

CHRONICLE

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Reporting From the Front

Marguerite Higgins: She Knew More About War Than the Men Who Fought Them

By Ailsa Craig



Marguerite Higgins with Gen. MacArthur (above) and arriving at the Front.

Marguerite Higgins earned a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, served as a war correspondent in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. She died in 1966 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. She jammed a great deal of living and working into 46 years, including winning a Pulitzer Prize in 1951 for international reporting.

She was three years old before she saw the U.S.; Higgins was born in Hong Kong, where her father worked at a shipping company. She graduated from the University of

California, majoring in French, then earned a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University.

She joined the *New York Herald Tribune* and after two years, persuaded her editors to send her overseas as a war correspondent. The year was 1944

and after short stints in London and Paris, went to Germany in the spring of 1945.

In 1950, she was named bureau chief for the Tribune in Tokyo, and when war broke out in Korea, she was there. Not for long, if Gen. Walton Walker had his way. He ordered her out of the country and said women

didn't belong anywhere near the front lines. Plus, he added, he wasn't going to provide separate accommodations for a woman.

She was there as Dachau was liberated and later covered the Nuremberg war trials. In 1950, Higgins was

named chief of the Tribune's Tokyo bureau. Shortly after her arrival in Japan war broke out in Korea. One of the first reporters to arrive, she was quickly ordered out of the country by General Walton Walker, who argued that women did not belong at the front and the military had no time to worry about making separate accommodations for them.

Higgins went over Walker's head and appealed to his boss, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who agreed with her, even sending a telegram to the *Herald Tribune*: "Ban on women correspondents in Korea has been lifted. Marguerite Higgins is held in the highest professional esteem by everyone." It was there Higgins did the work that won her, along with five male war correspondents, the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting.

In 1955, she was named chief of the newly-created Moscow bureau for the Tribune, and in 1963 joined *Newsweek* and took an assignment to Vietnam. After visiting villages throughout the country and interviewing hundreds of major figures, she wrote, "Our Vietnam Nightmare."

After two years in Vietnam, she was fatally struck with a tropical disease that resulted in her death on January 3, 1966. She was survived by her husband, Lt. Gen. William E. Hall and a son and daughter.

Inside:

- 4 White Sands
- 6 Jobs for Vets
- 12 Marine Week
- 15 Real Dogs, Real Hearts

Assignment: **Combat**



The final tally for reporters killed in Iraq and Afghanistan is not yet completed. Here are the numbers of reporters who, in previous wars, braved the intense horror of battle.

Numbers mean little. Each dead reporter had a family, friends, and the option of a desk in a safe city room or broadcast studio. All chose the field of battle.

The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* assigned Michael D. Roberts to Vietnam. He wanted to go. Not only did the newspaper's readers learn about the war, Roberts himself learned. It was the richest, craziest, most confusing, and ultimately satisfying assignment in his long career.

Vietnam: Freedom Forum lists 66 journalists killed covering the conflict in Vietnam from 1955-1975.

Korean War: Freedom Forum lists 17 journalists killed.

World War II: Freedom Forum lists 68.

World War I: Freedom Forum lists 2.



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Contents

- 3** Stand at Ease
- 4** White Sand of Tarawa
- 5** A Year in the Life of George Murphy
- 5** Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission
- 6** New Hope for Veterans
- 6** Job Opportunities
- 7** Gerald Mason, RTA and War
- 8** Hospice of the Western Reserve Unveils The Ames Family Hospice House in Westlake
- 9** Lake Erie Perch
- 10** Veterans Commission President Frank Pocci
- 11** Female Officers on Nuclear-Powered Submarines
- 12** Another Take on Marine Week
- 13** The Dangerous Veteran
- 14** Golf
- 14** The GI Bill
- 15** Real Dogs, Real Hearts



PUBLISHER
Terence J. Uhl

EDITOR
John H. Tidyman
11 BRAVO 40
(216) 789-3502
forgedirons@yahoo.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Harry Besharet

CHAPLAIN
Rev. Ralph Fotia

OUTDOORS
John Barbo

ART DIRECTOR
Laura Chadwick

OFFICE MANAGER
Annabelle Lee Dowd

For advertising information, call:



Terence J. Uhl
(216) 912-2863
terryuhl@uhlgroup.com

DD 214 Chronicle is published by
Terence J. Uhl
Principal
The Uhl Group
700 West St. Clair Avenue
Suite 414
Cleveland, OH 44113
terryuhl@uhlgroup.com

Phone:
(216) 912-2863
Fax:
(216) 771-5206

Welcome Home, Trooper. Now Hit the Books!

First let's take off our hats, lift our beer mugs, and say a prayer of gratitude for the GI Bill, one of FDR's most lasting, important, and vital pieces of legislation.

He said, "With the signing of this bill a well-rounded program of special veterans' benefits is nearly completed. It gives emphatic notice to the men and women in our armed forces that the American people do not intend to let them down."

What do the following men have in common with thousands of area college students: Johnny Carson, Harry Belafonte, Gene Hackman, and Joseph Heller?

Each took advantage of the GI Bill. Some people would say the GI Bill is directly responsible for America's rise to prominence. I would be one of them because no weapon --- no machine gun, grenade launcher, missile --- is more powerful than

education.

The original GI Bill sent returning veterans to college in numbers no fortune teller might have predicted. Thousands and thousands of veterans became the first in their families to hang a sheepskin on the wall --- and then use the education to create an economy and lifestyle never seen before.

Not all veterans were so well treated; veterans from Vietnam found their benefits to be so skimpy that going to college was problematic.

But with the 9/11 GI Bill, the gates of academia are again thrown



open, and it's a fool who doesn't accept the invitation. Let's face it: The American economy needs educated men and women.

Colleges and universities in *DD 214 Chronicle's* area of operations have done exceptionally well on behalf of our veterans. Offices and officers have been created to help veterans become students. The responsibilities, opportunities, and expectations of these schools will grow as our young, battle-scarred veterans return home. This time to stay.

Based on recent history, our col-

leges and universities are up to the academic challenge.

...

