

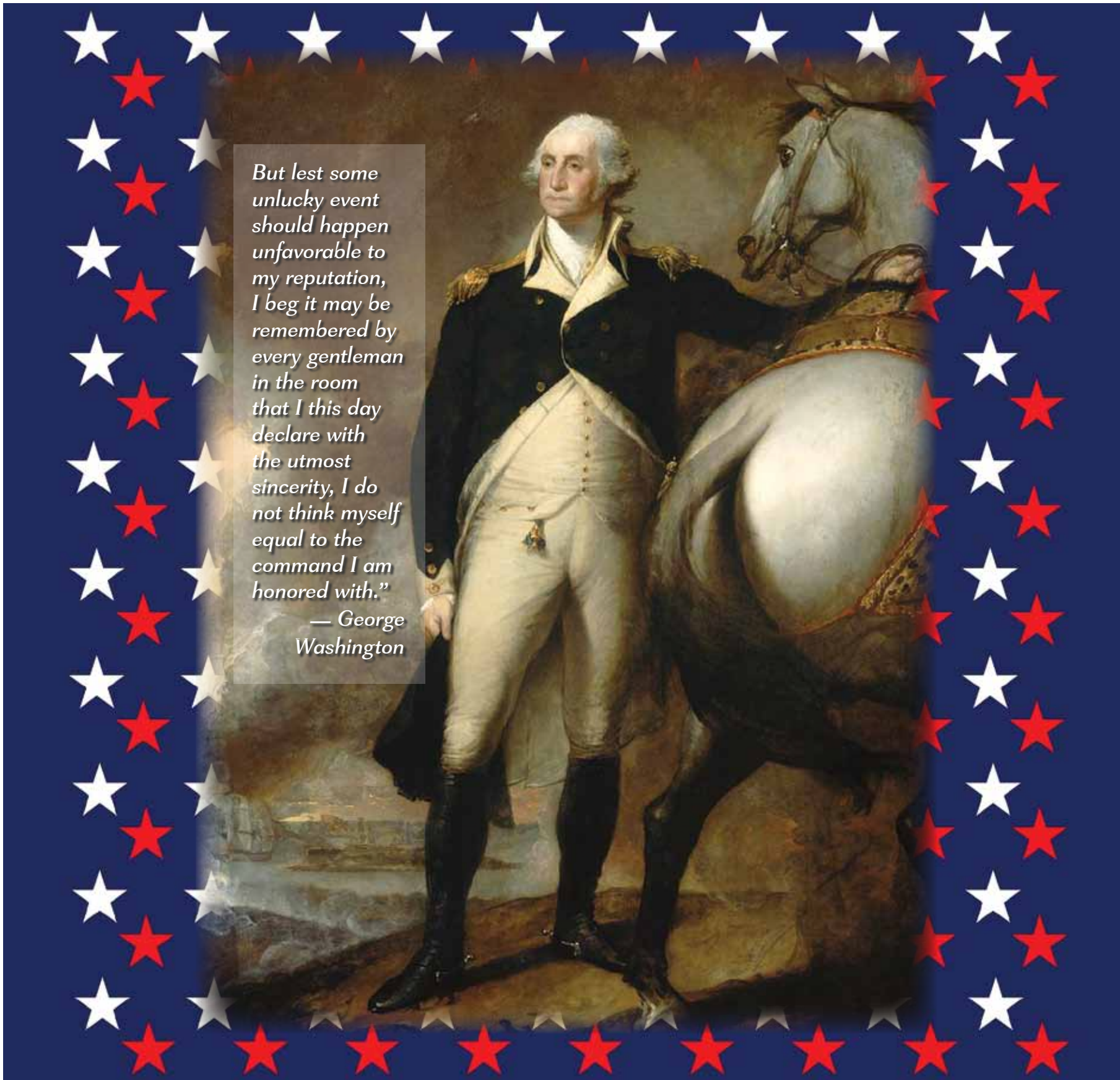


CHRONICLE

The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 5

JULY/AUGUST 2016



But lest some unlucky event should happen unfavorable to my reputation, I beg it may be remembered by every gentleman in the room that I this day declare with the utmost sincerity, I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with.”
— George Washington

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Secret Weapon

Cleveland native keeps the Navy's newest, most advanced aircraft flying

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Pat Migliaccio, Navy Office of Community Outreach

(WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash.) – A 2009 Cleveland Central Catholic High School graduate and Cleveland native is serving with a U.S. Navy electronic attack squadron that flies the Navy's newest and most technologically-advanced aircraft, the EA-18G Growler.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua Dunaway is an aviation structural mechanic with the Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 134, one of 14 Navy electronic attack squadrons based in Whidbey Island, Washington.

As an aviation structural mechanic, Dunaway repairs and sends jets out on flight.

"I enjoy being on flights and performing the final checks before the jet launches," said Dunaway.

Taking off from and landing on Navy aircraft carriers as well as supporting expeditionary land-based operations around the world, the Growlers and their crews engage

in electronic warfare, one of the most important components of modern air combat, according to Navy sources. The electronic warfare mission involves jamming enemy radar and communications systems in order to render air defenses ineffective.

To accomplish these tasks, the Growler has a sophisticated electronic warfare suite, complete with advanced receivers, jamming pods and satellite communications.

"The Growler is limitless in its abilities," said Dunaway. "With its computer technology, it has the ability to correct and fly when most planes would crash."



Joshua Dunaway

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy's squadrons with the newest aircraft platforms, Dunaway said he and other VAQ-134 sailors are proud to be part of a warfighting team that readily defends America at all times.

"This squadron is like a second family," said Dunaway. "If you need it, someone will help you."

Sailors' jobs are highly varied at VAQ-134, according to Navy officials. Approximately 65 officers, 400 enlisted men and women, and 110 civilian contractors make up and keep all parts of the squadron running smoothly -- this includes everything from maintaining airframes and engines, to processing

paperwork, handling weaponry, and flying the aircraft.

"Every day I feel an extraordinary amount of pride to serve alongside our great nation's most inspiring men and women," said Capt. Scott Farr, Commander, Electronic Attack Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "Our team is filled with hardworking and highly qualified professionals who hold uncommon levels of responsibility and accountability in support of our mission: to maintain, fly, and fight the Growler around the world. Their work ethic, commitment, enthusiasm, and esprit de corps are second to none!"

Serving in the Navy, Dunaway is learning about being a more responsible leader, sailor and citizen through handling numerous responsibilities.

