



CHRONICLE

The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

# SOLDIERS OF COLOR: RED, WHITE, AND BLUE



Tuskegee Airmen

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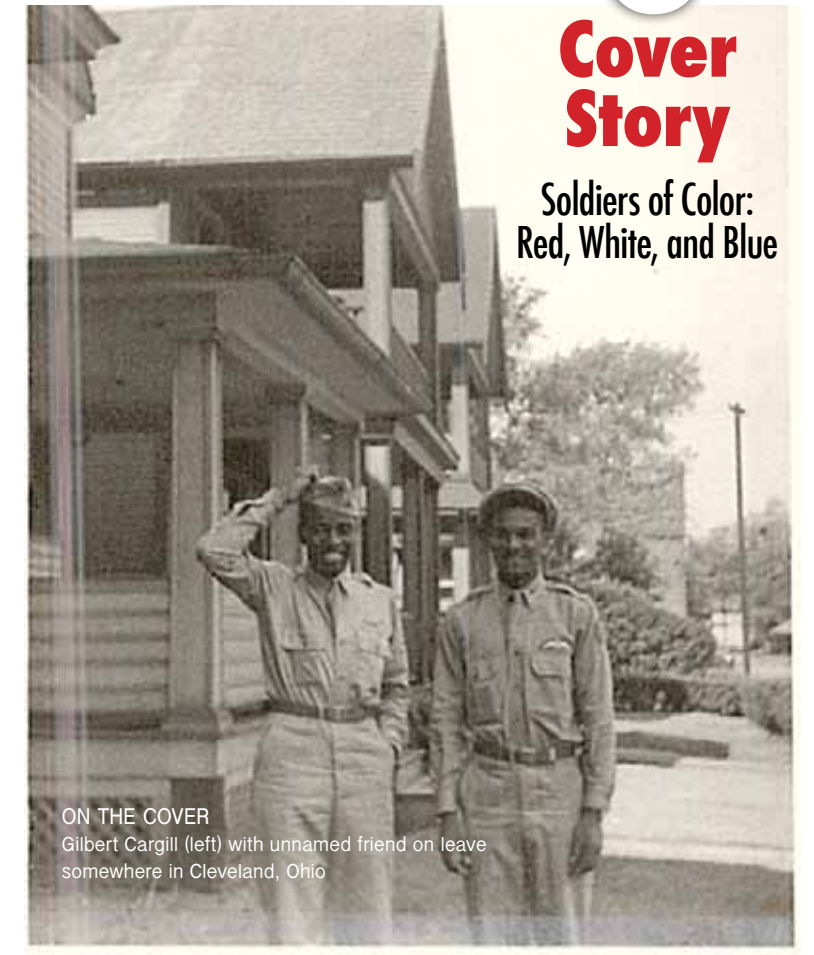
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ON THE COVER  
Gilbert Cargill (left) with unnamed friend on leave somewhere in Cleveland, Ohio



## LORAIN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Temporary financial assistance may be available to Veterans or their widow who show a need and meet eligibility requirements.

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[www.LorainCountyVeterans.com](http://www.LorainCountyVeterans.com)

## Cleveland in World War II

Here's a little background. History Press asked James Banks, Ph.D., to write the story of Our Town in WWII. Banks wanted to do it, but he knew it would be a better book if he teamed up with Plain Dealer writer Brian Albrecht.

Together, Banks and Albrecht are a one-two punch when the subject is The Good War. Albrecht, a longtime reporter at the Plain Dealer has carved an editorial specialty with stories about our veterans. His reputation precedes him.

Banks has been honored many times for his teaching excellence. Twice he has been named Ohio Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. At Tri-C West, he has created a fascinating museum of military items and artifacts.

So much for a little background. It is history and it is local. It is the diary kept by Cleveland, now unearthed and made understandable.

To say the book is remarkable damns with faint praise. It begins with a Clevelander's reaction to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It doesn't end until Germany, Japan, and Italy all admit defeat.

The costs of winning remain unaccountable.

Going to war is a forced voyage; it is a tumultuous ride through a hurricane. The winds are ceaseless; no land is in sight.

Men and women on the ship didn't know the destination and didn't know if it would be a one-



Cleveland infantrymen in battle

way voyage.

Not all of us go to war and yet, in a sense, we all go: Moms and Dads, little brothers and sisters, neighbors, friends and classmates.

The war was a communications two-way street. War was brought home via radio and newspapers. Those media were the communication lifelines. From home, letters and packages were sent.

The introduction to this book strongly suggests where the book is going.

"The damn Japs, the damn Japs bombed Pearl Harbor!" That's how Robert Laczko remembered his birthday party on Sunday, December 7, 1941.

"He was not yet of school age, getting ready for his birthday at his grandmother's house on Buckeye Road. The adults were listening to the 'old Philco' radio when he heard men hollering and slapping the radio and pounding on it.

"The excitement was a mix of English and Hungarian, as he recalled. Few knew where Pearl Harbor was. He remembered his mother crying. 'Soon,

all the women in the home were crying,' he said.

It was a day he will never forget.

In the next few hours and days, Clevelanders would join and pray together. As American involvement in the war rapidly accelerated, Clevelanders would work and mourn together.

Cleveland industry, before Pearl Harbor, was shaking off the frightening decade of the Depression and eager to show



CLEVELAND IN WORLD WAR II



off and profit from its manufacturing strengths.

Suddenly Cleveland's manufacturing potential - fifth in the nation at that time - was redirected to war.

The transformation remains unbelievable. Apex Electrical Manufacturing, Bishop and Babcock, Geometric Stamping Company, Van Dorn Iron Works, Sherwin-Williams, and Ferro Corporation were some of the companies that suddenly switched product lines and went on a war footing.

These companies produced machine gun mounts, artillery shells, anti-tank mines, armored plating for tanks, camouflage paints, and thermite.

Plenty more companies switched product lines to serve the war effort. Many quickly produced innovative designs that would save Allied lives *continued on page 11*



The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

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### Editorial Mission

DD214 Chronicle covers northern Ohio, and has a readership of over 25,000 per issue. The newspaper is delivered without charge to colleges and universities with veteran programs, city halls, VA offices and clinics, VFW and American Legion posts, Veteran Service Commissions in all six counties, and more than sixty libraries.

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## Former Marine Recalls War Games – in Norway

by Jerri Donohue

Marine sergeant Mark King did not expect to do training exercises with Norwegian soldiers during Desert Storm.

