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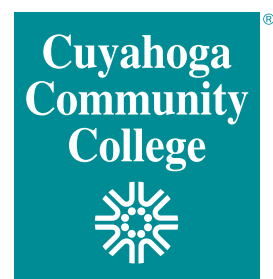
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STAND AT EASE *By John H. Tidyman, Editor*

"The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go." – Dr. Seuss

Hear that? In the distance? That's the death knell. It is sounding the death of education.

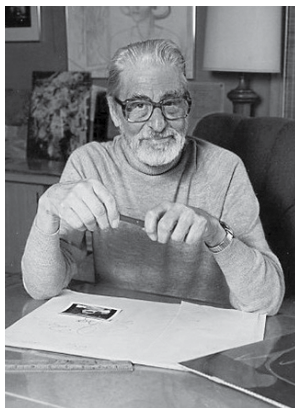
Let education slip away, and freedom also slips away. Retrieving both can take generations; all the while, for our ignorance, we pay a non-negotiable price.

"An education can never be taken away from you." Of course, first you must get one. Educations come in all manner of learning environments, each legitimate and priceless.

Who taught us to make a bed or tie our shoes? Or include 'please' and 'thank you' in our daily speech? Someone had to fine tune our understanding of right and wrong. Of 'walk' and 'don't walk.'

Then comes school—public and private, community colleges and four-year schools, military, apprenticeships and trade schools.

Regardless of type of school, we learn how to learn. Maybe that means to carefully read the owner's guide or calculate the amount of paint needed for two rooms, maybe the difference



between filing jointly or individually.

Then comes learning how to learn. It means first building a solid foundation, one that will last until we sign our last will and testament.

Good morning, Miss Crabtree!

If there is a more honorable or vital profession than teaching, I have no idea what it might be. It is in classrooms that teachers teach us how to learn. We might not need calculus or the deeper meaning of Moby Dick, but we understand their value. We learn the routes to additional, wel-

come, knowledge. We use that foundation from many years ago for stable journeys and a far better life.

Who doesn't have a favorite teacher? Even the tight-fisted, selfish, ill-mannered, neighbor a few doors down has one or two. And the rest of us can immediately name our top three most influential teachers. (Only one for me: Brother Bennett Nettleton, C.S.C. at St. Edward's. Two others I would still enjoy watching drown.)

I lift my glass to history's most vital calling: Teaching.

Combat Medic: The only guy you love more than your girlfriend

By Chaplain Rev. Richard J. Watts

Joey C's high school graduation gift was an invitation for a one-year party in Southeast Asia. Or, as he puts it, "You wanna see fireworks? I'll show you fireworks."

Joey is one of those guys who understands the roles played by every MOS. But he most admires 68W, the MOS for medic.

He said good training can allow you to do anything well. "But, medics? Nineteen and 20-year old kids whose experience has been limited to split-down-the-middle frogs in biology class? If you haven't seen them in action, you won't believe what they do. The medics, not the frogs."

Not just what they do, he added, but their attitude. "To push a guy's guts back in or to have a guy die in your arms or lie to a troop who's dying, 'Not bad. You're going to be all right.'"

Joey said, "It's an odd thing to brag about, so they don't, but medics



know more guys with Purple Hearts than anyone. If a recruiter asked, 'Well, young man, what sort of job would you like in this man's army? I think the last would be combat medic. Or maybe graves registration.'

Joey remembered a medic, though not his name. They were all called, "Doc." Ever see the bag they carry? Talk about not wasting any space – their bags use every inch of space, yet there is enough to do everything but deliver babies.

Here's the unsettling part. Their packs have lots in them, but when they run out of meds, there's isn't any more.

Do medics panic?

Using 'medics' and 'panic' in the same sentence is unheard of. It has never happened. Never. Not once in thousands of years of battle.

My heroes share the same name: Doc.



VOLUME 10 NUMBER 1

*The Newspaper for Veterans
and All Who Love Them.*

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Editorial Statement

DD214 Chronicle is committed to its readers: Veterans of every generation and all who love them. The printed newspaper is delivered across northern Ohio without charge to more than 500 locations: libraries, colleges and universities that welcome veteran students, VFW and American Legion posts, city halls, Veteran Administration offices and health care facilities, organizations in support of veterans, advertisers, political offices, and Veteran Service Commissions. DD214 Chronicle also maintains dd214chronicle.com and DD214 Chronicle/Facebook.

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Rear Admiral Lauds Coast Guard Mission; Its Opportunities for Women

by Jerri Donohue

When the search and rescue alarm sounded, future Coast Guard Rear Admiral Donna Cottrell rushed to Sandusky Bay. A teenager had fallen from an outboard motorboat.

"The boat was just doing circles around him because the engine was still on," Cottrell said. "He was treading water in the middle and he was scared to death. The water was cold. It was just after Memorial Day."

The coxswain drove the Coast Guard vessel alongside the motorboat, enabling another crewman to leap aboard it and switch off the engine. They then hoisted the grateful boy from the water.

"That experience solidified my desire to stay in the Coast Guard," Cottrell said of her first mission as a reservist.

Ninth District Commander since June 2019, Cottrell now oversees Coast Guard operations covering the Great Lakes, eight states and a 1,500-mile international border.

A native of Wellington, Ohio,

she had graduated from Ohio University and was working as a substitute teacher when she began to consider military service. After she spotted a Coast Guard boat during a visit to Detroit, she researched this branch of the armed forces and felt drawn to its mission.

"I look at it as a calling, not really a job," Cottrell said.

In 1983 she joined the reserves and became a Boatswain's Mate. Realizing she really wanted to

fly helicopters, Cottrell transferred to active duty so she eventually could apply to Officer Candidate School. She spent two years at sea after her

commission, and then attended flight school. Not only she did she pilot helicopters, but she also taught others to fly them.

Landing the aircraft on the back of a bobbing ship proved to be challenging, especially at night, but Cottrell found her missions rewarding. The crew consisted of two pilots, a flight mechanic and a rescue swimmer.