Gary Goldman was my first captain in Vietnam. He recently posted this on the B Co., 1/52nd Infantry, Americal Division web site. "Today is the 68th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy, June 6, 1944. One hundred sixty thousand allied forces took part, and there were approximately 10,000 allied casualties. The night parachute assaults, the glider-born assaults and the beach landings rank among the largest, most difficult and terrifying military operations in our history. It also marked the beginning of the end for Hitler's military and the eventual liberation of Europe. And yet, at least so far, I haven't seen a word about this anniversary in any media this year. These men and women were heroes. How soon we forget."

Some people would say the GI Bill is directly responsible for America's rise to prominence.



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White Sand of Tarawa

by Tina Mathis

Through my effort to locate next of kin and DNA donors for the Ohio Marines lost during the battle of Tarawa, I have had the opportunity to speak with countless family members who hold vivid memories of the days surrounding the loss of their loved one.

Mary Ross of Camden, Ohio is the only living sibling of Sgt. Criss Reece, 2nd Marine Division, 1st Battalion, 8th Regiment, Company C. As part of Operation Galvanic, Reece died on Tarawa, November 21, 1943. Although she was only five years old when Criss was killed, Mary has never forgotten him; proudly displaying his Marine photo.

As I scoured hundreds of websites for any information that may be helpful, I stumbled across a site called Tarawa on the Web. The site includes a message board allowing subscribers to exchange stories,

information and photos.

Recently, Shirley George, whose husband also fought on Tarawa, posted a public offer. She had two bottles of white sand from Red Beach Two; the beach where many Marines were killed. After much soul searching, she offered to share it with anyone interested. The timing seemed perfect; I knew that Reece's sister would greatly appreciate this small connection to her brother's final resting place.

Several days later, Shirley post-



Sgt. Criss Reece

ed a photo of her meeting with Ann Munro from Rosville, Ca. who also requested the sand. Ann had decided to place the sand at her parent's grave and fulfill one of her mother's final requests; not to forget Jack.

The photo caption mentioned that Munro's brother, Pvt. Jack A. Mathew was killed on Tarawa, November 21, body not recovered. Immediately, I scanned the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command database to see if Pvt. Mathew was listed as needing

next of kin and family DNA.

Tears filled my eyes when I saw his name on the list and quickly realized that he also served in the 2nd Marine Division, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Company C, Criss Reece's Company.

Considering the 18,000 Marines sent to Tarawa, the coincidence seemed nearly impossible. The gracious offer from a stranger and a handful of sand united the sisters of Reece and Mathew, two Marines who served and died together. Mary Ross believes this connection is Criss' way of making sure his men are not left behind.

Ann Munro has since contacted the Marine Casualty Office and submitted her DNA in the hope that one day her brother, Jack will be brought home to rest beside their parents. Sgt. Reece and Pvt. Mathew, your families are waiting.

Attention VFW, American Legion, and other Veteran Organizations

Now that *DD 214 Chronicle* is on its way to its third birthday, we're able to expand our service to additional VFW and American Legion posts in northeast Ohio.

If you have news, important or interesting programs, or events you'd like to publicize with the northeast Ohio veteran community, we want to partner with you.

Here's what we'll need to publish your news.

Post number,
Complete address,
Name of event,
Date and time of event,
Contact person and telephone number,
Prices, if any,
Reservation information, if necessary.

Because we publish every other month, your information must be received 30 days prior to publication. Here are examples:

Issue	Deadline
September October	August 1
November December	October 1

Send your information to: forgedirons@yahoo.com or call (216) 789-3502

Maintaining the Health of Veterans

VA operates one of the nation's largest integrated health care systems in the country. With a health care budget of about \$50 billion, VA expects to provide care to 6.3 million patients during 920,000 hospitalizations and nearly 90 million outpatient visits this year. VA's health care network includes 152 major medical centers and more than 800 community-based outpatient clinics.



DD 214 Chronicle is Available at More Than 120 Locations. Free.

DD 214 Chronicle is delivered free to the following locations as well as mailed first class to subscribers (see Page 15 to subscribe). To add your organization to the free delivery list, call office manager Annabelle Lee Dowd at (216) 789-3502. Here is a partial list of locations where *DD 214 Chronicle* is available. The newspaper for veterans is also delivered without charge to many VFW, American Legion posts, four Summa Hospital locations, city halls, Democratic and Republican offices, all advertisers, recruiting offices, coffee houses, and

plenty more.

Colleges and Universities

Kent State University, University of Akron, Cleveland State University, Lakeland Community College, Lake Erie College, Cuyahoga Community College, Lorain Community College

Libraries

Cleveland Public Library (30 branches), East Cleveland Library, Cleveland Heights/University Heights libraries: Lee Road, Coventry Village, Noble Neighborhood, University Heights. Shaker Heights libraries: Bertram Woods and Main, also Lakewood Library, Westlake Library, Medina Library (6 branches), Wickliffe Library, Avon Library, Sheffield Lake Library, Lorain Public Library (3 branches), Akron Library (18 branches), Kent Free Library

County Veterans' Commissions

Cuyahoga, Summit, Lake, Lorain, Medina

VA Health Care Facilities

Cleveland VA Hospital, Wade Park
VA Clinic, Brookpark Road
VA Outpatient Clinic, 55 W. Waterloo, Akron

Golf Courses

Skyland, Manakiki, Sleepy Hollow, Seneca, Big Met, Shawnee Hills

A Year in the Life of George Murphy

The late Sgt. George Murphy was a young infantryman in World War Two. He served as a mortarman in Co. L, 7th Infantry, Third Division. He kept a cryptic diary of combat in Italy. The diary was provided by Patrick, one of George's four sons. Here are excerpts:

11 Jan 44 My 19th birthday.
20 Jan 44 Shove off for Anzio tonight.
21 Jan 44 Landed at 4 a.m. Lt. Yates hit. First company casualty. First Jerry killed.
23 Jan 44 Got strafed on observation post with field artillery. Saw dog fight. Dug defensive positions.
28 Feb 44 Two packages from home. Hershey's and lighter.
29 Feb 44 Counter attack 4 a.m. Fire 500 to 800 shells. Ross killed. Hunter hit. Withdraw. Nine A & P men killed. Kaniewski et al start back to get new mortars. Return without mortars.
6 Mar 44 Took first shower on Anzio. Swell place. Hate to leave.
12 Mar 44 Ziola hit.
13 Mar 44 DeGeorge didn't want to leave hole. Shelling.
16 Mar 44 Bob & Sgt. Ray hit with air burst.
19 Mar 44 DeGeorge hit. Lost his arm. Mischoke killed. Carry DeGeorge to road on stretcher. Big job. Sweat!
19 May 44 Start attack. Six machine guns left. Four 60mm mortar men hit. Crept to our objective on stomachs. T Co. pinned down and didn't arrive. Slept at wooded objective. Tired out. Brothers and Burke killed. Moved behind T Co. and 1st Battalion to bomb crater. Pinned down.
27 May 44 Lt. Goodwin and 20 1st platoon men hit taking hill.
29 May 44 30th Infantry attack through us. Many casualties. We fired 250 shells from 4:55 to 4:59 a.m.

3 Jun 44 Moved closer to Rome and spent night under half-track with Clark and Parks.
6 Jun 44 Cleaned up. Sleeping in park in middle of Rome when we heard of D-Day.
1 Jul 44 Payday. Got \$33.70.
3 Jul 44 Got pass at 2 p.m. Nordonick and I go to Naples together. Drunk for first time in six months.
7 Jul 44 Sick. Fifteen mile speed march, 20 miles all together. Sick all the time. Full field pack and turn all equipment to supply before sick call. Sent to hospital. Temperature 104.23
8 Jul 44 Feel much better. Soft bed, clean sheets. Said I have sand fly fever.
14 Aug 44 Going to southern France. Made landing in LCVPs. Good support. Few Krauts. One casualty.
19 Aug 44 Climbed mountains. Many stragglers. Berchiolli, Siems, DeFelippo killed by 20mm guns. Spent night in Kraut luxurious entrenchments.
30 Aug 44 Walked all morning. Saw four tank destroyers and one tank knocked out. Rode horse. Six letters from Mom. Rumored we're going to Swiss border.
14 Sep 44 Vy-Les-Lure. We rushed town and got trapped. Direct fire. Heavy shelling. Many wounded. Perkins, Price, Guntherman, Vesellio, Patsy hit. Krauts all over. Battle patrol comes in. Sigfried line broken, they say.

20 Nov 44 Start big attack. Fox, Vandenberg KIA. We reach objective and I got hit in side with shrapnel. Rain. Plenty of shelling.
21 Nov 44 Attack at 6 p.m. Walked all night. Dug in. Slept in rain. Ambush Krauts and horses. We're behind Kraut lines.
23 Nov 44 Reach and fight in Saales. Cleared town of Krauts. Plenty of gin, brandy, etc. Ate chicken, butter, jam, peas, eggs for Thanksgiving. Dry first time in three days.
14 Jan 45 Company sent out contact patrol. Eighty-five men went out -- 51 returned. Unger killed, Pete hit. Fortuna killed.
18 Jan 45 Drunk. I'll never drink schnapps again.
21 Jan 45 Moved out to start attack. Road interdicted, hell of a climb, bad situations. Four men refused to go.
22 Jan 45 Attack across 2,500 yard of field. Captured eight Krauts, were fired on by artillery and direct tank fire.
25 Jan 45 Started attack at 5:55 a.m. Crossed 1,000 yards of flat field. I got hit through the right wrist about 75 yards from town of Hausen. Later, took 79 POWs back to battalion and continued to hospital.
26 Jan 45 Had penicillin shots, hypo and one that put me out on operating table.

Spent three months in hospital and reconditioning camp. War ends May 8. Return home probably sometime around middle of October, 1945.

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Opening Doors: New Hope for Veterans Improving Outcomes Through Collaboration

Remarks by Dennis Kresak, president & CEO of Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio
Thursday May 24, 2012, Veteran's Domiciliary at Wade Park

This month marks the first anniversary of the opening of the Veterans Domiciliary at Wade Park. Since then, we have grown into our partnership with the VA, and have housed over 500 veterans right here in this facility. This building exists because people took a "leap of faith." They met a need by working in new and innovative ways involving many stakeholders, and collaborative partnerships.

For the past 20 years I've worked to help the homeless in Cleveland. The number of veterans we saw was alarming. Because I met so many veterans in our shelter we looked for better ways to meet their unique needs. That's why today Volunteers of America is invested in helping veterans through innovative outcome based programs.

Homelessness is one of those problems that cries out for unconventional solutions. Through necessity we're forced to become innovative. There is an old military adage that states adapt, improvise, and overcome. Teamwork and collaborations become imperative for successful outcomes and the byproduct of all this is an entrepreneurial spirit that needs to become all consuming in nature.

Who would have thought that seven years ago this building could become a reality. We encountered many impediments to our mission but we adapted, we improvised and



VOAGO's Dennis Kresak is joined by Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Stratton, Sue Fuehrer, director of the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center and Jack Hetrick, FACHE, director, VA Healthcare System of Ohio at the one year anniversary celebration of the opening of the Veteran's Domiciliary at Wade Park

we overcame, and we did it through partnerships and by joining forces and finding supporters. We all have a stake in ending homelessness – especially for veterans. Why are there so many homeless? We don't have all the answers to that question, but we keep searching. We want to know more about the challenges veterans confront. The challenges they face involve us all because we live in this community.

We want you to know that we are working to bring the whole community together to combat the problem – the VA, the courts, the mental health agencies, whoever holds a stake. The cost of not combining forces is too great when:

Nearly half of all homeless veterans suffer from mental health problems;

2 out of 3 homeless veterans have drug or alcohol problems;

Veterans are more than twice as likely to be homeless as non-veterans;

If you are a female veteran, you are 2 ½ times more likely to be homeless as non-veteran females;

Veterans, age 18 to 30, are more than twice as likely to become homeless as a non-veteran of that same age group;

Unemployment among veterans is almost twice as high as unemployment among non-veterans;

You get the picture.

You can see why ending homelessness among veterans is a priority. The honorable Eric Shinseki, Secretary of the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs set a 5-year goal of ending homelessness for veterans. This is year number 3. There has been a good

deal of progress. The number of veterans living on the streets now hovers below 100,000.