Why war games in Scandinavia? "To prove that the United States could support its allies even though they were in another major conflict," King said. "To prove the point that the Marines could be anywhere."

King's enduring memory of Norway is its cold winter weather.

"You'd be out in the field, and a little Norwegian family would come skiing down the road," he said. "There'd be a mother and father and maybe a couple of kids. They'd come by and said, 'Hi, American!' And you'd be standing there freezing."

King resisted the temptation to lob a few snowballs at the cheerful Norwegians in their toasty snowsuits.

"Norway was an interesting place, but you might want to go there in the summer," he said.

King's decision to enlist took place long before he was old enough to do so. His first exposure to the military left him with a positive impression, even though it occurred during the Hough



Mark King

riots when he was a boy. Ohio National Guardsmen were everywhere. When he and his father stopped at a red light, King made eye contact with a white Guardsman standing on the corner.

"He was not threatening," King said. "And he looked squared away."

The stranger winked at King.

"And I made my decision: I'm going to become that right there," King recalled.

He enlisted in 1978, choosing

the Marines. "If you're going to go, you might as well go big," he said with a chuckle.

King trained as an 81mm mortarman. Although he spent much of his time at Camp Pendleton in

California, he also experienced the usual assignments to Okinawa and Japan. The Marines sent him to the Philippines, too, and on a good will tour to Canada. He described the latter as "a dog and pony show" which included descending ship by cargo nets like troops in World War II.

After 10 years of active duty, King switched to the Reserves, joining the Third Battalion, 25th Marines. He went to Norway with them.

"A Marine goes wherever he's or-

dered to go," King said.

From 1991 to 1993, King served in the Ohio National Guard in an armored cavalry unit.

"I got to ride around on my dream vehicle," he said, referring to the M1A1 Abrams tank. "No more walking. There's nothing better than sitting up there on 60 tons."

These days King works with other former Marines as a certified firearms instructor at Concealed Carry Courses, LLC. The two years he expected to teach have stretched to almost 13. He describes his work as "teaching people to save their lives in any given situation that you might employ a firearm."

King deplores what he views as a lowering of standards and morals in today's society that make necessary jobs like his.

"Out here on these streets, people turn on one another like running water," he said.

## Black Man in a White Man's World AN UNSUNG HERO IN WWII

by Jon S. Randal



Eugene Jacques Bullard

He was a "nobody," just another black man trying to get by in a white man's world.

He probably would have remained a nobody in the U.S. had it not been for a visit by an old friend.

In 1960, the President of France

and international war hero, Charles DeGaulle, visited the United States. The French President made one request to the White House: He wanted to see an old friend, a French knight whose bravery and heroics helped defend the free world.

Not knowing this man, the White House had to search for this mysterious hero - what they found was a simple, elevator operator in New York. His name was Eugene Bullard.

Eugene Jacques Bullard, the first African-American fighter pilot; A man of courage and patriotism

It was then that the U.S. began to learn about Eugene Jacques Bullard, the first African-American fighter pilot in history.

Bullard was born on October 9, 1894 in Georgia. After witnessing his father almost unjustly lynched, he remembered that his father told him that in France, a man is accepted as a man regardless of the color

*continued on page 7*



### Korean War Claims Jesse L. Brown, Navy's first Black aviator

Jesse L. Brown became the U.S. Navy's first black aviator in October 1948. He was killed when his plane was shot down during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. He was unable to parachute from his crippled F4U Corsair and crash-landed successfully. His injuries and damage to his aircraft prevented him from leaving the plane.

A white squadron mate, Thomas Hudner, crash-landed his F4U Corsair near Brown and attempted to extricate Brown but could not and Brown died of his injuries. Hudner was awarded the Medal of Honor for his efforts. The U.S. Navy honored Jesse Brown by naming an escort ship after him—the USS *Jesse L. Brown*.



*From this day to the ending of the world,  
But we in it shall be remembered-  
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;  
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me  
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,  
This day shall gentle his condition;  
And gentlemen in England now-a-bed  
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here,  
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks  
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.*

Wm. Shakespeare's Henry the Fifth

# Baldwin Wallace Student's Army Service Leads to Career in Law Enforcement

by Jerri Donohue

In Iraq in 2007, Nathaniel "Nate" Heaton patrolled an impoverished section of east Baghdad, using a maze of alleys to avoid roadside bombs. Primitive plumbing in such a big city shocked him.

"There'd be puddles of human waste everywhere," he said.

Iranian and Al-Qaeda fighters plagued the area. Unseen gunmen fired on Americans from buildings and dangerous house-to-house combat was inevitable.

"Kicking in that door, knowing they're in there waiting for you - it's very scary," Heaton said.

Now a student at Baldwin Wallace University, the former Army specialist served as an infantryman with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne. He had enlisted straight out of high school in 2005.

During his first deployment, Heaton lived in a hotel converted to barracks.

He and his buddies wearied of MREs (Meals Ready to Eat), but an enterprising 8-year old boy sold them delicious sandwiches made of fresh pita bread and eggs.

Kids also figure in Heaton's favorite memory of Iraq. American soldiers often tossed candy to children from moving vehicles. One day Heaton spotted a little girl pushing a boy in a wheelchair.

"They were waving, smiling and cheering," he said. "I threw the whole [5-lb.] bag to them."

During Heaton's second deployment, from 2009 to 2010, he trained Iraqi paratroops. For months, he and other Americans lived at an Iraqi outpost for two weeks at a time. They then returned to their own base for a week. Heaton enjoyed working



Nate Heaton

with the Iraqis, playing soccer and sharing meals with them.

As for civilians, Heaton said, "There were plenty who didn't like us but it definitely wasn't everyone."

In his combat gear and toting a machine gun, Heaton imagines that he was a frightening sight. Despite rules keeping civilians at a distance, smiling Iraqi men occasionally dared to shake Heaton's hand and thank him for being in the neighborhood.

"It took guts," Heaton said. "I don't think I'd go up to a guy who looks like he might want to kill me and shake his hand."

Heaton left the Army in 2010. He earned an associate's degree from Cuyahoga Community College. At Baldwin Wallace he is now completing

a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in criminal justice and sociology.

Meanwhile, he is a part-time sanitation worker in Medina and a part-time veterans' assistant at Baldwin Wallace where his tasks include organizing and posting events, and putting benefit information on the website.