"The bonding of the crew and the esprit de corps and the camaraderie - it's something you can't duplicate anywhere else," Cottrell said.

Her varied assignments included leading the Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) in Jacksonville, Florida from 2011 to

2014. Each helicopter in the Coast Guard's only "use of force" unit carries an aviation gunner who shoots out the engines of go-fast boats smuggling drugs. Coast Guard crewmen then board the vessels, seize contraband and arrest the drug runners.

Cottrell is the third consecutive woman to lead the Coast Guard Ninth District.

"More women are breaking through, especially in some of our nontraditional roles," the admiral said. "Whether it's driving a boat or being a commanding officer of a cutter or flying a helicopter, the opportunities are growing."

Cottrell acknowledged that she didn't set out to become an admiral.

"The opportunities have presented themselves and I've taken advantage of those opportunities," she said. "I've really been blessed. I feel that God has put me in a certain place at a certain time, everywhere I've ever been."

"The bonding of the crew and the esprit de corps and the camaraderie—it's something you can't duplicate anywhere else."

Coast Guard Rear Admiral
Donna Cottrell

Medina County Veterans Service Office Helps with VA Claims, Financial Aid

by Jerri Donohue

During Edward Zackery's 12 years as full time director of Medina County Veterans Service Office, he and his staff have solved countless problems for veterans.

"We're not the answer for every question," Zackery said. "A lot of people have misconceptions. But nine times out of ten, we can help them."

Accredited service officers help veterans residing in Medina County (or their surviving spouses or dependents) to obtain federal, state or local benefits. Service officers prepare and submit to the Department of Veterans Affairs compensation and pension claims. Zackery said this sometimes helps to cover nursing home or assisted living expenses.

Compared to other areas, few former servicemen and women struggle with homelessness in

Medina County, but the office occasionally contacts the Veterans Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), or the Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority to find shelter for a homeless veteran. If necessary, service officers obtain a place for the vet at Valor Home or other shelters outside Medina County.

"We do a lot of prevention of homelessness," Zackery said.

He cited the difficulties of married couples that lose half of their income when one spouse becomes unemployed. Other times, medical emergencies deplete a veteran's savings and so

he or she suddenly cannot pay a rent, mortgage or utility bill. For those who qualify, the Veterans Service Office provides financial aid for three months or so while the vet seeks permanent solutions.

Each county's veterans service

office develops its own eligibility requirements for this assistance.

"We use a sliding scale based on 120-200 percent poverty level used by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services," Zackery said. "And we work with the auditor's office and with landlords until the vet finds a job."

Zackery said one third of the office's clients served in Iraq or Afghanistan. One third are veterans of the Vietnam era. The remaining third are World War II and Korean War veterans, or their widows.


Zackery's own history makes it easy for him to interact with all these groups. He's listened to the stories of relatives who fought in World War II and he became acquainted with Vietnam vets during his own Army years. Enlisting in 1987, he deployed to Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan before retiring as

a first sergeant in 2007.

Zackery described other help available through the Medina County Veterans Service Office. Three part time drivers ferry veterans to and from VA medical facilities in Cleveland, Parma and Akron. The office also orders military documents and medals that were authorized but not received. It issues identification cards allowing vets to ride free on public transportation and to receive discounts at various businesses.

The Veterans Service Office provides cemetery grave markers and flags for veterans and offers free notary services for veterans and their families.

For help with VA claims or to apply for financial aid, call 330-722-9368 to schedule an appointment with a service officer.



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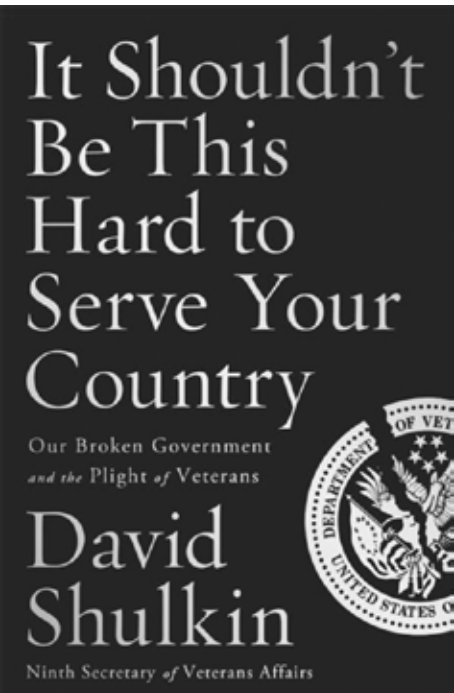
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VA Secretary Discovers What Vets Already Knew

It Shouldn't Be This Hard to Serve Your Country

Nancy Peacock, Book Editor

By the time Dr. David Shulkin joined the Department of Veteran Affairs in 2015, he had already earned a successful reputation in the private sector after 30 years of turning around a series of struggling hospitals. But instead of resting on his laurels, Shulkin was excited by a new challenge—tackling the country's largest health care system and improving it for the nine million veterans who rely on the VA for their medical care.

What he couldn't have predicted was that this job, in the glare of the national political spotlight, would come at a high price to his personal and professional life. His attempt to reform the VA is chronicled in his newly released book, *It Shouldn't Be This Hard to Serve Your Country: Our Broken Government and the Plight of Veterans* (Public Affairs, 2019).

2015 was already a critical time in the history of the VA. A year before he accepted the job of Under Secretary for Health in the Obama administration, the VA was under attack for appointment wait times that forced veterans to suffer and even die before they could see a doctor.

"Dealing with the size and scope, budget realities, capital deficits, and political pressure surrounding

the VA is nearly impossible under the best of circumstances," Shulkin wrote.

Then Trump was elected president. Like most appointees in the Obama administration, Shulkin assumed he was out of a job and was wrapping up his duties when he received a phone call from Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen. Cohen said he had someone on the line who wanted to talk with him. That person turned out to be Marvel Comics Chairman Ike Perlmutter, who ordered Shulkin to meet him at Mar-A-Lago.