"The Navy teaches you to crave knowledge and learn how to better yourself every day," added Dunaway.

Drs. Larry, Curly, and Moe will see you now

Me, I couldn't be more proud of the VA health services here. It wasn't always so. Twenty-five years ago, it almost killed me. Buy me a beer and I'll tell you about it.

But today and for the last 10 or 15 years, facilities, staff, and services have been outstanding. My non-veteran friends are often envious.

That's northern Ohio.

Maybe health services for veterans is not what it is in Cleveland. Phoenix VA Health Care System comes to mind. Likely there are other VA facilities with serious problems, but Phoenix stands out.

The VA just canned the troika that created the mess: Associate Director Lance Robinson, Chief of Health Administration Service Brad Curry, and Chief of Staff Dr. Darren Deering. Canned them?

How about imprison them?

Of the Three Stooges, it is Dr. Darren Deering who most disappoints me. What did he do with his copy of the Hippocratic Oath? Wipe it on an oil stain on his garage floor?

Likely we'll never understand his motives. I never hope for misfortune to befall any of us. But if Deering were to be run over by a hearse, it wouldn't bring tears to my eyes.

Robinson and Curry? Co-conspirators at the least; criminals is more accurate. They aided and abetted this scandal.

I don't like calling this miserable situation a scandal. From my vantage, it is closer to treason. To intentionally deny veterans needed and deserved health care undermines society.

On a personal level, such behavior savages the hearts of family

members. I ask myself, what if I lost a family member due to criminal negligence? The pain and confusion suffered by families is likely indescribable.

Sloan Gibson is the VA Deputy Secretary and he said, "We have an obligation to veterans and the American people to take appropriate accountability action as supported by evidence."

Where the hell did he learn to speak like that?

Good thing he didn't ask me for help writing his comments. I would have written, "On behalf of the VA, we're ashamed of the Three Stooges. The pain caused by their criminal behavior will never be assuaged. The VA failed to serve the men and women who wore the uniform. Again, we're ashamed of ourselves."

True Incident Inspires Vietnam Novel

By Jerri Donohue

As a First Lieutenant stationed in Cam Ranh Bay, Shaker Heights writer J. Everett Prewitt witnessed an incident that nagged his imagination for decades and resulted in his second novel, **A Long Way Back**.

The Army put Prewitt in command of a supply company after a race brawl. White officers blamed African-American soldiers for the episode.

"My story, **A Long Way Back**, is based on the colonel telling these

[black] guys who were arrested, 'Since you want to fight so much, I'm going to send you to the front lines.'"

Prewitt doesn't know whether the officer made good on his threat, but the incident became the seed for a page-turning war story.

In **A Long Way Back**, an African-American squad undertakes an illegal, dangerous incursion into Cambodia as punishment for participating in a race riot. A reporter stumbles upon their story when the survivors return, and he doggedly uncovers the truth.

Vietnam Veterans of America Books in Review gave the novel a "thumbs up." Currently available online through amazon.com, and at Logberry Books in Cleveland, **A Long Way Back** will soon appear in other book stores.



For his fictional soldiers, Prewitt borrowed characteristics of childhood friends and men he knew in the service. In Vietnam, he met Wallace Terry, author of **Bloods**. Their acquaintance helped Prewitt invent the journalist in his novel.

Prewitt's own experiences seeped into his book. When he was transferred to Cam Ranh Bay, he soon discovered that black enlisted men had real grievances.

"A lot of them weren't being promoted," he said. "They were given the worst jobs. Two soldiers might have done something equally bad, but black soldiers would get disciplined harder than the white soldiers."

When Prewitt initiated changes, fellow officers viewed him as a rebel.

A college graduate, he had been drafted into the Army in 1966, soon

after landing a management trainee position. He eventually tested for Officers Candidate School and then attended infantry officer school. Because Prewitt graduated near the top of his class, he was able to do a branch transfer, a military policy that still baffles him.

Prewitt opted for adjutant general school. When he arrived in Cu Chi, however, the Army assigned him a company for "bird dog patrol," checking the outer perimeter at night. He later assumed adjutant general duties in Cu Chi and in Cam Ranh Bay, traveling to various firebases to complete essential paperwork.

At base camp Dau Tieng, Prewitt survived a terrifying enemy attack. He doesn't dwell on his worst experiences.

"I didn't have it as bad as a lot of my friends," he said. He left the Army in 1969.

Prewitt said the primary message of his novel is that unity is important in dire situations.

"There's an African saying," he said. "If you want to run fast, you run alone. But if you want to run far, you run with others. These guys were trying to run far."

The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

PUBLISHER EMERITUS
Terence J. Uhl

PUBLISHER AND EDITOR
John H. Tidyman
(216) 789-3502
forgedirons@yahoo.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Ann Marie Stasko
(216) 704-5227

ART DIRECTOR
Laura Chadwick

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
JC Sullivan
Eli Beachy
Jerri Donohue

CHAPLAIN
Rev. James R. Mason

ADVERTISING MANAGER
David Alan
(440) 415-2139
d.alan@dd214chronicle.com

DD 214 CHRONICLE IS PUBLISHED BY
John H. Tidyman
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Lakewood, Ohio 44107

For subscription information
call (216) 789-3502

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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: More than 60 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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John H. Tidyman, editor
198th Light Infantry Brigade
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(216) 789-3502
forgedirons@yahoo.com

May Dugan

A woman of faith, generosity, and modesty



May Dugan Center's executive director Rick Kemm just loves when visitors ask the oft-repeated question: "Was May Dugan really a person?"

Such conversations inevitably turn to the symmetry between Dugan's neighborhood philanthropy of the 1920s through the 1960s and the health and human services the Center that bears her name has been providing for the nearly 50 years that followed.

"To this day, we're still helping feed, clothe and find housing for people, and helping people find jobs. It's wonderful to be able to live May Dugan's legacy."

"She helped feed, clothe, and house people," Kemm says. "To this day, we're still helping feed, clothe and find housing for people, and helping people find jobs. It's wonderful to be able to live May Dugan's legacy."

Her parents, James and Annie, instilled that toughness in their children after emigrating from Ireland in 1883.

Her first husband, William Reynolds, and father both died in 1928, leaving her to run the family saloon and depend on her oldest son to help raise four small children. Then the Great Depression arrived just one year later.

Dugan wasn't an endowment-and-grant type of philanthropist. Instead, she was the type to offer her home as a place to stay for one, two or even 25 community members at a time.