"Pretty much anything that's in the best interest of veterans, I do," he said.

Between his two jobs, Heaton racks up 45-hour workweeks, in addition to his course load.

He credits his military service for his desire to pursue a career in local or federal law enforcement.

"I miss wearing the uniform and that sense of pride that comes with it," he said. "Being proud of what I'm doing and knowing I'm making a difference in helping others."

continued from page 5

of his skin. So, the young Bullard stowed away on a ship, and eventually made his way to France. When World War I broke out, he joined the French Foreign Legion, then the Aéronautique Militaire and the Lafayette Flying Corps, where he distinguished himself, becoming the first African-American fighter pilot in history. When the U.S. finally joined the war, Bullard tried to rejoin his countrymen, but despite all his military honors, he was ignored because he was black.

Bullard would be seriously wounded several times, but he never gave up his fight for freedom and justice. At the beginning of World War II, he even worked as a spy, fighting against Nazi sympathizers. In 1954, France invited him to be one of three people to relight the everlasting flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. In 1959, he was made a chevalier (knight) of the Légion d'honneur, which is France's most coveted award.

When he finally returned to the U.S., no one knew him, and he lived in poverty and relative obscurity. The only reminders of his hero status in his humble apartment were a few photos and a framed case containing his 15 French war medals for valor.

When the French president finally got to meet the courageous French knight, he publicly and internationally embraced Eugene Bullard as a true hero.

When he died a year later, On October, 12, 1961, he was laid to rest with full honors by the Federation of French War Officers.

It would take his own country 33 years, but on August 23, 1994, Eugene Bullard was posthumously commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Bullard "was a man who hesitated to speak of himself but one who stood on the principles of honesty and integrity. He treated everyone as he wished to be treated . . . He lived by the belief that all men were created equal and should be treated accordingly," according to William I. Chivallette, Curator at the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute.

He is remembered for painting a red bleeding heart pierced by a knife on the fuselage of his plane. Below the heart was the inscription "Tout le Sang qui coule est rouge!" which translates to "All Blood Runs Red."

## Attention Shoppers! Wal-Mart in the News

Man threatening Wal-Mart customers shot, killed by police  
Wal-Mart Heirs Worth Same Amount As Nearly Half Of Americans Combined  
Man with guns, machete is shot, killed at Pa. Wal-Mart  
Wal-Mart Heir Is Way Less Rich Than Anyone Knew  
Wal-Mart employee accused of stealing nearly \$240K  
Gun goes off in south Springfield Walmart  
Automated bomb threat causes Walmart evacuations across Maine



How Walmart Keeps an Eye on Its Massive Workforce  
One person shot at Darien Walmart  
Woman steals \$40,000 from Walmart on last day  
Woman Accused of Throwing Greenville Walmart Customer to Ground By Her Hair  
Man fires gun inside Albany Walmart  
Bird infestation at Chicopee Walmart raises health concerns  
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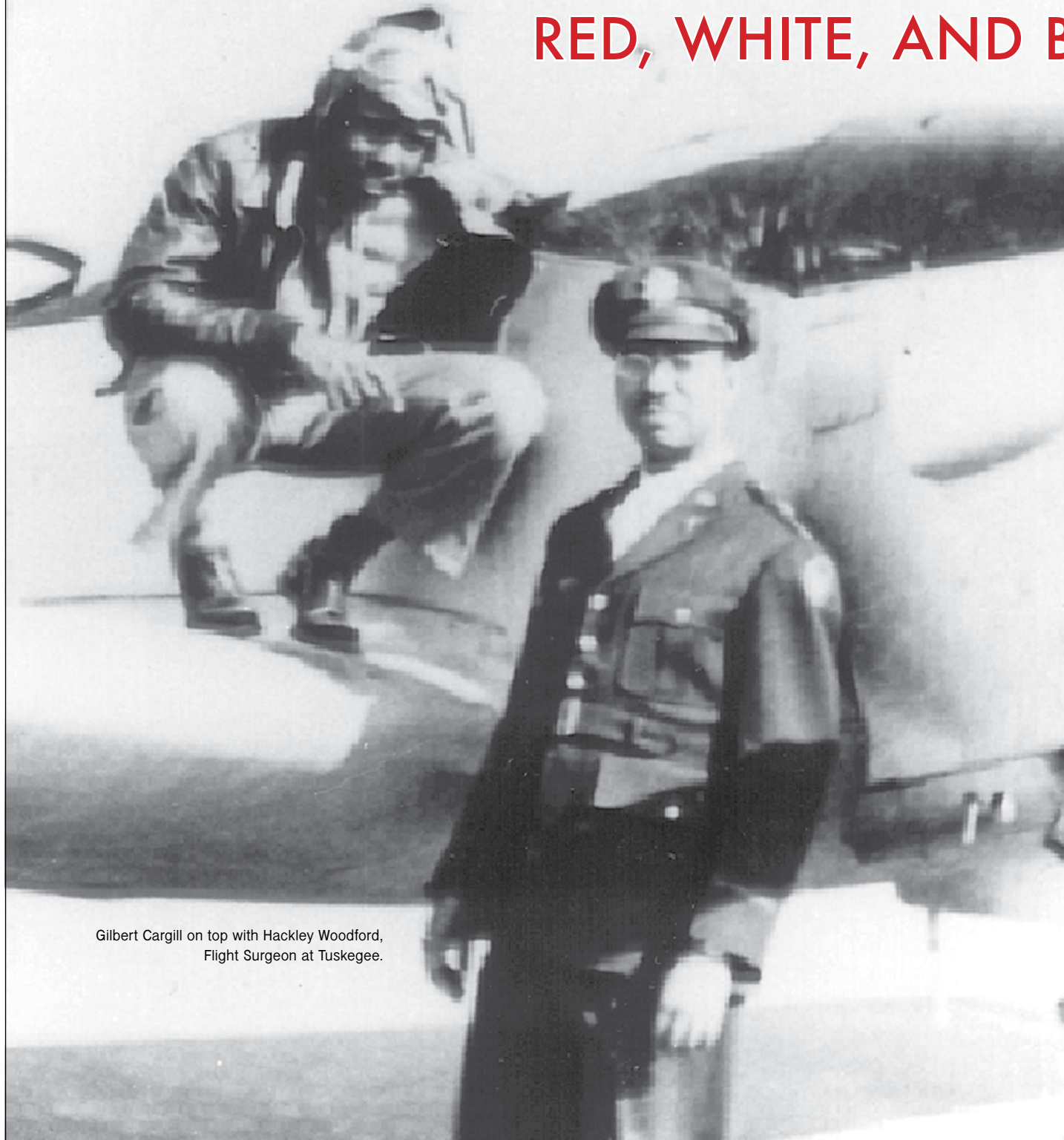
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# SOLDIERS OF COLOR: RED, WHITE, AND BLUE

by Darlene  
Johnson-Cargill



Gilbert Cargill on top with Hackley Woodford,  
Flight Surgeon at Tuskegee.