Perlmutter informed Shulkin that Trump wanted Perlmutter's advice about running the VA. That meeting was followed by a summons to Trump Tower a few days later in which Trump did most of the talking. That was followed by four days of silence until the President went on TV to announce that Shulkin had been named the new secretary of the VA. Shulkin was stunned by the announcement.

After working in the Obama administration, Trump's administration could not have been more different. Obama's approach was "analytical, pensive and at times appropriately cautious," which meant that the improvements were

carefully planned but also slower in their adoption.

In sharp contrast, Shulkin writes, "Trump and his team shot first and aimed later, but this tumultuous and frenzied environment actually allowed me to take more risks, move faster, and in many cases make more meaningful change."

During the next two years, Shulkin took what he had learned in private sector health systems to make improvements that would bring the VA into the 21st Century. Among his successes were drastically reducing appointment wait times, creating a program that would allow veterans greater access to private medical care, expanding benefits for mental health services, and adding an electronic health record system.

But the job was fraught with political intrigue. Throughout his tenure as secretary, Shulkin encountered a never-ending assault by political appointees, lobbying groups and Trump's friends who had their own agendas. These people created a layer of inaccessibility to the president while compromising Shulkin's ability to run the organization.

Continued on next page

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In an administration riddled with leaks, Shulkin found himself the target of disinformation from political appointees who knew how and what to feed the media in order to tarnish his reputation. The “politicals,” as Shulkin called them, met behind closed doors each day to advance their goal of privatizing the VA. The Concerned Veterans of America, a lobbying group funded by the Koch brothers, ran a smear campaign to get rid of Shulkin and his staff. When he protested this sabotage, Shulkin was informed by a White House appointee that Shulkin could not remove or demote any political appointee in the VA.

“I learned very quickly,” Shulkin writes, “that it wasn’t just a matter of miscommunication but a purposeful strategy aimed at getting rid of me and any other obstacles to privatizing the VA.”

Shulkin came to understand that there were two parts to the White House.

“First, there was the President, John Kelly, and those surrounding them in the West Wing,” he writes. “Second there were the politicals

“If the United States wants to ... attract rather than repel qualified public servants, then it needs to make government a less toxic place to work.”

Dr. David Shulkin, fmr. Secretary of Veterans Affairs

who had given up their previous jobs to support the Trump campaign. These opportunists had their own agenda and were working behind the scenes to accomplish it, and then they were going to the media and attributing their own viewpoint to the White House.”

The strategy worked. A series of daily leaks from anonymous sources spread rumors that Shulkin would be fired soon. The Concerned Veterans of America was gaining more influence. An article from *Politics USA* announced: “The Koch brothers are about to make their move to privatize the VA.”

Like so many others in Trump’s administration, Shulkin was fired by tweet: “...I am thankful for Dr. David Shulkin’s service to our

country and to our GREAT veterans!” That was followed by a call on his cell phone from the office, saying they had boxed up his personal possessions and would ship everything to his home. He was not allowed to enter the building again to say goodbye to staff or clean out his own desk.

“After I left and the politicals were given free rein, it became clear that these appointees had few innovative ideas of their own,” he writes. “While they excoriated my approach and policies, they continue to follow my precise playbook after my exile.”

Major initiatives Shulkin had worked for were implemented: a restructuring plan for the VA, a major IT contract for electronic medical records and a system to

provide veterans more access to community health care. What concerns Shulkin is that the new access standards are too broad and the cost will ultimately drain the VA of its funding.

“There is a big difference between providing veterans greater access to care in the private sector (which I support) and privatization,” he wrote. “Unfettered access to private care ... paves the pathway for dismantling of the government-run system set up to serve veterans.”

The title of his book refers not only to Shulkin’s experience in Washington but also to the veterans who deserve the best medical care from the VA. Shulkin believes veterans are pawns in the high-stakes game of national politics.

“If the United States wants to set an example for other nations to follow, this is surely not the way to do it,” Shulkin writes. “And if the United States wants to attract rather than repel qualified public servants, then it needs to make government a less toxic place to work. It shouldn’t be this hard to serve your country.”

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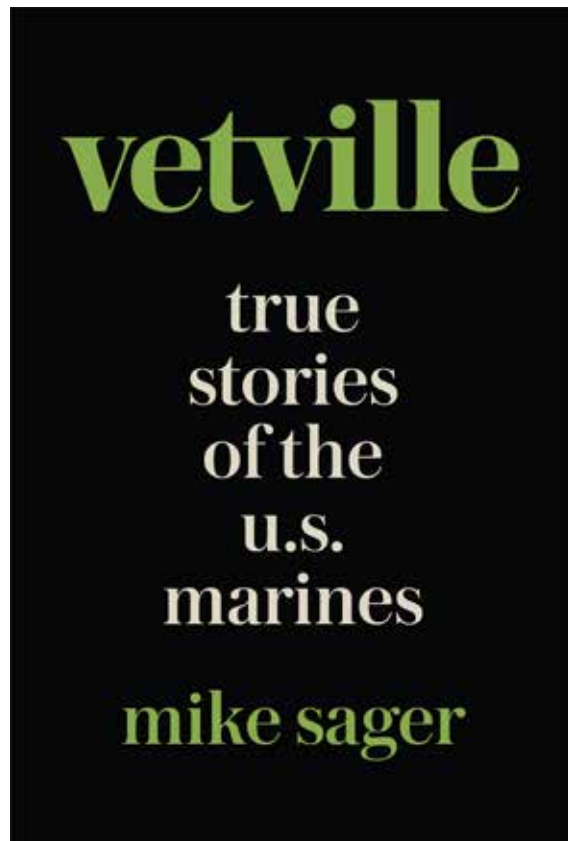
Mike Sager's *Vetville* chronicles humanity of U.S. Marines

By Barry Goodrich

As the son of a U.S. Marine who served in the Korean War, Mike Sager can still remember his father's perfect posture with shoulders thrown back, his precise manner of putting away his clothes "as if he was awaiting a surprise inspection" and the way he often carried his wallet in his sock.