"Somebody might knock on the back door, looking for something to eat, and she always had something for everybody," says Patrick Reynolds, Dugan's grandson and president of the May Dugan Center's board of directors. "That wasn't uncommon."

Only a few locals truly knew about Dugan's brand of community service, but the Center's board sought to change that.

"You know how you name things after so-called important people that have a name already and are in the spotlight? Well, she was just a regular person who raised her family," says Mary Rose Oakar, one of the Center's founding board.

"She'd have a pocket full of change," says Reynolds-Cuffari, a retired stenographer from the Cleveland Police Department. "She'd help anybody. Her motto was: You give. You don't expect to receive."

"Nearing a half century of service to the community, the Center continues to honor its founding principles with a mission 'to help people enrich and advance their lives and communities,'" Keem said.

Sue Marasco, PhD
 Director of Education Resources
 May Dugan Center
 4115 Bridge Avenue
 Cleveland, OH 44113
 (216) 631-5800 Ext 122
 smarasco@maydugancenter.org

Website: www.maydugancenter.org

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Are there atheists in foxholes?

By Rev. James R. Mason
Chaplain, DD214 Chronicle

Every so often I am asked about serving the spiritual needs of atheists in uniform.

It is an easy question to answer. We all believe in something. That belief need not have a name.

Does atheism make my service to troops more difficult? Not at all.

I have always found atheists to be much like men and women of faith; they seek the same answers to questions we all ask: Why am I here? What difference will I make in this world? Does something happen to me when I die?

I don't attempt to convert atheists; I believe they are on an unmarked journey and their goal is to better understand themselves and the world in which they live. Those goals are lofty but admirable. Atheists I know agree with that succinct observation.

One atheist officer told me, "There are no atheists in foxholes? Trust me, chaplain, they are there. And when the shit hits the fan, I've never heard a trooper pray; just the opposite: They are the most profane men ever."

Does faith leave us when we are in combat? Many times it does. Troops under fire don't ask for forgiveness or miracles.

Troops demand more ammunition, air and artillery support, water, and the skills of medics. They rely on their training, not lessons taught in Sunday schools.

In the Armed Forces, we respect men and women of different colors, different backgrounds, and different religious beliefs. We should also respect those who seek knowledge instead of religion.

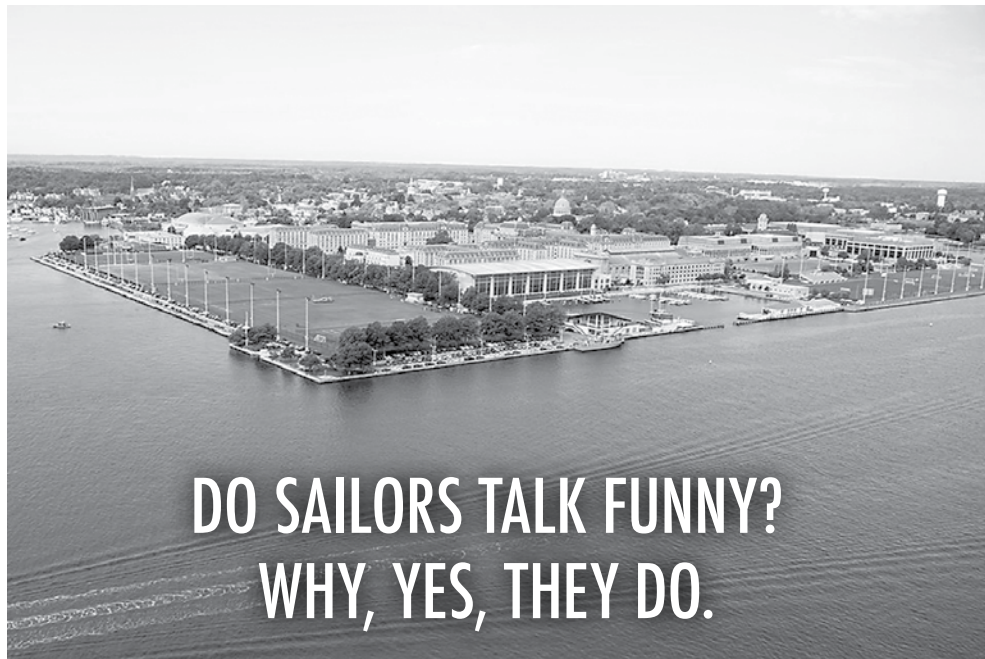


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Head: male bathroom

2-6-10: Abbreviation of "It's gonna take 2 surgeons 6 hours to remove 10 inches of my boot from your ass."

Used to motivate troop who is not pulling his weight.

Ahead Flank Liberty: The fictitious speed at which a ship travels after a mission or patrol is completed with high marks and the ship is headed into very nice foreign ports that cater to visiting US Forces.

Blue water: Deep water far from land.

Boot topping: Black paint used to paint the water line on ships.

Boxing your coffee: Using two paper cups and pouring back and forth to mix creamer and/or sugar.

Bulkhead remover: A fictional substance veteran sailors often task new sailors with getting.

Bullet sponge: U.S. Marine.

Butter bar: The single gold bar on the khaki uniform of an Ensign.

Canoe U: United States Naval Academy.

Ladderwell: Stairs.

Wire Biter: An electrician.

Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club: Those elements of the Pacific Fleet which operated in the referenced waters 1965-1975.

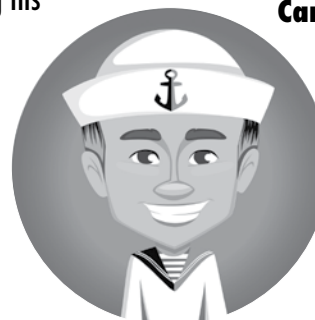
Swallow the anchor: Retire.

Pillows of death: Canned ravioli, usually burned.

Oscar: The buoyant dummy used during man-overboard drills.

Overhead: Ceiling.

Old Man: The Commanding Officer or Admiral in command.



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We Read the Headlines, Skipped the Stories



Cheap Luxury: 10 Premium Sedans Under \$40,000

Somehow, cheap and luxury don't belong in the same sentence.

The 12 Best New Fragrances for Spring

Here are two: Mulch and fertilizer.

Prince music sales soar following icon's death

One of those instances where "better late than never" doesn't apply.

4 Mysteries From Ancient Egypt We Still Can't Figure Out

After 3,000 years, maybe we should focus on finding something else, say, The Abominable Snowman.

ISIS offers marriage counseling to stop jihadi brides from fleeing

Lesson One: Burn down the whipping post.