## The Red Tails and Col. Harry Stewart Battles in the Air, Battles at Home

The Red Tails, as the Tuskegee Airmen came to be called, have been depicted in books and films and are a source of myth and legend.

One myth is that it never lost a bomber, and while that myth has been dispelled, it is not completely unfounded – they had many victories.



The 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group earned approximately sixty Purple Hearts, fourteen Bronze Stars, three Distinguished Unit Citations, and ninety-six Distinguished Flying Crosses.

A third all-black unit, the 477<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, which did not see combat, also trained at Tuskegee.

The Group was stationed for a time at Freeman Field, Illinois, and in April, 1945 – the same month Col. Stewart earned the Distinguished Flying Cross – members of the Group staged a protest of racial discrimination at the base when black officers were denied admission to the officers' club.

Stewart's awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Unit Citation, the Victory Medal, and the European Theater Campaign Ribbon.

Excerpted from *We Had a Job to Do: A Basic History of World War II Through the Eyes of Those Who Served*, by Theresa Anzaldúa

for teaching the airmen how to fly.

Gilbert Cargill's first exposure to flying came as a youth when a "barn-stormer" made a forced landing in a farmer's field near Oberlin, Ohio. Cargill and several friends heard about it and rushed to the site. For young Cargill, this was to have a permanent and profound impact on him and a foretelling of things to come. His flight training began as soon as he was able to earn enough money to pay for it. Initially, because of his race, he could not find an airport that would instruct him. After some

searching, he came upon Friendly Field, in Strongsville, Ohio.

It was there he began flying lessons, but he could only afford 15 minutes per month. After several months, he said he came to realize that they did not want to teach him how to fly. "They only wanted the money." From that day forward, he referred to "Friendly Field as Fraudulent Field.

In 1936, he graduated Cum Laude from Oberlin College where he majored in Mathematics and minored in Physics. As a student teacher, he



Gilbert Cargill induction into Michigan  
Aviation Hall of Fame

here." He was reassigned to Tuskegee's Moton Field.

At Tuskegee, he was primary instructor of flight training. And, as a consequence of his ability to fluently speak French, he was given a special assignment instructing an attachment of pilots from Haiti.

Cargill knew that pilots he trained would have to be exceptional in order to pass the same flight exams as white candidates. This quality of teaching would remain with him throughout his teaching career.

He gave instructions in both single and multi-engine aircraft. He told of one of his most memorable moments when he flew back to Oberlin from Tuskegee to visit his parents. After his weekend visit, when his parents took him back to Akron City Airport, an airport employee remarked indignantly, "What is that colored boy doing here?" His mom replied with great pride, "That boy is my son and he's a pilot."

He promised his parents that

enrolled in the Civil Pilot Training (CPT) program which was sponsored by the federal government in order to fulfill the need for pilots for the impending war.

Undaunted by his previous experience with flight instruction, he focused on the CPT program and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant/Primary Flight Instructor.

His initial assignment was at Maxwell Army Air Corps Base in Montgomery, Alabama. When he arrived and presented his military papers, he was refused entrance. He was told, "Negroes do not teach

he would never take any inordinate risks. With more than 50,000 flight hours logged, he never suffered a crash.

In 1937, he began his teaching career in the Cleveland School System. His teaching career spanned 40 years in Cleveland and Detroit, Michigan.

In 1989, Gil Cargill was inducted into the Michigan Aviation

Hall of Fame. He is a founding member of the Negro Airman International, Inc. He was the first African American FAA Designated Examiner. In 2006, the U. S. Congress awarded the Tuskegee Airmen a Bronze Medal for "Outstanding Combat Record Inspired Revolutionary Reform in The Armed Forces." "His son accepted the medal on his dad's behalf.



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- Highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal government and non-government organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
- Pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.



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# Actor Recalls Stint in Vietnam

by Jerri Donohue

Within three days of his arrival in Vietnam in 1966, Luther "Pete" Robinson carried a rocket launcher and engaged with Viet Cong pouring mortar fire upon the Marines.

"It was the first time I had anything to do with taking another human life," he said. "It was a drastic experience for me because I was all of 18 years old."

Robinson, who had enlisted the previous year, served with the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines.

"I was very young and very 'gung ho'," Robinson said. "I was there to protect my country from Communism."

For Robinson, that first experience of combat was an eye-opener.

"All of a sudden you realize this is not the movies; you are not Audie Murphy and this is very real," he said.

Robinson patrolled the jungle by night and slept in hastily dug foxholes by day. He watched for scorpions, cobras and the small, venomous "2-step snake," so dubbed because of rumors that its victims dropped dead

two steps after being bitten.

Robinson spent much of his time on foot patrols between DaNang and the demilitarized zone. He sometimes participated in "Zippo raids." They were named for a cigarette lighter because Americans torched villages, but Robinson said the term "raid" is a misnomer. American servicemen first evacuated villagers, either moving them to a neighboring village or turning them over to South Vietnamese troops for relocation. Americans burned the vacated huts after thoroughly searching, seizing weapons and destroying tunnels.

Robinson lost his quinine tablets in a rice paddy during a firefight. He



Luther "Pete" Robinson



soon contracted malaria and was hospitalized in DaNang. When the Marine's temperature spiked to 108

degrees, medical staff plunged him into a tub of ice. Malaria led to phlebitis and other complications. He was transferred to a hospital ship on the South China Sea, and eventually to Great Lakes Naval Hospital in Illinois.

After his recovery, Robinson received a secondary MOS in airfreight operations. While stationed in Okinawa from 1970-1971, he helped with supply runs to Vietnam. He left the Marines as a staff

sergeant in 1972.

"I had Hollywood on my mind," Robinson recalled.

He stopped in Los Angeles on the way home, and was hired as a production assistant with American International Pictures.