And, like all Marines, his father retained the language of those who have served. "Until the time of his death, at eighty-one, he called the bathroom the head," writes Sager in his new book *Vetville: True Stories of the U.S. Marines at War and at Home*.

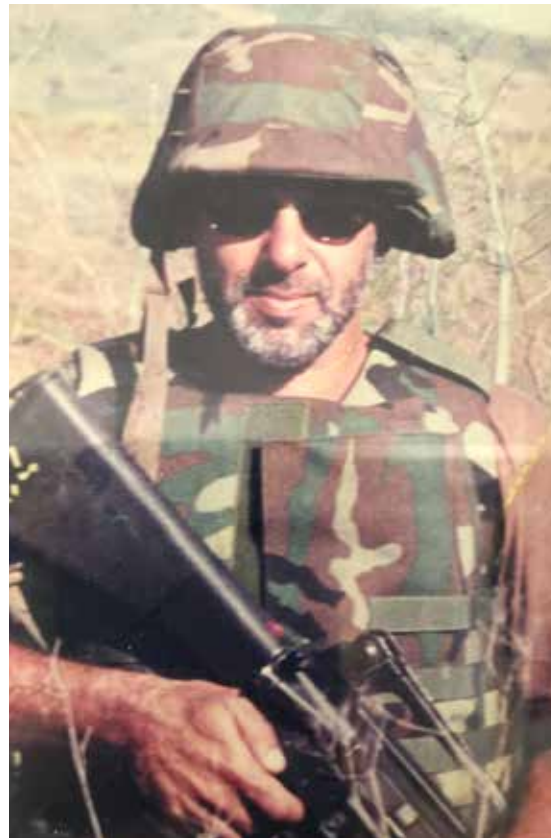
Sager, a bestselling author and award-winning journalist for the *Washington Post*, *Rolling Stone*, *GQ* and *Esquire*, has collected 15 years of his Marine stories in *Vetville*. "I was 13 when other kids' older brothers were getting drafted," said the 63-year-old Sager, whose uncle also joined the Marines and fought at Guadalcanal. "Early in my career as a magazine writer I went on a junket to Paris Island with the Marine Corps. I saw that you had to build a Marine and I wondered what the mindset was of a fighting man."



Sager was never interested in the Hollywood stereotype of a Marine. He wanted to delve into their humanity.

"What I discovered was the soft center of love that Marines have for one another, which, in my mind, is the basis of the entire thing. It's very compelling and very pure."

Over the years, Sager has interviewed Marines who are legacies and others who are drawn to the



combatants headed to Afghanistan following 9/11; the Wounded Warrior Barracks at Camp Lejeune, N.C.; a small farm in the Tennessee mountains where vets with PTSD form their own community and an out of work former Marine playing Mr. Mom in San Diego.

"From day one, the Marine Corps trained them to become lean, mean killing machines," writes Sager. "But what happens after the machine is broken?" Or as one of the men in the book says, "They make 'em Marines but nobody ever turns them back into civilians."

Life after a stint in the Corps can often be a more daunting challenge than a Marine's actual time in the service. "You

come to understand the ramifications of being a part of something and having to walk away from it," said Sager.

What has Sager learned from all the time he has spent with Marines? "If anybody is going to fight a war, it should be someone who has trained like a Marine. Someone who can respond to a command without using the complex set of filters other people use."

Corps due to lack of a good father or family influence. He has often seen men at their worst but also experienced them at their most hopeful.

"There are stages of grief after being wounded in the military," said Sager. "The first of them is guilt. They are trained to not let down the man on your left and not let down the man on your right."

Vetville is divided into four sections – the first wave of American



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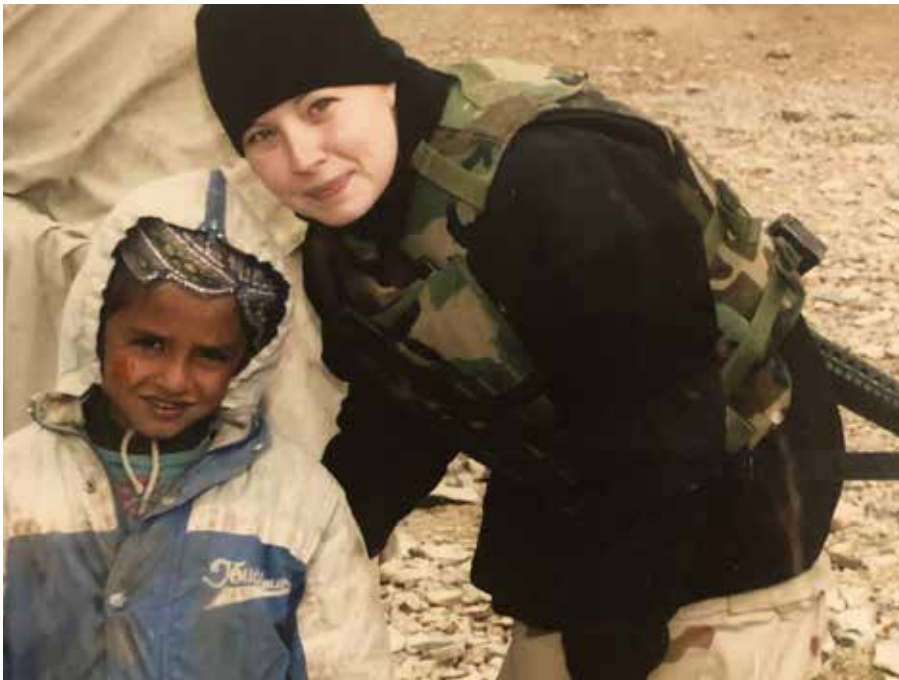
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Army Veteran Recalls Deadly Diplomatic Mission

by Jerri Donohue

Avon Lake resident Kelly Hunt has no memories of April 6, 2013, only questions about the day that changed her life.