That is success.

But, there are many fragile veterans who still face environmental, psychological, medical, and legal challenges. Conflict with the judicial system is a big one. These barriers infringe upon their ability to reintegrate back into society. Understanding this is key to helping veterans help themselves. They want to work, to be productive, and to continue to serve their country.

For many, the first hurdle is walking through the door. For them, asking for help is a sign of weakness. The same mentality that served them well in the military does not make it easy for them to switch back to civilian life. In the military you are assigned a specific role and with that role you are assigned a number called a military occupational specialty MOS. The MOS for an infantry rifleman is 11B. If you've served three deployments to Iraq and have MOS 11B on your resume, imagine how that may be difficult to transition to civilian life. So they struggle. Bad credit, evictions, and other housing barriers only aggravate matters. Incarceration. Depression.

Justice Evelyn Stratton understands the challenges veterans face from the other side of the bench. The courts are another stakeholder and together we are opening doors and providing new hope for veterans. Working together, we will improve the lives of veterans.

— Dennis Kresak



Job Opportunities Navy Needs Commanding Officers; Tenth CO Fired This Year

The commanding officer of the USS The Sullivans (named after the five Sullivan brothers who died together in WWII,) has been relieved of command. In a news release, the Navy said Commander Derick Armstrong created, "an unprofessional command climate that was contrary to good order and discipline." That description covers a lot of open water.

The USS The Sullivans is a guided missile destroyer.

The CO didn't last long, having taken command on November 7. He is hardly alone. Last year, the Navy relieved 23 commanding officers for a variety of reasons, referred by the Navy as, "varying levels of inappropriate conduct."

In WWII, Lt. Commander Quinton McHale lasted four years, but being marooned on a South Pacific island might have had something to do with his tenure.

Gerald Mason, RTA, and War

By Sean Grady

Gerald Mason has worked at the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) for 17 years, but also served his country in the Army for 25 years. As part of the 112th Engineering Battalion for the Ohio National Guard, First Sergeant Mason was called to serve for one year in Afghanistan in August, 2010. RTA supported his training schedule and his service to country. As a service quality supervisor, Mason ensures buses arrive and leave at the correct time, as well as checking that drivers are offering customer assistance.

When Mason returned in August 2011, he came back to RTA with the honor of his service and a passion for his job. In October, he presented an American flag and medal from his service in Afghanistan to RTA's Board of Trustees and General Manager.

He was recently promoted to be Acting Supervisor of Janitorial



Services for RTA, a massive job with 1,300 active shelters in the system.

He works in coordination with maintenance teams to keep shelters clean and in working condition. With a small staff and miles of area to cover, strategy is important.

After leading his team of 80 troops conducting roadside bomb sweeps, he understands strategy.

And the Caissons keep rolling along,
In Cleveland and Afghanistan

“My day to day back on American soil is a whole different world than

military service abroad, but I was happy to return home to my family, my fiancé, and to RTA,” said Mason. “I have a new challenge with maintaining shelters in the RTA system and I enjoy working for a company that cares about those serving in the military.”

Newest RTA bus route serves Parma VA Clinic

CLEVELAND - RTA's newest bus route, the #54 Brookpark, serves many locations, including the new Parma Multi-Specialty Outpatient Clinic of the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs at 8787 Brookpark Road.

The #54 route operates from about 7 a.m. to about 6 p.m., Monday-Friday, with once-an-hour service, both eastbound and westbound.

The route extends from the Brookpark Rapid Station, 18010 Brookpark Road, to the RTA bus loop at 3280 Brookpark Road, between State and Broadview roads. RTA Rapid stations offer free parking.

This route is a pilot program that will be evaluated at a later date, says RTA General Manager Joe Calabrese.

The complete timetable is posted at www.rideRTA.com/schedules. Printed timetables can be picked up at RTA Customer Service Center at the Tower City Station, or at RTA's Main Office, 1240 W. Sixth St.



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— Greg Rusnak

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Hospice of the Western Reserve Unveils New 40,000-Square-Foot Home

Ames Family Hospice House in Westlake



Hospice of the Western Reserve's new Ames Family Hospice House is full of cozy spaces for families to gather and spend quiet time together, and is sited to take full advantage of its scenic wooded lot. Thirty-two private patient suites, a great room, screened porches, family kitchens, art and music therapy rooms, a children's playroom and a teen activity room are just a few of its many features.

Located on 30 wooded acres near the corner of Crocker and Clemens Roads behind Bonne Bell and the Holiday Inn, the new \$23 million Ames Family Hospice House, 30080 Hospice Way, Westlake, offers Hospice of the Western Reserve's patients and family members peace and tranquility when they need it most, and provides a home away from home for seriously ill patients in western Cuyahoga and Lorain counties.

The focus of the new 40,000-square-foot Craftsman-inspired hospice house is on symptom management and the care of patients with limited life expectancies. State-of-the-art technology is incorporated into the 32 patient suites, including hidden medical equipment for a homelike, non-institutional environment, large doorways and flat screen TVs with virtual visiting capabilities in all suites.

"Hospice of the Western Reserve provides care to patients whose life is measured in months, weeks or days rather than years," explained William E. Finn, Chief Executive Officer. "We're focused on enabling patients and families to celebrate life, be comfortable and enjoy the time they have together. This allows individuals to be in control of their care and to live out the final stage of their lives in dignity.

"Our support encompasses not only the patient, but also extends to the caregiver and the entire family unit. Our art and music therapy,



The 30-acre grounds at Hospice of the Western Reserve's new Ames Family Hospice House in Westlake include a Veterans Walk of Honor leading to a large, sunny Veterans Garden. An American flag waves atop a 30-foot flagpole in the center of the garden. Both Veterans and those currently serving in the Armed Forces are honored in this section with special commemorative engraved bricks purchased by families and loved ones. Brick donations benefit patients and families.

therapeutic massage and volunteer services, for example, are available to family members as well as patients."