On the side, he studied acting and began to land speaking roles in movies. He even played an Army sergeant in *Our Winning Season* with Dennis Quaid. Meanwhile, he was promoted to assistant director positions.

When his mother suffered a stroke in 2005, Robinson returned to Cleveland and continued his career locally. From November 2014 through November 2015, he performed in six plays and one movie. This winter, he will appear in "The Odd Couple" at TrueNorth in Sheffield Village. In April, he will direct "Men Don't Cry," at Karamu House.

Despite his packed schedule, Robinson attends reunions of his Marine unit whenever possible.

"It's a strong brotherhood," he said.

# Normandy High School Principal Wes Gaab

## THE MODEST HERO RECEIVED THE SILVER STAR FOR HEROISM

by Jerri Donohue

Following orders, Wes Gaab (pronounced "Gob") set up his machine gun by a bend in the road near a Dutch village. Then he listened for German troops in the misty autumn night.

When Gaab detected the clink and clank of metal, he wondered how close to let the enemy come before shooting.

"I had my finger on that trigger," Gaab said.

With his other hand, the 19-year old fingered a rosary, a gift from his mother, in the pocket of his field jacket.

Today Gaab credits God or his guardian angel for his hesitation when slow-moving figures rounded the curve and approached. About 150 feet from him, a horse pulling

a wagon full of villagers emerged from the fog. Other refugees walked beside and behind it. A second horse followed with a cart carrying civilians.

"Women, children, old men," Gaab recalled. "There must have been fifty of them."

More than seven decades later, Gaab still feels relief that he had not fired blindly on that sad procession in October 1944.

"It would have ruined my life," Gaab said.

The draftee from Independence



Wes Gaab

had arrived in France with the 104<sup>th</sup> "Timberwolf" Infantry Division in August 1944.

In Europe, the Germans often set up machine guns around fields adjacent to hamlets, waited until the Americans made it part way through and then mowed them down in crisscross fire. An artillery barrage then would rain upon the trapped GIs.

When Gaab's squad came upon such a scene in Germany, his lieutenant ordered the machine gunner to crawl into the field to retrieve wounded Americans. Gaab located three men by their groans or calls for "Medic" and dragged each to a shallow ditch to be rescued. He and another gunner were awarded Silver Stars for this episode.

That November, Gaab participated in an attack on a hotly contested hill

outside Stolberg, Germany. Even after repeated aerial bombing, the enemy remained ensconced in an enormous bunker surrounded by pillboxes. In addition, the Germans had riddled the hillside with mines and booby traps. Gaab and a handful of other men advanced on a diagonal, running through gunfire from one bomb crater to another.

Reaching the top of the hill, they huddled in a hollowed out space beneath a disabled Tiger tank just yards from the bunker. The men assumed the fight was over when the sounds of battle faded. No other GIs arrived, however, and Gaab's comrades chose him to venture out and assess their situation.

Leaving behind his machine gun,

*continued on page 11*

*continued from page 10*

he borrowed an M-1 rifle, and ran for cover beside an empty chicken coop. Soon a German peering through binoculars rose above the bunker. When Gaab shot him, other enemy soldiers fled through a trench. Gaab turned his gun on them until no more men exited the bunker. He then returned to his buddies.

A German tank rumbled up and popped a couple of rounds into the knocked out Tiger. Incredibly, the terrified Americans hiding beneath it were unscathed, and no Germans came to investigate.

After dark, Gaab and his group regained their own lines. Because they did not know the new password, they had to convince jumpy American sentries that they were not a German patrol. The next day, GIs again attacked Stolberg hill, and discovered that the enemy had retreated.

On December 4, 1944, an 88-shell struck a building in which Gaab sheltered, killing several men. Shrapnel severed tendons in Gaab's arm. Evacuated to England for surgery, he later caught up with

his platoon and was with them when the war in Europe ended.

Back in the States, Gaab was expecting orders to the Pacific theater when Japan surrendered.

In post-war years, Gaab became a teacher and school administrator. Thousands of students passed through Parma's Normandy High School from 1968 to 1982 when he was its principal. None of them knew about Gaab's wartime experience when he was barely older than they.

As a retiree, he began to share his recollections of the war with civic groups.

"When we got to our 80s, we were less reluctant to talk," he said.

Gaab and other Timberwolf vets retraced their route through Europe several years ago. He still attends the Division's annual reunions, and he meets local Timberwolves for breakfast each month. He described the camaraderie soldiers experienced as young men.

"You were fighting for your country," he said. "But you were (also) fighting to stay alive and to keep your buddies alive," he said.

*continued from page 4*

while destroying Axis lives and all who stood in harm's way.

Manufacturing quality was high; employees understood their work was a contribution to the war effort; GI lives depended on it. It is doubtful the Axis powers understood American strength, resolve, and technical prowess.

That was the business side of war.

The human side of war was far different. Everyone in town had a stake in the war. Schoolchildren, wives and lovers of troops, war production workers, and those who

were too young or too old.

But it was the men and women in uniform who knew most intimately "War is hell."

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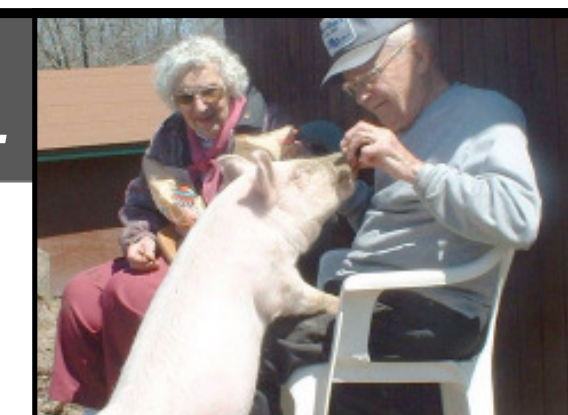
one being the site of our new Education Center, helping people connect to animals through animal care classes, seminars, clinics, special presentations, and animal-art workshops.

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**For more information or to make a donation, call Happy Trails at 330-296-5914 or visit the website at [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org)**



# Australians Pay Tribute to Cleveland's War Dog, Smoky

by Jerri Donohue

Although Smoky died in 1957, northeast Ohio's most celebrated dog continues to garner tributes from around the world.

In December, Australia's Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) named the Yorkshire terrier its latest recipient of the Purple Cross Award.