“How did I not see that bomb?” Hunt asked. “My teammates died. That will be with me forever.”

Hunt enlisted in 2001, one year shy of completing a Bachelor Degree in Communications at Kent State University. She spent 2003 in Afghanistan as an Army photo-journalist, toting her M16 rifle and camera on missions. She covered projects by military personnel from the United States and other countries to assist Afghan civilians. On one occasion, for example, she accompanied South Africans as they drove Casspirs, formidable armored vehicles, through a field, safely detonating mines laid by the Russians decades earlier.

After leaving the Army in 2005, Hunt completed her education, earning a Master Degree in Journalism and Electronic Media at the University of Tennessee. She worked as Public Affairs Officer at the Environmental Protection Agency before moving to the Department of State. When she returned to Afghanistan in 2012, she was a Public Diplomacy Officer. Instead of a uniform, she wore a hijab to press conferences and other events.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) had hired Hunt to be its Press Secretary two weeks before the 2013 attack in

Hunt sustained such severe injuries, medics had assumed she was dead and sent her to the morgue. ... a doctor realized she was comatose and evacuated her to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany...

Zabul. She looked forward to returning to the States for her dream job. Although she had refused to travel to Zabul, a dangerous area, throughout her tour, Hunt relented for her last mission.

As the team walked to a press conference to publicize “My Afghan Library,” a program that put textbooks in local schools, a bomb hidden in a wall exploded just as a suicide bomber blew up a nearby car. The blasts killed Staff Sgt. Christopher Ward, Spc. Delfin Santos Jr. and Spc. Wilbel Robles-Santa. Diplomat Anne Smedinghoff and their Afghan interpreter also died.

Initial reports indicated that a fifth unidentified American had perished. Hunt sustained such severe injuries, medics had assumed she was dead and sent her to the morgue. There a doctor realized she was comatose and evacuated her to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany where surgeons removed part of her skull to ease

pressure on her brain. She underwent multiple surgeries, including the reconstruction of one knee. Hunt’s shrapnel-riddled arms, legs and back will set off metal detectors for the rest of her life.

She received further treatment at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center before returning to her parents’ home in Sheffield Lake. She spent the next year recuperating from additional operations and continuing physical therapy.

Early on, Hunt’s family and friends created a community Facebook page, “Kelly Hunt’s Road to Recovery,” that chronicled her progress with speech therapy, re-learning to walk and other victories. In Florida, Army veteran Rory Dobis read the posts. Dobis had sustained a traumatic brain injury from a roadside bomb in Mosul, Iraq in 2005. His PTSD prompted him to found Paws 4 Boots, a nonprofit that trains service dogs for veterans. Through Dobis, a Malamute named Kira entered Hunt’s life.

The explosion in Zabul tossed Hunt into barbed wire. While extricating her, rescuers inadvertently severed nerves in her hand. Hunt experimented with various activities to work the injured hand. Mixing ingredients for natural laundry soap and other products was an enjoyable therapy, and so Hunt started a business, CdK Natural (cdknatural.com)

Each month CdK Natural ships 10 or more boxes to the USO in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Hunt stuffs them with books and magazines collected in donation boxes at Avon’s Countryside Antiques, the Veterans Resource Center on Cuyahoga Community College’s Westlake campus and retirement homes she visits with Kira. She said that magazines focusing on fashion, fishing, health and other subjects offer a momentary escape for military personnel overseas.

As Hunt moves forward with her life, she acknowledges the past. She gives presentations about her experiences in Afghanistan and about posttraumatic stress disorder.

“I have invisible wounds,” Hunt said. “A traumatic brain injury isn’t visible.”

The veteran remembers brushing aside appreciative comments from strangers after her first tour.

“I used to say, ‘just doing my job,’” Hunt recalled.

“It’s different when you almost die. Now I will take that ‘thank you.’”



Sub Zero Mission Seeks, Assists Homeless Vets

by Jerri Donohue

On a snowy night, homeless men and women stomp their feet to stay warm outside a Sub Zero Mission bus. Blue Coat Missionaries soon begin to outfit them with “Stay Alive Five” items - hats, coats, gloves, boots, and sleeping bags.

Al “Sarge” Raddatz, Sub Zero’s Chief Executive Officer, said the nonprofit helps any homeless person it finds.

“But we’re looking for veterans because we want to bridge them back to the VA and the programs they qualify for,” Raddatz said. “We want them to know people are still looking for them and care.”

In the winter of 2009, Raddatz and Del Bethel were considering project ideas with other members of Leroy Thompson VFW Post 7939. When they learned that two veterans were living under a bridge in Painesville, the friends drove to Raddatz’s home, gathered his old military winter gear and delivered it to the homeless men. A Navy vet good-naturedly razzed the two former Marines that night but frankly discussed his problems living on the streets.

Afterwards, VFW Post 7939 collected and distributed gently used sleeping bags, launching Sub Zero Mission. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit since 2011, it is rated a 5-star accredited charity by the Better Business Bureau.

Because some homeless persons avoid shelters for various reasons, Sub Zero Mission searches for them in woods and abandoned buildings. Volunteers dispensed things from their SUVs at first.

“We look for those who don’t make it into shelters, for whatever reason. We don’t judge.”

Army veteran Chris Huber, Sub Zero’s Operations Chief

Then, because of the Cleveland Browns’ poor performance, a disgusted fan donated his tailgating bus to the charity. Emblazoned with its motto - “Nobody should freeze to death in America” - the vehicle signaled Sub Zero’s purpose to the general public as well as to the homeless.

Since the acquisition of a second bus, two 4-person Blue Coat teams venture out two nights a week, from the day after Thanksgiving until spring weather arrives. They regularly visit sites from Ashtabula to Lorain, and they take Sub Zero Mission to Columbus, Dayton and cities in Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania and New York, where they partner with local groups.

Most of the 40 “Blue Coats” are veterans and first responders.

“We feel bonded all the way back to 2001,” Raddatz said. “A lot of what we are doing is connected to Nine-Eleven.”

