambling.

The law didn't stop the numbers racket, gambling in living rooms, or church basements, or backrooms of local taverns, but it did reinforce laws prohibiting gambling, while creating a very successful revenue source for government.

It is doubtful Mr. DeWine understands the cultures of VFW, American Legion, and other military veteran halls. In his biography, there is no mention of military service. That is not to say he hasn't served well and admirably his country and state. The Attorney General's biography includes service in the

Ohio Senate, U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. In addition, he served as Ohio's lieutenant governor.

If Mr. DeWine better understood the role veteran organizations assume in the community, perhaps his hardline position might be softened. He might walk point and provide to veteran organizations the same revenue-generation by which the government enriches itself. (Veteran organizations are not immune to temptation; the Attorney General rightly hammered AMVETS for lining the pockets of members.)

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