Finn said the new house is full of cozy spaces for families to gather and spend quiet time together, and is sited to take full advantage of its scenic wooded lot, with colorful perennial gardens, native landscaping and abundant screened porches and courtyards bringing the outside in.

Input on the house's design and features was solicited from numerous sources, including medical staff, community members, and patients and families at David Simpson Hos-

pice House, Hospice of the Western Reserve's East Side residential care facility on the lakefront. Private patient suites, a great room, screened porches, family kitchens, art and music therapy rooms, a children's playroom and a teen activity room

are just a few of its many features.

The long drive back to the house feels park-like, winding along the woods. Some of the property had been the Jesse Bell Memorial walking paths. Hospice of the Western Reserve has re-established the paths and now invites the community to once again enjoy the tranquil grounds for walking and running.

The grounds preserve a number of wetland areas. Deer, numerous migratory birds and other wildlife make their homes here. Porter Creek runs through the property and provides a tranquil setting for relaxing, reflecting and enjoying nature.

Ames Family Hospice House is an eco-friendly building. Silver LEED certification is being sought. Recycling areas are integrated throughout the café, kitchen and work areas, as are large areas in which to store recyclables for pick up. Other green features include bio-swales around drives, parking lots and paths to filter and clean runoff water, a retention basis to collect rainwater to water the lawns and gardens, and a rain garden near the front entrance.

About Hospice of the Western Reserve

Hospice of the Western Reserve is a community-based, non-profit agency providing comfort and emotional support to patients and their families in Northeastern Ohio. The agency cares for people in a variety of settings, including the home, hospital, long-term care facility, at David Simpson Hospice House overlooking Lake Erie and at the new Ames Family Hospice House in Westlake. For more information, visit hospicewr.org or call 800.707.8922.



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A: Because Lake Erie is filled with perch.

Some people believe Mother Nature created Lake Erie Perch so Friday fish fries would be anticipated with watering palates. If She did, She was right. Not only is perch, with

its unique flavor and texture wonderful, it's as accessible as a trip to Lake Erie.

The day before the DD 214 Chronicle fishing team heads for the lake, members stock up on

ingredients necessary for their perch fry. Perch are best when they go from cooler to frying pan the same day. Here are a couple ways the fishing team serves the tasty *Perca flavescens*:

Tidyman's Way

- 1 cup of milk
- 2 tablespoons of paprika (his grandmother was Hungarian)
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 4 fillets
- ½ c. butter
- 1 ½ c. all purpose flour
- 1 egg

Whisk together the egg and milk. Mix the salt, flour, and paprika in a big bowl.

Get the butter hot but not burning in a big, cast iron skillet.

Dip the fillets in the egg/milk combo and then into the flour mixture.

Brown them lightly on both sides, drain them on paper towel, and pass me the tartar sauce.

Besharet's Way

- 4 fillets
- ¾ c. finely crushed Saltines
- ¼ c. grated Parmesan
- 1 T. snipped parsley
- 1/3 c. all purpose flour
- 1/8 t. pepper
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 egg
- 4 tablespoons cooking oil

In one bowl, whisk the egg and the lemon juice; in another, mix the Saltines, Parmesan, and parsley. In

a third bowl, mix the flour.

Heat the cast iron skillet and add your cooking oil or shortening.

Make sure you line up the bowls in the right order because the fillets go first in lemon juice and egg, then into the flour and pepper, and only then in the Saltines mix.

Brown on both sides, crack a local brew, and enjoy.

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Making a Difference: Cuyahoga County Veterans Commission President Frank Pocci

By J. Clark West

Veterans Commission President Frank Pocci is one of those guys who dispel the myth about old dogs being unable to learn new tricks.

The Vietnam veteran and AMVETS member is about to wrap up his career with the Commission. Terms are usually five years and appointments are made by a federal judge.

If he is not reappointed, it will be the Commission's loss. He clearly enjoys the part-time job and is tireless in promoting Commission services to veterans.

If Pocci is relentless in helping veterans with financial problems, it may have something to do with his own history. Pocci is familiar with financial difficulties. The steel firm where he served in the accounting department went bust. So, he's been there and done that.

In 2003, the Commission sought

a new member and he applied. The Commission meets every week, and every other week, the meeting is open to the public. In addition to reviewing client appeals, acting on all Commission proposals and programs, and fulfilling the responsibilities of the president, he hits the

road on a regular basis. His position is officially part time, but he's available full time when problems need to be addressed, or help provided, or counsel given. He hits the road to preach the Commission gospel at VFW and Legion meetings, AMVETS, and the thrice-yearly meetings in Columbus. He's more preacher than salesman, and wants the Commission's mission to be known by every Cuyahoga County veteran.

the gospel of the Commission wherever two or more veterans gathered.

"There were a lot of problems, and I was part of the solution. Today, we're one of the top Commissions in the state," said. There are 87 other county commissions. The pride in his voice is clear.

That's not to say it was easy, because it wasn't. It took Pocci a half year to fully understand the mission and all the moving parts, which included the laws governing the agency.

Today the Commission serves more veterans than ever and does more outreach. Satellite offices have been created at Wake Park and Parma VA hospitals.

"I can help veterans," he said. "You get to see the difference we make in their lives. That's the joy of it."

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All Aboard the USS Ohio; Female Officers on Nuclear-Powered Submarines

by Ann Stasko

It's been an interesting couple of years for the USS Ohio, the nuclear powered submarine based in Bangor, Maine. First, Captain Ronald Gero, commanding officer, was forced to walk the plank. In Navy-speak, it was due to a loss of confidence in his ability to command. Before he was made to walk, investigators looked into allegations of, "...inappropriate personal behavior that eroded good order and discipline."

But the good news is women officers on submarines. (The only area still off limits to women sailors is the SEALs.) Twenty-five female junior officers have joined the submarine fleet and problems are rare.

Lt. Megan Bittner of the USS Ohio said, "It was quick. There were no big problems. No stumbling blocks along the way. It was just learning as a junior officer how you fit on the boat."



Getting on board was more difficult than sailing. The submariners prepped at the Naval Academy or ROTC programs, then spent six months at the Nuclear Power School, six months at the Nuclear Power

Training Unit, and nine weeks at Submarine Officer Basic Course.