Sub Zero serves a growing number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Raddatz said the nonprofit’s experience supports the claim that one in five homeless persons is a veteran.

“We look for those who don’t make it into shelters, for whatever reason,” said Army veteran Chris

Huber, Sub Zero’s Operations Chief. “We don’t judge. We’re just there to give them warming items.”

A former Marine helps individuals who lost contact with the Veterans Administration to obtain discharge papers. Then, in a bus set up like a conference room, the homeless vets meet with VA personnel, a Veterans Service Commission representative, and staff from other agencies. Because of these efforts, six veterans found housing last year.

Sub Zero Mission raises

funds year round on its website (www.subzeromission.org), selling apparel and Blue Coat Missionary, a graphic novel by Raddatz and Huber about a homeless veteran who encounters a Sub Zero Blue Coat.

Huber said the nonprofit urgently needs volunteers for upcoming fundraisers, including a motorcycle run in June and a golf outing in September. Groups as diverse as local schools, Mentor-on-the-Lake Police Department, Hillcrest Hospital and Painesville’s 1922 Coffee and Brew sponsored “Stuff the Bus” events and “Stay Alive Five” collections to equip Sub Zero Mission with cold weather gear last year. The organization outgrew several spaces and currently faces a problem familiar to those it helps.

“We really need a permanent home,” Huber said.

For fundraising information, call 440-867-2626.

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Navy Authorizes Two-Piece Swimsuits, Gold Star Lapel Button

Military.com | By Hope Hodge Seck

The Navy has authorized a range of new clothing items, including two-piece swimsuits for male and female sailors, special pins to designate survivors and next-of-kin of fallen troops, and a thermal neck scarf for cold weather.

In a Navy administrative message Monday, officials announced that sailors have the option of wearing two pieces for their semi-annual physical readiness test, or PRT. But don't show up in a bikini; Navy officials made clear that this regulation change is for sailors who want more coverage, not less.

Full torso coverage is still required for all swimsuits worn. The new guidance makes it possible for sailors to add a pair of swim shorts to a one-piece, or a rash-guard top to swim shorts based on preference or religious conviction. Also authorized is full-body swimwear, like the "burkini" wetsuit-style option popular with Muslim women.

Robert Carroll, the head of the Navy's Uniform Matters Office, told *Military.com* that the change is the result of feedback from the fleet, coupled with the fact that existing swimwear guidance was ambiguous.



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Community West Foundation David Dombrowiak: Leaving a Legacy of Compassion

David T. Dombrowiak is retiring as the President and CEO of the beloved west side Community West Foundation.

As a testament to his compassion and depth of his faith, Community West Foundation inherits his legacy as a visionary leader. He has served as the organization's President and CEO for 21 years.

His career has planted the seeds of inspiration for many to see God's love made visible.

His support and concern for the marginalized, the oppressed, the downtrodden, the poor and the broken hearted are the stamp of the many Community West Foundation programs that serve the West Side as well as Fairview and Lutheran Hospitals.

David has approached philanthropy with creativity, encouraging efforts to strengthen the health and well being of our community. He has raised public awareness of the issues that affect all: homelessness, hunger, mental illness, the disabled, and the inability of many to access quality health care.

David's vision for the Foundation's Strategic Plan is drawn from the words of Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these



brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

This message reflects the core principle of the Foundation's work and mission: To care for the least of our brothers and sisters in need.

That mantra has led to a litany of efforts that carry David's creative signature.

His devotion to uplifting the marginalized led him to create the SocksPlus Program at Community West Foundation in 2014. The project has collected over \$1 million in monetary donations and in-kind items for our neighbors suffering and burdened by homelessness. It is emblematic of his Community

West Foundation initiatives that continue to change and improve how the poor are served in our community.

Through David's efforts, Community West Foundation welcomed the inspiring sculpture, "Homeless Jesus" to its campus. It is the work of world-renowned Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz and it is capturing the heart and soul of people.

The sculpture represents Jesus as a homeless person lying on a bench covered by a blanket. It is a dramatic visual representation of Matthew 25:40. Mr. Dombrowiak has made Homeless Jesus available as a gift to the entire community. The public art travels to area churches and schools to raise awareness of the homeless among us.

David has initiated and hosted community Poverty Simulations. These outreach seminars engage the community to understand more deeply, empathize more fully, and treat those in poverty with more dignity and respect. The experience adds depth to their work to gain a better understanding of the daily challenges of living in poverty.

When David started at Community West Foundation 21

Continued on next page

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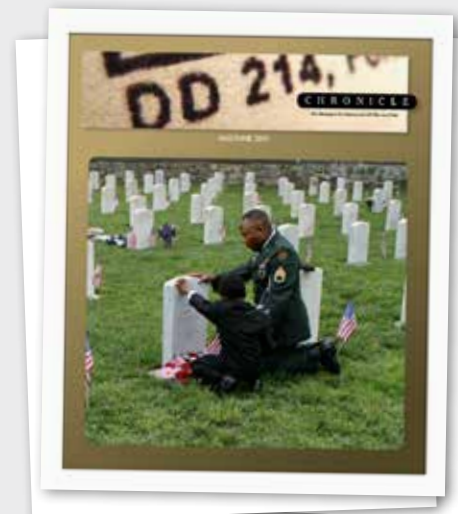
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Continued from previous page
years ago, there was no logo, no mission or Strategic Plan, no website, and limited community awareness of Community West.

Today, the assets of the Foundation are now an astounding \$126 million.

Foundation grantmaking has also increased under David's leadership, with the Foundation giving \$101 million to care for the needs of our community. The foundation's total donations are over \$90 million from donors who believe in the Foundation mission and place their trust in David.

Broadening the efforts of the Foundation, David created the Invest West Program, offering creative, collaborative ways to encourage giving and promote philanthropy locally.

Through the Colleagues Program, David has shared Planned Giving expertise with local nonprofit organizations, securing gifts that they might not otherwise be able to obtain. He knows the importance of providing the best in philanthropic services to donors and nonprofit partners to make the most of every charitable dollar to help those in need.