Lesson Two: Hide stones that can be used to kill you.

Jared Fogle just had his best day in a long time

What did he get, a single cell?

20 years after wife's death, ex-senator is marrying a much younger man

What else is on this guy's Bucket List?

VA restored benefits to 4,200 veterans wrongly declared dead

They were waiting in line at Disneyland

Taking Care of Our Own

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or email our office at veterans@lorainccc.edu.



"LCCC was my best choice because I knew there was a military and veterans presence here."

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.



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NICKNAMES FOR MILITARY MEN



"Pappy"
— Greg Boyington, World War II U.S. Marine Corps fighter ace

"Pied Piper of Saipan"
— Guy Gabaldon, U.S. Marine

"Sky Samurai"
— Saburō Sakai, World War II Japanese Navy fighter ace

"Spanky"
— George Roberts, commander of the 99th Fighter Squadron (Tuskegee Airmen)

"Stormin' Norman"
— Norman Schwarzkopf, Jr., U.S. general (a nickname he disliked)

"The Great Asparagus"
— Charles De Gaulle, French general and later President of France

"Westy"
— William Westmoreland, Commander of U.S. forces during the Vietnam War.

"Chappie"
— Daniel James, Jr., American Air Force general

"One-Armed Mac"
— James MacLachlan, a British World War II ace who flew with a prosthetic arm

"Ray Gun"
— Ray Gannon, member of the Tuskegee Airmen

"Blood-n-Guts"
— George S. Patton, Jr., American general in World War II

"Chesty"
— Lewis B. Puller, U.S. Marine general

"The Desert Fox"
— Erwin Rommel, World War II German field marshal (Afrika Korps)

"Peaches"
— David Petraeus, United States Army general

"Little Texas"
— Audie Murphy, World War II Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, used only by his close friends

Former Sailor Honors Vets of All Branches

By Jerri Donohue

While David Mapes waited at an intersection, he noticed the license plate holder on the car ahead of him, identifying its owner as a former Marine.

Mapes, who always carries a stash of his "Plaques of Thanks," grabbed one that sported the Marine Corps emblem. When he dashed to the other car, its startled driver rolled down his window, scanned the plaque Mapes handed him and broke into a smile.

The incident is typical of the encounters Mapes has with area veterans.

"There are people who served their country, served it well, and came home without a lot of 'thank-you's,'" Mapes said. His unofficial project seeks to remedy that.

From 1966 to 1969, the Chesterland resident was a machinist's mate in the Navy. He respects veterans of all branches and all eras.

He made the first Plaque of Thanks for his friend, Ritchie, who fought in Vietnam. When Ritchie and other returning Marines landed in California, protesters met them with signs labeling them "baby killers." To avoid trouble, military personnel advised the men not to wear their uniforms as they traveled home.

"That didn't sit well with Ritchie because he was a proud, proud Marine," Mapes said.

In 2006, Ritchie still smarted from that experience, and so Mapes decorated a plaque with red, white and blue silk flowers and ribbon, a sun catcher with the Marine Corps emblem, and a note assuring him that his countrymen appreciated his service. Ritchie's pleased reaction to the handmade gift inspired Mapes to produce others.

Mapes can't estimate how much time or money he's lavished on the 4,000 plaques he has distributed since then. He buys sheets of oak or birch plywood, cuts them into 8-inch by 8-inch squares, bevels the edges, stains and varnishes

each and then affixes the decorations and message. His wife, Pamela Mapes, makes the bows, and the finishing touch is an Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard emblem.

A few years ago, Mapes shipped dozens of plaques to Americans stationed in Iraq, adding the words, "God speed! Come home soon. Come

home safe." To his surprise, he later received his own "thank you" in the mail—a flag that had flown over the headquarters of the Multi-National Corps.

Mapes finds veterans everywhere, including stores, highway rest stops and the Geauga County fair. He listens attentively to recipients willing to relate their stories.

"Northern Ohio has given so much to our country," Mapes said. "The heritage of veterans in northern Ohio is unbelievable."

Last year Mapes met World War II veteran Maury Feren while both men waited in a doctor's office. In the course of their conversation, Mapes learned that he and Feren both had been born on September 27, several decades apart. Mapes later hosted a party for Feren's 100th birthday, complete with a fly-over by two vintage P-51 fighter planes.

These days, Mapes works on his most ambitious undertaking to date: he is preparing hundreds of plaques for residents of the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky.



David Mapes

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Charter members of the Hall's Class of 1993 in-

cluded the six Ohio military veterans who were elected President of the United States and all Medal of Honor recipients from Ohio. Honorees include astronauts, government officials, police officers, community leaders, and veterans' advocates.



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Organization History

The Near West Side Multi Service Center (DBA) May Dugan Center was established on July 30, 1969 in response to President Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty". Established by a group of economically and culturally diverse residents from the Near West Side of Cleveland, May Dugan's founding mission was community support for neighbors in need. We have served the community with mental health, basic needs, education, and support services from our current location since 1974. In the last seven years, under the leadership of current Executive Director, Rick Kemm MNO, May Dugan has provided better care through wrap-around services that ensure that clients can access as many needed programs in one building. We have also adapted trauma-informed practices to provide a safe, transparent, client-empowering, and inclusive access to those services. In our 47th year, we continue to honor our founding principles with a mission to "to help people enrich and advance their lives and communities." Unique in our service area because we provide services regardless of a client's ability to pay, we serve all community members in need, and are inclusive of all community members regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, gender, or cultural group.

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LORAIN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

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The Veteran must have been discharged under honorable conditions and must have served on active duty for purposes other than training. Applicant must be a resident of Lorain County for 90 days prior to application.



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Build a comfort home for military families that come to Cleveland to receive treatment from the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center, the 3rd largest VA in the country.

TOTAL BUILD COST:

\$7 million dollars

TOTAL FUNDRAISING GOAL:

\$3 million dollars

(50% will be donated by national Fisher House Foundation)

TOTAL RAISED TO DATE: \$2.8 million

On behalf of our veterans, our task force, and our community, we humbly ask that if you are able, please help us reach our goal and break ground on this long overdue facility by donating any amount. This is a one time campaign for building costs. Operational costs will be provided for by the Stokes VA.

HELP A HERO BY DONATING ONLINE:

www.gcfh.org/donate



No regard for the men and women who fought for our side

WWII Marine John D. Bankston titled his book, *Invisible Enemies of Atomic Veterans and How They Were Betrayed*.