Bittner said, "It's not just the engine room or ship control. You have to be a jack of all trades. I've never worked harder, slept less or learned

more than my first deployment, but I never thought twice about it because everybody's in the same position."

Like family members, the 15 officers on board share the same bathroom.

Twenty-five female junior officers have joined the submarine fleet and problems are rare.

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Another Take on Marine Week

By Louis Pumphrey, Guest Columnist

I don't know about you folks, but I was absolutely incensed, infuriated, outraged and otherwise hugely pissed off when I saw the *Plain Dealer* with its over-the-top puff pieces and photos covering the opening day of Marine Week in Cleveland. I got "my Irish up," and as Peter Finch said in the movie *Network*, I got "mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore!"

Luckily, I was off work, so after doing a bit of house painting I donned my extremely tight--wait, scratch that--"form-fitting"--dress green 44-year-old U.S. Army uniform, grabbed my furled peace flag and jumped on the Rapid.

I got downtown about 3:30 and walked through Public Square with my furled peace flag, noting various military land vehicles and two helicopters --- one being a pristine "Huey" which I flew in on several occasions in Vietnam.

My objective was to visit the replica of the Vietnam Wall Memorial laden with the names of more than 58,000 men and women killed in Vietnam. I was friends with three men whose names are on that wall, which was erected near the tip of Voinovich Park at the end of East Ninth Street, next to Lake Erie.

As I walked away from the exhibit, still with my flag furled, a man wearing a baseball cap embroidered with U.S.S. Cod approached me and we struck up a friendly conversation. He was wearing an ID tag around his neck with the name "Hungarian Bob." Turns out he is one of several "Bobs" who work as tour guides on the USS Cod submarine, docked near Voinovich Park. (One of the other

"Bobs" working on the USS Cod with him has a name tag at the end of his lanyard that says "Plumber Bob.")

Turns out Hungarian Bob was an Army veteran and Air Force veteran who served in Korea. We talked about how war is a business, with Bob saying there is evidence FDR made moves to provoke Japan into attacking the United States Navy at Pearl Harbor, thereby ending the Great Depression. Bob also said that JFK wanted to wind down our presence in Vietnam but that after LBJ became president, the war escalated. Bob said relatives of LBJ's wife, Lady Bird, were defense contractors making ammunition, among other war-related materiel. Bob and I agreed it always comes down to money and that war is good for business.

Sensing Hungarian Bob and I were very much "on the same page," I thought it safe to unfurl my peace flag, prefacing that action with this anecdote: "A few years ago, a Marine spoke to me after I had walked with my peace flag in the Shaker Heights Memorial Day Parade. He objected to the combination of my military uniform and peace flag, saying to me, 'No one wants peace more than I do.' I said, 'If that's true, then why do you have a problem with my peace flag?' The Marine said nothing and walked away."

I then unfurled my peace flag, which probably surprised Bob, but he smiled and I extended my hand to shake his, and he extended his hand.

I said in my goodbye to him, "Take care. Life is fragile." He said, "You're right. I'm 73." I said, "I'll be 70 in September."

About a minute later, now with my flag unfurled, I was pleasantly surprised to get a very friendly greeting from a Marine Staff Sergeant wearing his summer dress-blue uniform (short sleeve khaki shirt, dark blue slacks and white dress cap.) He spoke to me first, saying, "Good afternoon, sir. How are you?" I replied, noting the insignia on his shirt sleeve, "I'm fine, sergeant. How are you?" He said, "good".

However, a couple of minutes later, a man wearing a Marines tee shirt who could stand to lose more than a few pounds, yelled at me, saying my flag ought to be thrown in the lake. (At least that's what I think he said. Or maybe he told me to go jump in the lake. I dunno.) At any rate, I said, "Thank you. That's very kind of you." He turned away and kept walking.

Old friend Tim Musser, active in the Catholic Worker and Pax Christi organizations, had hailed me as I walked toward East Ninth Street and was standing with me when he heard my exchange with the guy in the Marine tee shirt. I said to Tim, "I don't think I want to be walking down a dark alley with a bunch of Marines behind me. My goal is to be home before dark."

I then walked up East Ninth Street, eventually making it to the broad sidewalk in front of the Termi-

nal Tower. I wanted as many people as possible to see the combination of my military service and peace flag. As you might imagine, while standing for about 45 minutes, a few people stopped to chat. No one stopped to complain. The Marines walking by who did not like what they saw said nothing. If they did not like the flag, I suspect they at least respected the uniform and the service it represented. So they kept their, well, peace. A bald businessman in a dark suit, red tie and white shirt--probably in his 70s--stopped to shake my hand and thank me for my service. I gave him my stock answer, "You're welcome. I wish I could say it was my pleasure, but it really wasn't." I told him one of my lieutenants was killed three days after his 23rd birthday during the Tet Offensive, one of my classmates from Miami University was killed when his Navy jet went down over North Vietnam and the husband of one of my cousins was killed in an ambush in Vietnam when he was with the 101st Airborne Division. What a waste. Their whole lives ahead of them, gone in a flash. None of those guys got to see their 25th birthday. War is the most insane invention of man."

Another supportive man, a civilian worker for the Department of Defense, said to me, "You've got courage to be out here like this. Have the Marines been a problem?" I said, "Not at all."

During my time standing in front of the Terminal Tower, a Marine in his desert camouflage uniform took my picture with his cell phone and gave me a thumbs up. That probably was the highlight of my day.



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The “Dangerous” Veteran: An Inaccurate Media Narrative Takes Hold

by Kate Hoit

If you’ve read the news lately, you may have seen one of several stories describing recent veterans as “ticking time bombs” or as “dangerous” on account of post-traumatic stress. It’s a narrative that has persisted for decades, but the connection between disturbed murderers and their service in combat is weak—despite what media reports and popular culture would have many believe. And such rhetoric, when solidified in the public consciousness, can have negative consequences for both Veterans and society—like causing Veterans to avoid seeking help or employers to avoid hiring them.