"I'm so proud to get this," said Bill Wynne, Smoky's owner. "I think it's the highest honor in the world for an animal hero. It's so rare."

Smoky is one of only ten animals the RSPCA has recognized for risking their lives to save people from harm. In addition to courageous dogs, previous recipients include donkeys that carried wounded men out of the World War I bloodbath at Gallipoli.

Smoky's heroics occurred during World War II in the Pacific theater where she traveled with Wynne, a Cleveland serving in the Fifth Air Force's 26th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron.

When they needed to lay tele-

phone wire beneath a Filipino airfield, Smoky spared communications personnel from potential strafing by enemy planes. Responding to Wynne's calls, the 4-pound Yorkie obediently pulled a cable through a narrow pipe stretching from one side of the airstrip to the other. Within minutes, she completed an onerous chore that would have meant three days of hazardous work for her 2-legged buddies.

The terrier already was accompanying her master, an aerial photographer, on combat missions. Wynne had acquired Smoky not long after another GI found her stranded in a New Guinea foxhole. The corporal named his pet "Smoky" because of her coloring.

Off-duty, Wynne developed his



**I'm just a guy passing through.  
A nobody from nowhere.  
Now I'm a somebody from somewhere.  
My dog tells me so.**

Bill Wynne, author  
"Yorkie Doodle Dandy"

inherent talent for dog training. Smoky's many tricks eventually included walking a tightrope, jumping through hoops and riding a scooter.

At various hospitals in the Pacific theater, Smoky entertained sick and wounded soldiers and sailors. After Japan surrendered, Wynne brought her home to Cleveland where she performed in venues that ranged from nightclubs to nursing homes.

Smoky died during a nap in 1957, but her fame grew in the ensuing decades. As a result, Wynne solved the puzzle of his Yorkie's early life. Through good research and even better luck, he learned the identity of her original owner and discovered that his pet had been born in Australia. In recent years, Smoky's first country

has recognized her with memorials and a War Dog Medal.

The Imperial War Museum in London and the National World War II Museum in New Orleans also featured Smoky in exhibits devoted to animals in wartime.

In life, Smoky appeared with Wynne on the local television show, "Mr. Pokey and his Dog Smoky." These days, cable programs such as "Animal Planet" and "Mysteries at the Monument" re-tell her story, and Wynne plans a movie based on his memoir, *Yorkie Doodle Dandy*.

A half a dozen memorials salute Smoky in the States. Close to home, in Cleveland Metroparks' Rocky River Reservation, a sculpture depicts a moment Wynne captured with his camera more than 70 years ago: the tiny terrier peeking out of his helmet. The monument to Smoky and Dogs of All Wars was dedicated on Veterans Day 2005.

(*Yorkie Doodle Dandy* is available at amazon.com)



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\*The US Bureau of Labor Statistics

# VA Makes Changes to Veterans Choice Program

## CHANGES REMOVE BARRIERS AND EXPANDS ACCESS TO CARE

**WASHINGTON** – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced a number of changes to make participation in the Veterans Choice Program easier and more convenient for Veterans who need to use it. The move, which streamlines eligibility requirements, follows feedback from Veterans along with organizations working on their behalf.

“As we implement the Veterans Choice Program, we are learning from our stakeholders what works and what needs to be refined,” said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. “It is our goal to do all that we can to remove barriers that separate Veterans from the care they deserve.” To date, more than 400,000 medical appointments have been scheduled since the Veterans Choice Program went into effect on November 5, 2014. **Under the old policy, a Veteran**

**was eligible for the Veterans Choice Program if he or she met the following criteria:**

- Enrolled in VA health care by 8/1/14 or able to enroll as a combat Veteran to be eligible for the Veterans Choice Program;
- Experienced unusual or excessive burden eligibility determined by geographical challenges, environmental factors or a medical condition impacting the Veteran’s ability to travel;
- Determined eligible based on the Veteran’s current residence being more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest VA medical facility.

**Under the updated eligibility requirements, a Veteran is eligible for the Veterans Choice Program if he or she is enrolled in the VA health care system and meets at least one of the following criteria:**

- Told by his or her local VA medical facility that they will not be able to schedule an appointment for care within 30 days of the date the Veteran’s physician determines he/she needs to be seen or within 30 days of the date the Veteran wishes to be seen if there is no specific date from his or her physician;
- Lives more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest VA medical facility with a full-time primary care physician;
- Needs to travel by air, boat or ferry to the VA medical facility closest to his/her home;
- Faces an unusual or excessive burden in traveling to the closest VA medical facility based on geographic challenges, environmental factors, a medical condition, the nature or simplicity or frequency of the care needed and whether

an attendant is needed. Staff at the Veteran’s local VA medical facility will work with him or her to determine if the Veteran is eligible for any of these reasons; or

- Lives in a State or Territory without a full-service VA medical facility which includes: Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire (Note: this excludes New Hampshire Veterans who live within 20 miles of the White River Junction VAMC) and the United States Territories (excluding Puerto Rico, which has a full service VA medical facility).

*Veterans seeking to use the Veterans Choice Program or wanting to know more about it, can call 1-866-606-8198 to confirm their eligibility and to schedule an appointment. For more details about the Veterans Choice Program and VA’s progress, visit: [www.va.gov/opa/choiceact](http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact).*

### IN RESPONSE TO BROWN LETTER, ARMY LAUNCHES INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATIONS THAT IT WRONGFULLY DISCHARGED 22,000 SERVICE MEMBERS WITH MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) today applauded the U.S. Army’s announcement that it will conduct a thorough, multidisciplinary investigation into allegations that the Army has, since 2009, forcefully separated more than 22,000 soldiers for “misconduct” after they returned from deployment and were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) or

traumatic brain injuries (TBI). Brown and his Senate colleagues wrote to now-Acting U.S. Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning and U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Mark A. Milley in November, calling for an investigation.

“The Army should not forcefully separate veterans with war-related injuries like post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, preventing them from receiving critical

health care and other benefits,” Brown said. “I’m glad the Army is responding to the public outcry over these reports and taking action to investigate this issue. Any of our brave servicemembers unfairly separated deserve to have their benefits reinstated so they can have full access to treatment.”

Brown’s November letter expressed serious concern that the dismissed soldiers

will not receive the critical retirement, health care, and employment benefits that those with an honorable discharge would receive. He also emphasized that the forceful separation of soldiers PTSD or TBI further denies these women and men of much-needed treatments, and may even discourage other servicemembers from seeking the medical treatment they require.