He did his fighting in the South Pacific but suffered much longer. More than five decades.

He was exposed in Japan to ionizing radiation in 1945. One year later, severe pain in his right side started travelling. First to his back, then through his thigh and to his knee.

American physicians treating him performed exploratory surgery and diagnosed him with mesenteric lymphadenitis, inflammation of the mesenteric lymph nodes. It is often difficult to differentiate from acute appendicitis. But Bankston's appendix, in the surgery, appeared normal.

Physicians were unable to accurately diagnose his problem and were unable to relieve his pain.

Life did not get better for the Ma-

rine; it got worse. The physical problems and pain wracked his body, his appetite disappeared, and physicians were unable to accurately diagnose the reasons for his crippling condition.

Physicians didn't look at his war experience. Bankston had been stationed in Japan after the war and exposed to ionizing radiation.

He charges the military and Veterans Administration with destroying vital records, failing to acknowledge the situation, and ignoring his life-long suffering. It was not only Bankston who suffered. His wife, Bobbie, stood by him. Their two sons died with symptoms of inherited radiation illness.

Bankston is active in the Marine Corps League, VFW, American Legion, and Disabled American Veterans.

Then comes Vietnam. Young men and women suddenly tossed into a war America could not win. They came home with psychological injuries the government did not want to acknowledge.

Worse, returning troops were reviled. The government that sent them halfway around the world to risk life and death ignored the walking wounded.

It was the late John P. Wilson, Ph.D., at Cleveland State University who studied veterans and created the term

Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. Much of his work was funded by the Disabled American Veterans. The research project was the Forgotten Warrior Project.

PTSD was the new term for shell-shocked, combat fatigue, soldiers' heart, and other terms. Some re-

searchers found significant differences in Vietnam veterans.

Like the Korean War, troops marched into a war that couldn't be won. When the troops came home, welcomes were rare.

Now comes another casualty of war: open-air trash burning in Iraq. All sorts of trash, converted by fire to all sorts of poison.

Stars and Stripes reported on two government documents regarding the airborne poison. The first, a memo by an Air Force environmental engineer in Iraq, said the burning was "an acute health hazard."

No surprise there.

The second, an alleged comprehensive study by the Army and Air Force, reported risks to our troops were not above the norm. Just what constitutes "above the norm" is not explained.

No surprise there, either.

Who you gonna believe?



Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary — Helping People Connect With Animals

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary is celebrating 15 years as a non-profit organization providing support services to humane societies and law enforcement agencies regarding farm animal abuse. Located in Ravenna, Ohio, Happy Trails serves not only Ohio but any state that requests their animal rescue services.

While many counties in Ohio address abuse and neglect of pets, they often do not have the facilities, the resources or the knowledge to care for and rehabilitate other types of animals.

The same mental defect that causes people to be cruel to dogs and cats can cause these same individuals to be cruel to other animals as well.



Animal abuse of any type of animal is often a red flag, alerting us to the capacity for violence in that individual. Many cruelty cases presented to Happy Trails include other violent crimes. Addressing animal abuse of all animals helps to create safer communities.

Want to get involved? At Happy Trails you can volunteer in a wide variety of ways, adopt or foster rescued animals, take a tour, or support their work with a tax-deductible donation.

Helping people connect with animals in our world

empowers us all to make kinder, more compassionate choices in our daily lives.

Visit the sanctuary and experience the animals up close.

Personal. Give a pig a belly rub. Hug a mini



horse. Play with the goats. Hear their stories and learn how you can make a difference.

Educational tours are available on weekends from May through October. The \$20 per person tour fee is

donated to the medical expenses and daily care costs of the rescued animals.

For more information, call Happy Trails at 330-296-5914 or visit the website at

www.happytrailsfarm.org



Talk about your history! The Coast Guard: America's oldest maritime defenders

Talk about your history – it was George Washington who created the Coast Guard. More than 200 years ago.

Until the Navy was formed, the Coast Guard was our only sea-going armed force. From 1790 to today, Coasties have been a vital part of every war and conflict.

The Coast Guard missions have changed over the centuries. It was a law that created it: The Tariff Act. Ten vessels were built. Referred to as cutters, it was charged with enforcing federal tariff and trade laws, as well as stopping smugglers.

The Revenue Cutter Service expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew. In 1915, it merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service and took on the name Coast Guard.

Its charges were simple, but challenging: Save lives at sea and enforce our maritime laws.

Its responsibilities grew when Presi-



dent Franklin Roosevelt added the Lighthouse Service and now Coasties assumed maritime navigation. A few years later, Congress added a couple more responsibilities. The Coast Guard took on merchant marine licensing and merchant vessel safety.

Whew! As the Coast Guard grew, it was rewarded with more and more tasks.

In 1967, the Coast Guard was

transferred to the Department of Transportation. (Don't ask me why --- maybe it was a slow day in Congress.)

Congress, now adept at moving the Coast Guard hither and yon, again moved the service, this time to the Department of Homeland Security.

So in addition to guarding our coastlines and ports, the Coast Guard can serve as part of the Navy Department, taking on terrorism and

foreign threats.

In addition to fighting in the Mid-east, here's what keeps Coasties busy. These figures are from 2012, and have likely increased:

Responded to 20,510 Search and Rescue cases and saved over 3,800 lives.

Conducted nearly 1,700 security boardings on High Interest Vessels bound for the United States.

Interdicted nearly 2,500 undocumented migrants attempting to illegally enter the United States.

Conducted over 46,000 recreational vessel boardings, issued over 8,000 citations, and visited 1,150 recreational boat manufacturers in conjunction with state efforts to provide education and ensure compliance with federal regulations.

Investigated and responded to over 3,000 pollution incidents.

Removed over 166,000 pounds of cocaine bound toward the U.S. via the Transit Zone.



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- Grave markers and flags
- Free Notary for Veterans & Families

Service Assistance:

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- Submission for awards decorations and medals
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Former Green Beret Medic Prepares for Med School at Baldwin Wallace

By Jerri Donohue

Former Green Beret Sean Hoehn loved working overseas, but he never forgot he would make a good target for terrorists.

"I'm six foot three; I'm Caucasian and I have arm length tattoos," the Baldwin Wallace student said. "So I could stick out."

Hoehn (pronounced "Hane") will graduate next year with a triple major in physics, chemistry and mathematics. He is currently applying for medical school. He planned to study engineering until a Baldwin Wallace professor learned about his background as a combat medic and encouraged him to consider medicine.