“This is a huge misrepresentation of Veterans,” said Rich Blake, an Iraq War Veteran and psychology doctoral student at Loyola University Maryland. For the past two years, Blake has worked with Veterans who have PTSD in the residential trauma recovery program and the women’s mental health clinic at the Baltimore VA Medical Center. He doesn’t shy away from the obvious—that combat and wartime experience can have mental health consequences—which can contribute to some Vets acting out. But he throws caution to the idea that this is an epidemic.

“[These incidents] are like shark attack stories,” said Blake. “People are scared of shark attacks but they don’t happen that often.”

In a 2007 report on Veterans in state and federal prison—the most current report of its kind—researchers at the Bureau of Justice Statistics worked to demystify the vagaries surrounding veterans and crime. As it turned out, during the past three decades, the number of veterans in state and federal prison had actually declined. And when the mental health of veterans in prison was compared to that of their civilian counterparts, there seemed to be a trend: Civilians reported a higher rate of “any mental health problems” than veterans—both in state and federal prison.

When it came to psychotic disorder, which represents the more extreme end of the spectrum of mental

health problems, the rates remained higher among civilians as well.

When the survey was conducted in 2004, the Veteran population in the U.S. was 24 million. America’s prisons were home to 140,000 Vets—of which 21,000 had been convicted of murder. And while those numbers seem large, this accounts for less than 1/10 of one percent of the entire Veteran population. A far cry from what some in the media would lead us to believe.

While a small fraction of veterans have been convicted of murder, it often matters little in a media atmosphere which can place a premium on sensational headlines. In such an environment, veterans are often stereotyped by those with an unclear understanding of what it means to live with PTSD. And the fact is, there is no limit to the number of reasons why a person might choose to become violent.

“The headlines are irresponsible,” said Brian Hawthorne, an Iraq War Veteran and board member of Student veterans of America. “Murder should be talked about but shouldn’t be centered on the instability of a few in our military population.”

According to Gerhard Falk’s *Murder: An Analysis of Its Forms, Conditions, and Causes*, the occupations most likely to include murderers are laborers, service workers, and students. A comparison of those findings with the FBI’s Most Wanted list for violent crimes in 2012 shows a similar occurrence of occupations. Overwhelmingly, the top three offenders by occupation are general laborers, construction workers, and gang members.

Of course, we rarely, if ever, see articles hinting at a larger problem within the laborer field or the construction field. Likely, this is because we inher-

ently understand that occupation or work experience doesn’t typically factor into a propensity for murder. Then again, headlines that scream, “Man Yielding Concrete Mix Charged with Murder: Hint of a Larger Problem?” are likely not as profitable.

Unfortunately, this rehashed portrayal of PTSD, reminiscent of the Vietnam era, has the power to deter veterans from openly speaking about their service—especially in today’s economic climate—when unemployment among younger Vets hovers between 20 and 30 percent. That concerns Iraq Veteran Ryan Gal-

lucci, now with the veterans of Foreign Wars.

“Vietnam veterans were stereotyped as the crazy Veteran, but over the years we’ve proven that isn’t the case,” said Gallucci, the VFW’s

National Legislative Service Deputy Director. “What concerns us are today’s veterans sitting down for a job interview and once they mention their military service, the tone of the conversation changes.”

While most can discern between sensationalized news stories, the reality is that less than one percent of the population serves in uniform—leaving many with a slim exposure to today’s Vets. And this is the image they are fed—as seen in a January issue of *The Week*:

“Blackouts, flashbacks, night terrors, and sudden rages are common among veterans; suicide, alcoholism, and drug use have surged. PTSD has been cited as a factor in many acts of vets running amok.”

As long as such language remains prevalent and acceptable, college admission offices, future employers, and those alike can peg today’s veterans as “running amok” with the tendency to burst into “sudden rages”—quietly widening the divide further between

veterans and civilians.

“Overall this creates at most a hostile and at least an uncomfortable situation for veterans in school or the workplace,” said Hawthorne. “Teachers may not encourage vets to share their opinions in the classroom out of fear of creating a negative environment.”

Dr. Sonja Batten, the Deputy Chief Consultant for Specialty Mental Health in the Department of Veterans Affairs added, “The truth is, PTSD doesn’t have to and shouldn’t impede success in everyday life for veterans. Years of research have demonstrated again and again that most people recover naturally after experiencing potentially traumatic events, and we have effective treatments for those who develop more significant problems with PTSD. I think what gets lost in these stories are the amazing strengths that our nation’s veterans have.”

In fiscal year 2011, over 476,000 veterans received treatment at VA medical centers and clinics across the country for PTSD. Of those, 99,000 were Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Dr. Batten expects more Vets to seek treatment in the coming years.

“We have made progress in the fight against PTSD stigma,” she said. “Veterans are now more likely to recognize if something is wrong and come forward so that they can move on with their lives.”

While the country has slowly begun to recognize post-traumatic stress—from “soldier’s heart” to “shell shock” to “combat fatigue”—there are still barriers preventing veterans from seeking help. According to one survey of OEF/OIF veterans, there is still legitimate concern over asking for care.

With imbalanced portrayals of PTSD, these ideas will continue to fuel misunderstandings like the type seen in San Diego. But we have the leverage to change this—to make a conscious decision to understand what it means to live with PTSD. And to give those who have served a fair shot by stripping away those unwarranted stereotypes and seeing veterans for whom they really are.



The Path to Golf Joy is Not Through the Golf Store: It's Through Your Local PGA Teacher