David Dombrowiak has also been committed to the refugee community and refugee issues. His support has built bridges across a wide variety of cultures, ethnic backgrounds and traditions. As the Chairman of the Board of the Caritas Baby Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation, he has helped to grow charitable donations for a hospital located in the midst of great turmoil and in one of the most impoverished regions in the world. This support provides a new source of hope for the most vulnerable infants in the place where the Christ Child was born.

In September 2010, David was invested as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. He has risen to the rank of Knights Commander with Star.

He also accepted the call to lead the Cleveland, Toledo and Youngstown section of the North Central Lieutenancy of the Order. The Order has provided exemplary service to the Church, and a readiness to

serve the needs of the Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land, demonstrating Christianity in its purest form.

Mr. Dombrowiak has won awards for his work and activism. He has been recognized for his outstanding civic, community and charitable works by many local leaders and organizations, as well as by the U.S. Senate and The White House.

He is most admired, however, for his tender heart for the suffering.

David Dombrowiak leaves an important message as his legacy: We become more complete as human beings by caring more about others

and to be present to those in need.

David Dombrowiak has helped all to see that of God in each person, that special Spark of the Divine, and to be the magnificent beings of compassion and light that all are designed to become.

Each of the Community West Foundation Trustees are crucial to its mission. But no one more so than David Dombrowiak, who has steadfastly encouraged all to set high expectations, confront challenges and lead boldly.

The heart of David Dombrowiak has been unwavering for the forgotten, the homeless, the hungry, the refugee, the mentally ill, the hurting and suffering. He is an untiring champion for the less fortunate, and his great courage and imaginative spirit have been a gift to the community. He has transformed Community West Foundation in ways that will continue to benefit Cleveland's West Side for years to come.

As David and Mary Ann Dombrowiak, who reside in Lakewood where they are members of St. Luke's Parish, now enter a new phase of life, they take with them the heartfelt thanks of a community.

Dombrowiak leaves an important message as his legacy: We become more complete as human beings by caring more about others and to be present to those in need.

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Anna Lupson, Navy veteran and LCCC psychology student who is using her veterans benefits to attend school. She plans to continue her education through LCCC's University Partnership program.



**Lorain County
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Local Purple Heart Project aids veterans with scars of war

By Barry Goodrich

As the owner of Apex Dermatology, Dr. Jorge Garcia-Zuazaga deals with patients suffering from skin cancers and scarring on a daily basis. But he has a special affinity for veterans who have been scarred in the course of active duty, men whose wounds go far beyond the surface.

Last Veteran's Day, Garcia-Zuazaga began his Purple Heart Project, which provides free scar revisions for veterans injured in active duty. The project allows him to combine his talents as a dermatologist with his military history.

"I thought it would be a cool thing to do to link my professional life with my military background," said Garcia-Zuazaga. "I treat a lot of veterans, from World War II to Vietnam to Korea. I see one guy every year who is 99 years old...he is one of the last remaining D-Day survivors. We share all of our stories and I've developed friendships with a lot of these guys."

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Venezuela, Garcia-Zuazaga has built a highly successful company with offices in Concord, Hudson, Mayfield Heights, Medina, Parma, Solon and Westlake. He credits his



military experiences with helping him to become a success in the business world. "I took on a lot of responsibility in the military, but it helped me learn a lot about leadership.

In 1995, Garcia-Zuazaga commissioned to the U.S. Navy and enrolled in the Navy Health Profession Scholarship Program. Four years later, he graduated

in the top 5 percent of his medical school class at Penn State University and moved to Washington D.C. to complete his internship at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Moving on to Pensacola, Fla. for Aerospace Medical Training with the Navy, Garcia-Zuazaga earned status as a U.S. Flight Surgeon in 2001 and was a recipient of the

prestigious Surgeon General's Award. He went on to the Marine Air Corps Station in Beaufort, S.C. and was assigned as a flight surgeon for the world-famous Crusaders (VMFA-122) squadron.

Completing five years of service with the Marines, Garcia-Zuazaga relocated to Cleveland, where he served as a Dermatology Resident at University Hospitals Case Medical Center. He also earned an MBA from Case's Weatherhead School of Management.

Throughout the multitude of his life experiences, Garcia-Zuazaga remains most affected by his time spent in the military and with those who have served. "I'm a big believer that scars go a lot deeper than the skin," he said. "I see a lot of PTSD and a lot of depression. I have worked with scar revision on veterans and the treatment automatically does a lot for their spirits. It can really do wonders for a person."

While not all scars can be treated, veterans who wish to apply for the Purple Heart Project can do so by visiting www.apexskin.com or by calling 833-279-SKIN.

RHIP – except when it doesn't.

This article originally appeared on Task & Purpose, a digital news and culture publication dedicated to military and veterans issues

The number of substantiated allegations of sexual misconduct against senior Army officials increased this year, according to an Army Inspector General report recently presented to service leaders and obtained by *Task & Purpose*.

The document, which lays out broad details of IG investigations undertaken in fiscal 2019, looks at investigations specific to senior Army officials, including "promotable colonels, general officers and senior executives," according to

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Emanuel Ortiz.

According to the document, the IG received 707 complaints against senior officials in fiscal 2019; only 26 of them, involving 20 senior officials, were substantiated. The Army declined to comment on those specific allegations or the actions taken since the receipt of each complaint.

While there was a 40% decrease in overall investigations of senior officials in 2018, the Army IG notes that there was "an increase in substantiated allegations for both sexual misconduct and personal misconduct" between 2018 and 2019.

The example the document gives for sexual misconduct or inappropriate relationships is an allegation that a senior official "engaged in adulterous relationships, inappropriate relationships, or committed sexual harassment."

Sexual misconduct was the top substantiated allegation from 2015 to 2019.

The second most-frequent allegation against active-duty senior officials between 2015 and 2019 is personal misconduct, characterized as allegations such as public intoxication, making false statements, online misconduct or committing theft.