Hoehn had deployed to Iraq from 2005 to 2006 with the 101st Airborne Division and went on daily missions with an infantry platoon. He treated numerous injuries from IED explosions, and occasionally performed partial or full amputations. In addition to American servicemen and

women, his patients included civilians and enemy personnel.

"If some random person in the crowd threw a grenade in public when we were on foot patrol, there would be civilian casualties," Hoehn said.

When he returned to the States, Hoehn undertook the Special Forces Assessment Selection and fulfilled his longtime dream to be a Green Beret.

As the medical sergeant on a 12-man ODA (Operational Detachment Alpha), he eventually received what amounted to an additional year of medical training.

"After six months of the medical stuff, it was all trauma-based," Hoehn said. He did a month-long trauma rotation in Tampa, Florida.

"The second hospital rotation, about six months later, was everything from OBGYN to optometry to putting in

clinic hours in all the locations," Hoehn said.

He also received intensive French language instruction before taking his skills to most of the African countries north of the equator.

"A lot of what I did was called Foreign and General Defense," he said.

He spent much of his time working with indigenous troops.

"In French, teaching [them] how to drive, how to shoot, how to do modern operations, land navigation," Hoehn said. "And then also, because I was the

medical guy, first aid – like emergency trauma skills."

Hoehn enjoyed his job.

"I believed in why we were there," he said. He noted that some Americans object because they see "American military having a hand in everything

and being everywhere."

"In 2010 to 2011, after Quaddafi, that whole northern area ran rampant with arms being passed around," Hoehn said. "A lot of those areas were going to be taken advantage of."

He believes it was essential to train foreign militaries to handle the situation themselves.

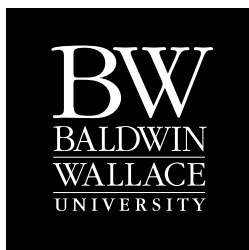
Focusing on anything that would improve the lives of local people, Hoehn also held sick call, pulled teeth and even inoculated cattle.

Despite his love for his work, Hoehn recognized the toll long absences take on family life. Many older Green Berets were divorced. Meanwhile, Hoehn's wife taught on an Army base and observed the negative impact repeated deployments made on soldiers' children.

The former medic now looks forward to a career in medicine here in northeast Ohio. He doesn't regret leaving the Army in June 2013.



Sean Hoehn



VETERAN + STUDENT



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The Summit County Valor Court, presided over by Judge Amy Corrigall Jones, began on November 12, 2013, immediately following Veterans Day.

Summit County Valor Court was established due to the recognition that many of our veterans return to civilian life with serious trauma, both physical and mental, which may lead to their involvement with the criminal justice system.

By providing this court, veterans are given access to programs, treatment and interaction with mentors in a collaborative initiative to enhance chances of success.

According to Fred Stratmann, chief legal counsel for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services, statistics have shown the importance of the work of such specialized courts. There are 22 million U.S. Veterans nationwide: 900,000 in Ohio — among the top five states in number — and about 40,000 in Summit County alone.

The key components of the Summit County Valor Court are to provide the veteran with a comprehensive case plan to include a support team that will assist them in successfully completing their goals.

These components will give the veteran opportunities to connect to available services at the Veterans Administration and other community resources, rebuild family and community ties, live a drug-free lifestyle, engage in services rather than incarceration, stabilize living conditions, connect with veteran peers living in the community, develop job skills, and return to school or work.

General Guidelines for the Summit County Valor Court:

Judge Amy Corrigall Jones reserves the right to accept or reject any referred defendant at any time for any reason.

Felony three, four and five level offenses with prosecutorial and victim input.

Must be appropriate and amenable to treatment, case management and ancillary services. Prior to entry into the Summit County Valor Court, the

veteran will sign a Waiver of Rights form explained and witnessed by defense counsel.

Cognitive ability to understand

and participate in all levels of the program. All veterans will sign a memo of understanding in regard to completing required assessments

and services.

The veteran's criminal history will be reviewed as part of the acceptance process.

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1291 PROOF

World War II – Korean War Roundtable Now Includes Eyewitnesses to Vietnam War

By Jerri Donohue

For the last fifteen years, a parade of former soldiers and sailors, WAVES and submariners, Marines and medics, airmen and glider pilots, ex-prisoners of war and concentration camp liberators have taken the podium at the World War II-Korean War Roundtable's monthly meetings in Fairlawn.

This year, the non-profit organization expanded to include first person accounts by Vietnam veterans and became the Summit County World II-Korean War-Vietnam Roundtable.

Although its name conjures the image of people clustered around a large round table, 65 to 80 men, women and children attend the group's presentations in the meeting room of the Fairlawn Kiwanis Community Center. The Roundtable boasts 178 members.

History buff Dean Smith founded the organization in 2001.

An Air Force veteran of the Cold War, he belonged to a Civil War

Roundtable.

Other members shared his feeling. In addition, they all knew about the dwindling ranks of World War II veterans.

"We thought we'd get a World War II roundtable started while we still had speakers," Smith said. Realizing that Korean War veterans, too, were aging, he included them.

In the years that followed, many roundtable members and guests related their memories in public for the first time.

Allies who once served in the Greek underground and the British, Russian and Polish armed forces presented first-person accounts. When Smith also invited former German soldiers and sailors to speak, American veterans did not object.

"They really were intrigued by them," Smith recalled.

Roundtable members learned about the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the invasions of Normandy

and North Africa, the Battle of the Bulge, the battle for Kursk, and the fighting for Iwo Jima, Sicily and Stalingrad from men who had experienced it.

Holocaust survivors and a woman who survived the Allied bombing of Dresden addressed the group, while other speakers described childhoods spent in wartime Germany, England and the Philippines.

As a child, one man had been a prisoner of the Japanese, while another lived with his family in an internment camp for Japanese-Americans.

Memorable evenings spotlighted a survivor of the Bataan Death March, a Korean War recipient of the Medal of Honor, and the infantry experiences of an Olympic Gold Medalist.

Since 2002, the roundtable has donated videotapes of the presentations to the University of Akron archives. They are also available for purchase from videographer

Dick Sutherland. (For a complete catalogue, contact Sutherland at 330-666-5954.)

The Roundtable acknowledges all veterans present at its meetings, by conflict and branch of service. As time marched on, fewer World War II and Korean War veterans attended and it grew harder to locate ones healthy enough to make presentations.

Confronted with this reality, the Roundtable chose to include men and women who served during the Vietnam War.