By John H. Tidyman

GOLF

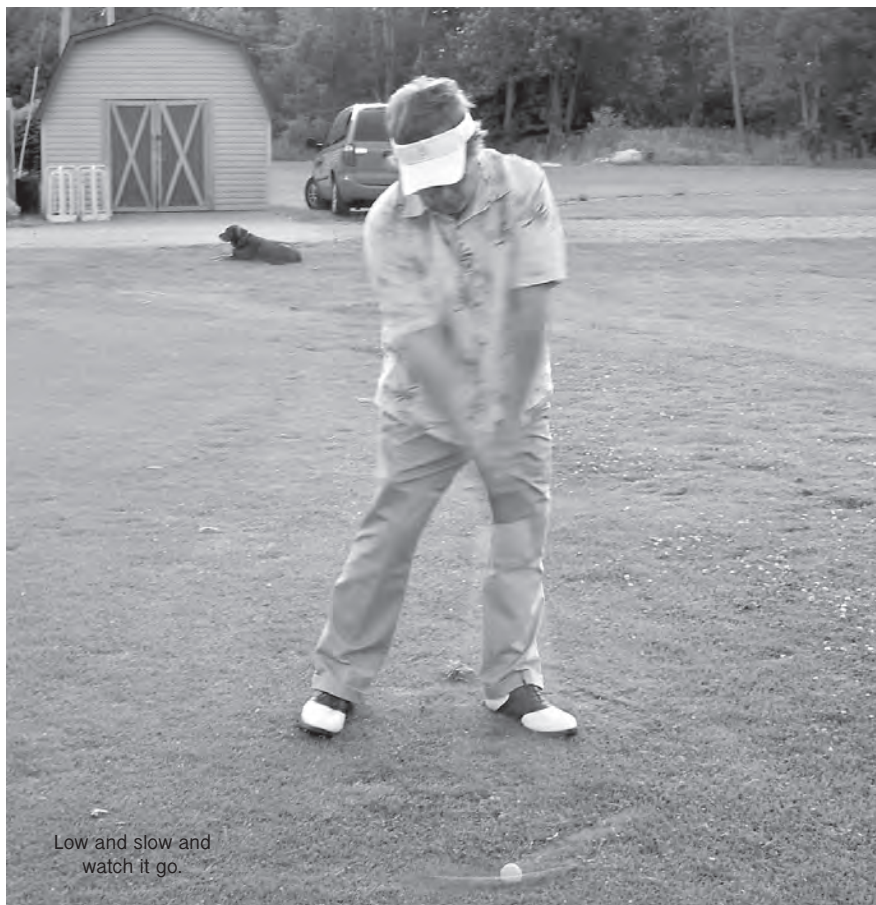
The fortunes of golf, long stagnant, continue to fade. There are allegedly 26 million golfers, give or take a million or two, in the U.S.

Counting golfers is difficult and the number includes: people who play only once a season, problem drinkers who go to outings, those who talk a good game, private club members who use the game as an excuse to get away from the old lady, burglars caught trying to sell 14 clubs and a nice bag, plus lots of players who really love the game.

Not long ago, there were allegedly 30 million. Probably included kids using the old man's irons for sword-fights in the garage.

For new players, the game can be daunting: Not just shoes, gloves, slacks, and golf shirts, all of questionable value and worth, but clubs, as well.

The price/value ratio for new sticks is seriously out of whack. The terminology fails, too. Pretend you don't know anything about the game and tell me if I'm trying to sell you an



imported motorcycle or a golf club: "For Sale: Mizuno T-Zoid Blue Rage 350 CC 9° Driver w/ Graphite Stiff

Flex."

The perfect accompaniment would be the Bridgestone B330-S

ball, which is, according to golf company flacks, one of the longest distance balls on the market. Spending \$45/dozen on something like this is a good idea if, 1.) You play to a single digit handicap, or, 2.) You love to spend much of your golf game in the woods and have no regard for players behind you.

Allow me to back up a bit. If the number of golfers is upwards of 20 million, we know it's not a rich man's game. Rich men play, of course, but I always found golf to be solidly middle class. Poor people don't play golf. If the choice is between paying rent and buying a Blue Rage 350, the landlord gets the nod.

Just my opinion, but if we're to share the glorious and fascinating game with others, encourage interested parties to follow this sign: "Golf Lessons Given Here." They can buy a T-Zoid after learning how to swing it.

Cutline: Warning to Squirrels, Rabbits, Robins, and Groundhogs: You're in the line of fire.

The High Cost of Education is Not So High with the GI Bill

According to figures from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, 37 million Americans hold student loan debt. The total amount of student loan debt in the United States is estimated to be between \$867 billion and \$1 trillion dollars, and default rates for student loans continue to rise. In 2012, the majority of unemployed Americans had at least some college education—the first time in our nation's history this has occurred.

"GI Bill for Cuyahoga County" Set to Start

Cuyahoga County veterans, whose unemployment rate is substantially higher than non-veterans, are about to get some worthwhile job training.

The county is working with area hospitals to retrain veterans who often highly-skilled and experienced, but lack the education for nursing requirements.

The Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission will partner with the Cleveland-



Cuyahoga Workforce Investment Board to provide priority for high-skill worker training programs.

The county also promises to work with the Army in an effort to recruit veterans for county positions, including

sheriff's deputies and corrections officers. Vets will get preference for training programs and county jobs.

It is all part of a "GI Bill for Cuyahoga County," which will include scholarships for veterans.

Real Dogs, Real Hearts

By Edward Senko

Out of the goodness of their hearts, Frank and Jen DeLorenzo have taken the dog by the leash and created a non-profit organization, Wags4Warriors, which provides dogs to our vets who suffer PTSD, TBI, and other service-connected difficulties.

The pair works with local rescue organizations to match dogs with veterans, and provides all the necessary training. The service dogs can be trained for all sorts of tasks, each helping the veteran have a much better day.

Isn't that something? First a dog is rescued by a local organization, then the dog is rescued by the DeLorenzos, then the dog rescues the veteran.

It figures, doesn't it, that it was a dog who inspired the DeLorenzos? Yup, and her name is Sophie, a big-hearted, sympathetic, understanding, helpful pal picked up at a Cleveland kennel.

Frank DeLorenzo is a veteran and he came home from Iraq with the confusing pain of PTSD. When



Frank and Jen DeLorenzo

Sophie joined the household, DeLorenzo found some relief. The beautiful pit bull reminds his friend to take the proper medication at the proper time, wakes him when he suffers nightmares, and at all times, watches his back.

DeLorenzo refers to dogs as a sort of medication, and history backs up the veteran. Maybe because dogs exhibit the virtues we wish we practiced: unquestioning friendship and loyalty.

Wags4Warriors is in Brecksville.



Good companions need good breakfasts.

Its website is wags4warriors.org and the organization depends on men and women like you and me for contributions. If your heart is anywhere near as big as a dog's, send a check and a note to:

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-Judy Desmond

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