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*"LCCC provides a quality education to veterans like me upon our return home from service."*

**Andrew Burke**, veteran and LCCC welding student who is using his veterans benefits to attend school. He has also been hired full-time as a welder by the Mazzella Companies.





# Fulton House

## MEETING THE HOUSING AND JOB ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF HOMELESS VETERANS

That there continues to be a homelessness crisis in Northeast Ohio is a certainty to those talented and caring individuals and organizations who work with the homeless on a daily basis. That there is a similar homelessness crisis among Veterans in this country is as significant a certainty for all levels of the social service continuum, government, and other organizations addressing this broad community concern. According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, approximately one third of adult homeless males in the U.S. are Veterans, and Veterans are twice as likely as other Americans to become chronically homeless. And on any given night, more than 67,000 Veterans are homeless, living on the streets or in shelters around the country. Fulton House – a program of Community Service Alliance – has been created to address exactly these issues.

Community Service Alliance (CSA) was founded in 2005 to introduce a



Tyrone Goins (seated) and James Johnson, CSA's Program Manager, review online job opportunities in the computer lab at Fulton House.

new approach to individualized training and support, affordable housing, and transitional jobs for homeless men. The mission of the organization is to be a catalyst for lasting relationships between people emerging out of homelessness and people willing to participate in their transformation. CSA carries out that mission by providing affordable, short-term housing, identifying and securing local work experience and employment opportunities, and offering training that fosters personal, behavioral and spiritual support and development, all to promote the eventual independence and self-sufficiency of the men they serve.

CSA is the only program of its kind in the region, and since its inception 10 years ago, their unique approach has helped more than 1,100 men with housing, employment, and personal and social support. What is most significant are the positive outcomes they have shown – more than 70% of the men served have successfully moved on to permanent, independent housing with a full or part time job and grounded in the behaviors and skills needed to be productive, contributing members of society.

Just a few years ago, CSA responded to the growing concern of homelessness among local Veterans, and created Fulton House. Fulton House is a 13-room housing program developed to meet the need for short-term housing and work experience for Veterans transitioning from poverty and homelessness to independence and self-sufficiency. "No Veteran should ever be without housing, food, work, health care, or most importantly, our respect and gratitude," said Timothy

Gleason, Executive Director of CSA. "Fulton House is just one way we can provide a hand up, not a hand out, to those men who have selflessly given of themselves to protect our freedoms," Gleason says.

Through Fulton House, CSA provides an organized approach to address Veterans' housing, work experience, and personal and behavioral needs, and works in partnership with the VA and other existing providers to connect these men with a wide range of additional support, including employment assistance, financial literacy and credit repair services, legal services, health and mental health services, food and nutrition programs, family and children's services, and other social services and support.

The real impact of Fulton House is not lost on the Veterans who reside there. According to Tyrone Goins, a U.S. Army Veteran and current resident at Fulton House, "Fulton House has given me gifts that I will never be able to repay. A roof over my head. A job. Clothing, food, counseling, and support for me to help my own family. I honestly don't know where I'd be right now if it wasn't for this program."

For more information about CSA and Fulton House, visit the agency's web site at [www.comservealliance.org](http://www.comservealliance.org).

# Tri-C's Upward Bound program

## A VETERANS' PROGRAM WITH SOLID RESULTS

Steven Fairley's work ethic and ability to overcome obstacles not only allowed him to graduate from Cuyahoga Community College's Veterans Upward Bound program in November 2012, but also, to receive Veterans of the Year award three years later.

Fairley's story begins a bit earlier, though. He joined the United States Air Force in 1976 and spent two years at the now-decommissioned Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois.

Then he was assigned to Rhein-Main Air Base in Frankfurt, Germany. He worked in the Communications Group and, for two years, was in charge of seven of the group's administrative sections. Undaunted by personal obstacles in the years following his service, Fairley enrolled in the Veterans

Upward Bound (VUB) Program at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) in September 2012.

"Without the Veterans Upward Bound program, I wouldn't be here"

He did so while he was homeless, staying at the 2100 Lakeside Shelter and the Domiciliary at Wade Park at The Louis Stokes VA Medical Center. "Without the Veterans Upward Bound program, I wouldn't be here," Fairley said. "I had to start all over, and they helped me do that."

His hard-work ethic enabled Fairley to graduate from VUB in November 2012. He went on to enroll in college classes at Tri-C in the summer of 2013.

In the fall of 2014, Fairley joined the Honors Society (Phi Theta Kappa). Shortly thereafter, he received a Choose Ohio First Scholarship, a Certificate of Achievement and a Certificate of Academic Excellence.

In the spring of 2015, Fairley was a Dean's Honor Recipient and elected president of Tri-C's Metropolitan

Campus Student Government. And, because of his work with the organization, the College's Black American Council awarded Fairley a Certificate of Excellence and a scholarship for the 2015 fall and 2016 spring semesters.

In the fall of 2015, Fairley became a member of Tri-C Honors Program, The Robert L. Lewis Academy of Scholars for Social Justice, and the vice president of the Joint Student Council of all four Tri-C campuses.

"The personal connections (I made at Tri-C) changed my life," Fairley said. "(Those people) kept me motivated and kept me focused. I'm hard on myself, but they kept saying, 'You can do this. You can do this.'"

In addition to his aforementioned accomplishments, Fairley also serves as a mentor in the Believe in Ohio Urban Mentor Network Program tutoring elementary, middle and high school students in science, technol-

ogy, engineering and math (STEM).

And, on Nov. 11, 2015, Fairley was awarded his Veterans of the Year plaque from Mayor Frank Jackson at the City of Cleveland's Veterans Day Celebration. Criteria for receiving the award included:

- Documented veteran with Honorable Discharge status
- Demonstrated commitment to educational goals (especially overcoming personal obstacles)
- Commitment to the College via extracurricular participation
- Involvement in community activities

When Fairley was at a fork in the road, so to speak, he received some life-changing advice from Wardsey Gates, former director of Tri-C's Veterans Upward Bound program who passed away recently. And that was, "You've got to reinvent yourself, Steve."

"That's what I've been doing ever since," Fairley said, adding his advice to others is to "believe in yourself."

Fairley's future plans include attending a four-year college to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering.