The third and fourth most frequent allegations against senior leaders were failure to obey an order and misuse of government resources.

According to the report, allegations of reprisal are the top complaint the IG investigates.

The report will be used by senior leaders to "work toward proactively reducing misconduct, which has been declining overall," Ortiz told *Task & Purpose*.

"The Army takes any allegation of sexual or personal misconduct seriously," he said, "and holds individuals who violate established standards accountable."

The Sullivans of County Cork, Ireland and Stark County, Ohio

By J.C. Sullivan and Edward Sullivan

Who said ‘Dead Men Tell No Tales?’ Au Contraire. If we look at one life lived, it can be a testament to that person. What began as a story on Col. Jeremiah J. Sullivan morphed into a story on the Sullivan Family at rest in St. Philip & James Catholic Cemetery, Canal Fulton, Ohio and Lake View Cemetery, Cleveland, Ohio. ‘Colonel’ Sullivan was discharged from the Army after the Civil War as a Sergeant. The moniker of ‘Colonel’ was evidently due to title he held that was bestowed on him in a post-war Veterans Office. I use it through this piece to distinguish him from his father of the same name.

The Colonel was born in Co. Cork, Ireland on November 16, 1844 to Jeremiah J. Sullivan (April, 1807 – 13 Oct. 1875) and Mary Moylan Sullivan (10 Sep. 1810 – 10 Sep. 1882). The family arrived in the U.S. in the 1850s. Colonel Sullivan attended village schools in Canal Fulton, Ohio. When the ‘War Between the States’ broke out in his seventeenth year, he left farm life and enlisted in the Third Ohio Field Artillery.

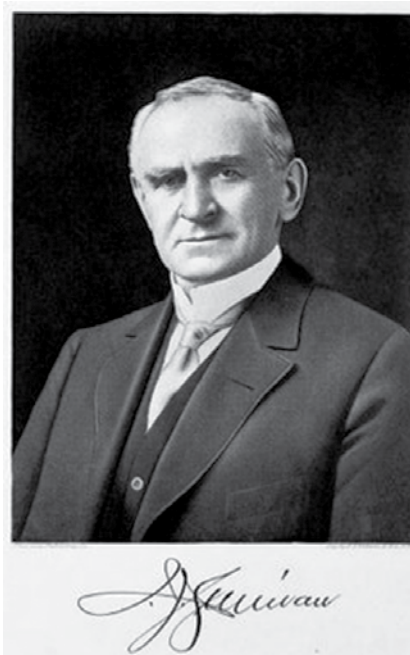
In our research we discovered Col. Sullivan’s older brother Capt. John Sullivan, (b. 24 June 1828,



d. 22 Jan, 1894) served together in Logan’s Division, 3rd Ohio Field Artillery of the 17th Army Corps. He had married Ellen Roche/Bowen (1837-1905). At his death

in 1894 she and two sons and two daughters survived him.

After participating in the campaigns of Vicksburg (with General Grant, Atlanta with General Sherman and Nashville), the Colonel mustered out as a Sergeant in



Cleveland on July 31, 1865. We assume his brother John mustered out at the same time.

At age twenty-one the Colonel became partner in a general store at Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio. Interestingly, this is in the heart of Amish country. In two years he became the sole proprietor until he sold out in 1878.

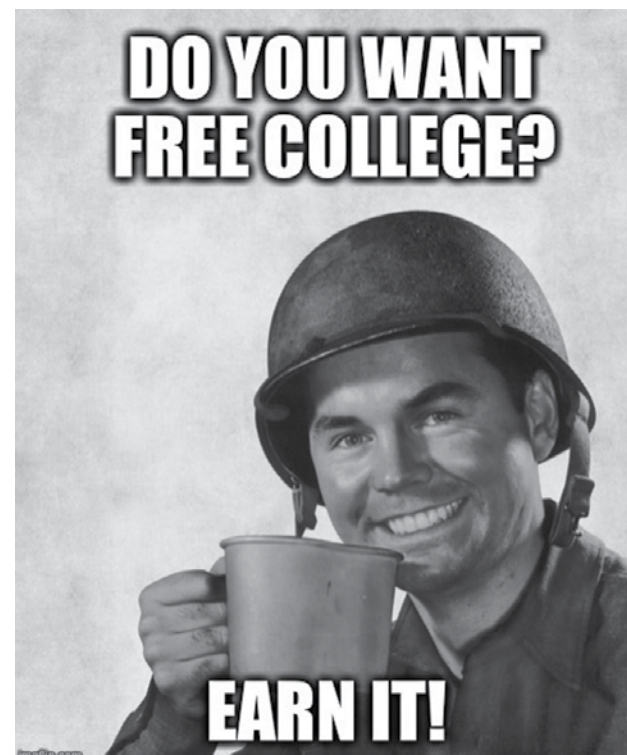
On September 25, 1873 he married Selina Jane Brown (1845-1940)

at Shreve, Wayne County, Ohio. They had three daughters, Selma V., Corliss Emonde and Helen Sullivan Seymour. In one account, Corliss E. was mistakenly identified as C.E. Sullivan, son of Jeremiah. She, along with Edmond S. Burke, Jr., introduced Polo to the City of Cleveland.

With his connections to Civil War brass being apparent, In 1887 President Grover Cleveland appointed him Bank Examiner for the state of Ohio. Apparently he was a gracious personality, like most Irishmen, and also learned his thorough technical knowledge of banking while in that office.

Colonel Sullivan served in a number of banking-related organizations. He served as President of the Cleveland of Chamber of Commerce and was an elected an Ohio State Senator. He initiated legislation that resulted in the founding of the Soldiers’ Home in Sandusky, Ohio.

Colonel Sullivan died at home at 7218 Euclid Avenue, reportedly from the influenza, the first time in his life he was ever ill. Both he and Selina are buried in the Sullivan plot in Cleveland’s Lake View Cemetery. There are ten gravesites remaining for family members.





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