On Thursday, July 28, Vietnam veteran and Bronze Star recipient Johnny Downs will address the group.

The Roundtable meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:45 at the Fairlawn Kiwanis Community Center, 3486 South Smith Road. Dues are \$15/year. Presentations are free and open to the public. For more information, call Lew Snodgrass at 330-867-4800 (home) or 330-819-4886 (cell).

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Protecting Student Veterans and Service Members from Predatory For-Profit Colleges

By Sen. Sherrod Brown

Ohio has a proud history of military service and we owe veterans much more than just our gratitude.

To honor their service to our nation, we must support and improve the services available to them when they return from their service – including a quality education.

An education is one of the surest paths to economic success. It's one of the strongest anti-poverty tools we have, and the best leg up into the middle class.

For those reasons and more, we invest in universities and community colleges and federal student aid.

June 23rd was the anniversary of the GI Bill, which has helped generations attend college or get career training. And thanks to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, this opportunity is available to a new generation of service members, giving them access to the promise of an education.

But increasingly, for-profit colleges are taking advantage of financial aid programs designed to help service members and student veterans, padding their profits with taxpayer dollars while failing to provide students with the quality education they were promised.

Too often these schools lose accreditation or close down altogether, leav-



ing student veterans with a worthless degree and no GI benefits.

This is despicable.

A loophole in federal law incentivizes for-profit colleges to take advantage of men and women in uniform by targeting them with deceptive and misleading marketing and recruitment.

Under the so-called 90/10 rule, for-profit education companies can only get 90 percent of their operating revenue from federal student loans and grants -- which is too much taxpayer money going to corporate profits as it is.

To make matters worse, U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits, like the GI bill, don't count toward that limit, leading for-profit companies to target veterans and service members with predatory market-

ing and recruitment tactics to make up that last 10 percent.

Now, a provision added to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would allow these bad actors unfettered access to recruit on military bases.

Congress should be defending our military against for-profit colleges' predatory and aggressive tactics, not inviting these companies on bases where service members live and work. That's why I led a group of colleagues in offering an amendment to the NDAA that would strip the provision and protect our service members from these predatory practices.

We need to keep for-profit colleges off of military bases and close the 90/10 loophole that allows them to exploit service members, veterans, and American taxpayers. The Military and Veterans Education Protec-

tion Act would close this loophole and protect our veterans.

My Protecting Student Aid for Students and Taxpayers Act would also help our student veterans and service members by preventing schools from using any federal funds – including from the G.I. Bill and other service member tuition benefits -- to fund marketing, advertising, and recruitment.

In addition to preventing these recruitment tactics, we must also assist veterans who've already been hurt by for-profit colleges.

I'm cosponsoring the Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Education Relief and Restoration Act to restore the GI benefits of veterans who lost credit or training opportunities because their educational institution permanently closed.

It is despicable enough that these companies are preying on our service members and veterans—and it's beyond the pale that they're doing it with taxpayer funds. It needs to end.

I will continue to do all I can to crack down on for-profit colleges that don't have the best interests of our service members and veterans at heart.

Our veterans deserve nothing less than our full support in seeking out their education.

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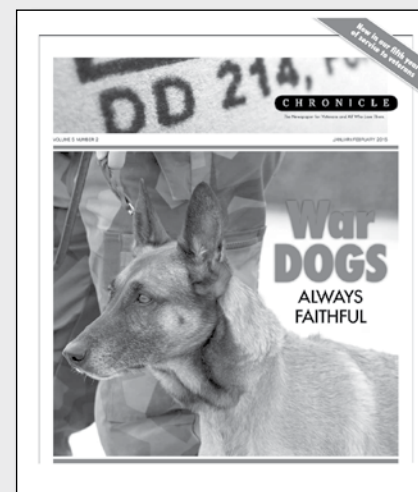
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Veteran Swaps Management Career for Freedom of the Open Road in Tri-C's Truck Driving Academy

By Jerri Donohue

After 15 years in management, Army veteran Bruce McCann felt frustrated with his job.

"You have your challenges, trying to motivate people to work, dealing with absenteeism and all that stuff," McCann said.

"It just became very stressful and overwhelming." Determined to move on, McCann enrolled in Cuyahoga Community College's Truck Driving Academy at Heritage Business Park in Euclid.

Today he transports drywall, shingles and other construction materials from Northeast Ohio to locations as distant as Wisconsin, Tennessee and West Virginia. McCann said it's essential to have a plan and a positive mindset to make such a radical career change.

Before making the leap, he considered his work history. After his military service (1984 to 1988), he had driven a truck for a short time. He recognized advantages unique to the job.



Bruce McCann

While researching companies that assume the expense of training new hires, he discovered the program at Tri-C that will prepare 40 veterans to be commercial drivers.

The college received funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to cover the \$5,495 tuition per veteran.

Tri-C is the only community college in Ohio to receive this grant. McCann took the course last winter.

His 10-hour days began at seven

o'clock in the morning and ended around five o'clock in the evening, four days a week.

The first week focused on information necessary to obtain a temporary license. "It was very thorough," McCann said. "The gentleman who taught the class was very knowledgeable and helpful."

For the next three weeks, McCann and seven classmates concentrated on maneuverability skills and safety with instructors who were experienced former truck-drivers.

"All of them taught differently," McCann said. "If you didn't 'get it' from one instructor, you should have been able to get it from a different one with a different training or teaching method."

The trainees also practiced driving on the road in a 48-foot trailer and tractor. Within a week of completing the course, McCann passed the test for his Commercial Drivers License.

He had job offers from several com-

panies. When he chose McElroy Truck Lines, the company sent him on the road with another driver for seven weeks of additional training.

McCann now drives a regional route, mostly within the Midwest. The Macedonia resident never travels more than 600 miles from home, and he is able to spend every weekend with his family.

Although his current job has nothing to do with his responsibilities in the Army (he was a finance specialist, taking care of pay records) or his experience in the civilian work force, McCann said driving a truck is a good fit for his life today.

He encourages other veterans to investigate Tri-C's Truck Driving Academy. As for his own career switch at age 50, he hasn't glanced in the rear-view mirror. "I'm my own boss as long as I get my load delivered safely, and on time," McCann said. "Outside of the traffic and sometimes the city driving, it's actually relaxing. I'm enjoying it."