# Even if you are unjustly enslaved or imprisoned, you do not resist but seek to convert your Jailers as St. Paul did.

(Philippians 4:22)

Seventy Catholic priests lost their lives in World War Two. Of the 37 chaplains captured, 21 were Catholic. In the Pacific, most were serving with the Philippine Scouts or the regular Army.

One was a Cleveland native, Francis J. McManus, S.J.

Born to Bernard and Anna McManus, he was baptized at Immaculate Conception Church on Superior Avenue.

In all probability he began his grade school education there and later transferred to Saint Agnes school.

A graduate from Cathedral Latin High School, he was later ordained in 1930 at the College Chapel, Canisium, Innsbruck, Austria. In Cleveland he served as Assistant Pastor at St. Ignatius and St. Malachi churches. His last assignment before enlisting in the Navy in 1936 was at St. Mary Church, in Lorain.

His original assignment was in the Pacific as chaplain on the submarine tender Caponus, formerly the Santa Leonora. It had been taken over by the Navy in 1921.

When the war began in December, 1941, the ship was attacked by Japanese forces while anchored in Maravales Bay on Bataan. Her ammunition magazine exploded causing many casualties. Fr. McManus "rushed to the blazing compartments, helped drag the living to safety, and administered Last Rites to the dying."

For his actions he was awarded the Silver Star, America's third highest military decoration.

Prior to World War Two, the Philippines were a mission of the Society of Jesus' New York Province.

During the war, the capture of Corregidor, an island in the entrance of Manila Bay, was the culmination of Japanese campaign for conquest of the Philippines.

When it fell in April, 1942, about 20,000 American servicemen were captured. One of those was Fr. McManus.

Fr. McManus was sent to a Japanese POW camp at Cabantuan, where 40 to 50 men died daily from torture, abuse, starvation and disease.

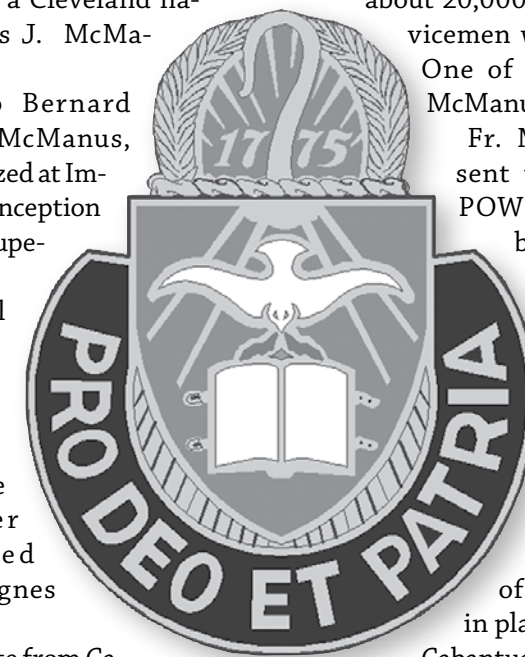
While there, Fr. McManus often offered to work in place of sick men. Cabantuan would be memorialized later in the war when liberated in an operation by U.S. Army Rangers.

Another Ohio chaplain, Celina native Fr. John A. Wilson, described McManus as, "Never down-hearted. He never complained. He had a keen sense of humor and was always good for a laugh. Both of us being from Ohio, we spent a lot of time together."

In autumn of 1944, the Japanese, anticipating their loss of the Philippines, began shipping prisoners in unmarked "hell ships," to Japan. Jammed into the holds, some prisoners died from lack of water.

These ships were regularly attacked and strafed by American combat aircraft or submarines. It was during such an attack in January, 1945, while the ship was anchored in Taco Bay, Formosa (now Taiwan), that Father McManus was wounded.

In 1946, another Ohio Chaplain, Fr. John E. Duffy, wrote to Toledo Bishop Karl Alter and described Fr. McManus' last days.



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When they desperately needed help, the family was referred to Providence House. Brittany participated in a treatment program while Johnny (age 3) and Matthew (age 1) stayed at Providence House. The boys were busy with daily activities, took field and enjoyed playing and laughing with children their age. In addition to receiving food, shelter and loving care, the boys benefited from community resources and supports. Johnny showed great improvement in his

speech development after attending speech therapy and Matthew received immunizations he needed through pediatric well visits.

Before their dad, Johnny, Sr., shipped out, he filmed himself reading a favorite bedtime story to his boys. While at Providence House, they watched him read those stories every night while he was away. Young Johnny was especially mesmerized by the image of his dad reading to him onscreen. Those special moments helped the boys stay connected to their father throughout his deployment.

One of the most memorable moments of their stay was Matthew's first birthday party. Surrounded by balloons, decorations, children, staff, and volunteers, Matthew smiled and giggled as they sang him Happy Birthday – just seconds before he stuffed his little face with birthday cake. While his birthday

party wasn't complete without Mom and Dad, Matthew experienced love and happiness with his Providence House family.

Providence House helps parents strengthen and stabilize families. Staff members and parents develop an individualized family preservation plan including visitation, parent support programs and case management. Brittany visited her boys regularly while she received treatment. She worked closely with licensed social workers on her case plan and worked through her substance abuse issues and mental health concerns. While Johnny, Sr. was away, Brittany participated in parent education programs and also developed skills around budgeting, developing family rituals, and learning play activities to help encourage the children's positive development.

Johnny, Sr. wrote a letter to

Providence House while he was overseas: "I am always thanked for serving my country. But it is I who thanks Providence House for taking care of my boys so that I can serve knowing that they are safe and loved." Johnny and Matthew were so excited when their dad returned home and the whole family was reunited. They have since relocated to Maryland, where Johnny, Sr. is stationed at a naval base,

Last year Providence House cared for 272 children from 121 families. Whether it's a military deployment, a health crisis, domestic violence, homelessness, addiction, or other issue, Providence House is here to protect children and empower families. It is our mission. It is our passion. It is our honor to serve our community's children.

Visit [provhouse.org](http://provhouse.org) or call 216-651-5982 to learn more about Providence House.

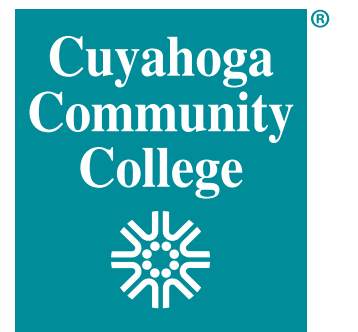


## HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

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