Affordable Cremation For Veterans How to Find A Reputable Provider Who Will Honor A Hero's Service

By Mark Busch, Co-Owner/Funeral Director, Busch Funeral and Crematory Services

These days, we're seeing an influx of American families choosing cremation. Similarly, our nation's heroes are following this trend. According to VA Benefit Blog, more than 38% of veterans choose cremation as their choice of final disposition. According to The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) by 2030, 71% of those who die will choose cremation.

As the number of cremations increase, so do concerns about low-cost cremation providers. Nothing is more important than honoring those who have served our country, yet some providers may cut corners when it comes to care or hit families with hidden costs.

Despite this fact, veterans' surviving family members can still arrange a cremation that's affordable and pays tribute to their loved one's service.

So how can you select the right cremation provider for the right price based on your family's unique needs?

Simple Ways Veterans Can Understand Their Cremation Options.

If you've ever experienced the death of a loved one, you know there are many decisions that must be made when planning a funeral or memorial. You also have to ensure your family's needs are met, while staying within a defined budget.

When it comes to planning a veteran's cremation, the following are options to consider:

- How to spend the allotted Veteran's Affairs (VA) Burial Allowance.
- The type of gathering you'd prefer, including a visitation or wake, funeral service or memorial service.



Mark Busch

Selecting the Right Provider to Avoid Hidden Costs.

When it's time to select a cremation provider for your family, be sure you do your homework. While low-cost cremation providers may offer smaller initial price tags, keep in mind that your family's wishes can drive up costs. Cremation is about value; your provider should offer you appropriate services and transparent pricing.

Ensure your needs are met by asking questions like the following.

- What honorary service traditions to include, like an official veteran flag, rifle salute or color guard.
- The final resting place, like permanent possession of remains in an urn or container, scattering at a place of significance, burial of the remains or a permanent memorial at a national cemetery.
- What honorary veteran products do you carry?
- Do you have a history of serving veterans?
- Can you help me understand your price ranges?
- Can I personalize my veteran's funeral or memorial service without driv-

ing up the cost?

- Do you offer an on-site crematory?
- Can I tour the crematory to ensure it's clean and well maintained?
- How do you ensure that I receive my loved one's cremated remains?
- Do you offer an area where my family can hold a funeral or memorial service before or after the cremation?

Asking these questions will help you find the most reputable provider for both your family's needs and budget. For more insight into finding the best value, read Busch Funeral and Crematory Service's new guide, "Cremation Costs Explained: How to Get the Best Value Without Sacrificing Service." Download your free copy by visiting: info.buschcares.com/cremation-costs-explained.

Mayfield Heights Veteran Trained with WWII Secret Weapon

By Jerri Donohue

In March 1945, Mayfield Heights resident Gill Terry donned a German helmet in a scheme to capture a bridge over the Rhine River.

Disguising themselves as German soldiers and their equipment as enemy tanks, members of the task force moved at night, in hopes they would not be detected.

"We dressed everything up to look like German vehicles," Terry said. "We wore German uniforms to try to get a bridge. And we almost did it."

In the semi-darkness, a passing enemy soldier recognized the Americans and alerted his comrades. The Germans blew up the highway bridge at Oberkassel just as American tanks reached it.

The incident figures among several odd episodes Terry experienced.

After boot camp at Camp Rucker, Alabama, the teenage enlistee arrived at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where the Army assigned his unit an unusual task.

"We became a '736 Tank Battalion Medium Special', because we were going to be trained with a new secret weapon," Terry said.

The soldiers later traveled by train and truck to a remote location in Butler Valley, Arizona. They slept in tents by day, wary of scorpions, snakes, trap-door spiders and gila monsters. At night, when the desert cooled, they trained with the secret weapon.

"It's a tank with a 13 million can-



Gill Terry

dle power searchlight," Terry said. "The idea of this whole thing was to fight at night."

The tank's armored turret included a slit measuring approximately 24 to 36 inches.

"There was a shutter on it that went back and forth, making the light flicker," Terry said. "Lights would be different colors."

The Army planned to station the tanks about 100 ft. apart with regular tanks and infantry in between.

The soldiers practiced being both enemy and aggressor.

"The whole unit would move out at once with all these flashing lights against the so-called enemy," Terry said.

"When you were in front of these lights, you could not judge how far away they were to try and shoot them."

In addition, the brightness of the light was almost blinding.

The battalion eventually sailed for Great Britain on the Queen Mary. Before long, they were training again at night, this time in Wales.

In mid-August 1944, Terry landed in Normandy where he bivouacked in an apple orchard and cleared mine fields. One day a mine exploded, killing the man behind him and gravely wounding another. A French civilian extricated the survivors.

Throughout the war, Terry's usual assignment was to drive a jeep, even on patrols in the Hürtgen Forest, which he calls "Hug-a-Tree Forest."

"The shells came over and they burst into trees," he said. "Normally a shell comes in and you hit the ground, but there you had more chance of getting hit because you're stretched out, and the trees are blowing up. So you stood up and hung on to a tree."

As they later raced for the Elbe River, Terry's outfit received orders to take no prisoners. They rumbled

past German troops with hands raised, leaving them to surrender to foot soldiers who followed.

As the war ended, Terry crossed the Elbe and waited for the Red Army. Soon front line Russian forces arrived.

"They were a pretty rough looking bunch of guys," Terry said. "They thought they could do anything they wanted and they liked to drink."

The two armies mingled until the Americans had to withdraw to the western side of the Elbe and pull their bridges.

"The [German] civilians went out of their minds because they were going to be left with the Russians," Terry said. "They wanted to go with us."

With the war in Europe over, Terry sailed for the States on a victory ship. He returned with a deep appreciation for the American way of life – and a craving for canned peaches. He even ate them on cereal.

Terry's unit never did use the "secret weapon" in combat. He speculated that generals were unaware of the special tank, and wondered why training with it did not include infantrymen.

"It's just another secret thing – I'm sure there's many others that you don't know about – that the government spent money on," Terry said.

Veterans Hiring Fair

Veterans of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, Guardsmen, Reservists, and those transitioning from active duty.

Location: Woods King Armory, 4303 Green Rd., Highland Hills

Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2016

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Opening ceremony: 9:50 a.m.

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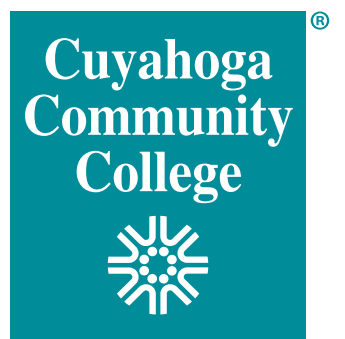
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