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My retort was very simple and exact and from my heart. I simply typed, "SEMPER FI".

Donald C. Stark, publisher



In the May-June 2022 issue, we ran a story "A City's History Preserved for Posterity: Cleveland in World War II" that should have included photos of both authors.

In addition to Brian Albrecht's photo, we inadvertently neglected to include the photo of fellow author and Cleveland historian James Banks. Dr. Banks is a retired history professor at Cuyahoga Community College's Western campus and founder of the Crile Archives, an online historical record of Crile Hospital available at <https://crilearchives.pastperfectonline.com> We regret the omission.

In Memory of Matt Kuhns

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our graphic designer, Matt Kuhns.

In addition to being *DD214 Chronicle's* designer, he was an author of several books, a prolific activist, a tireless volunteer in the community, and a very thoughtful young man.

He will be missed by all of us who worked closely with him.

We are dedicating this issue of *DD214 Chronicle* in Matt's memory.

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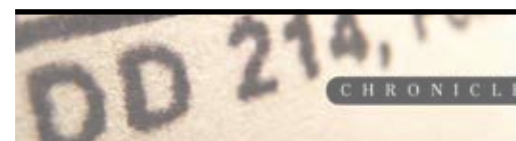
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DD214 Chronicle is committed to its readers: Veterans of every generation and all who love them. The printed newspaper is delivered across northern Ohio without charge to more than 500 locations: libraries, colleges and universities that welcome veteran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

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Once Upon a Distant War: Vietnam, Myth, and Music

By Bradley/ Powell

Vietnam. The word comes camouflaged in politics and disagreement. Hawks versus doves, “America, Love it or Leave it,” “Hell No, I Won’t go” ...and on and on, now almost fifty years since the last U. S. Army soldiers left that war-torn country.

For those who watched the war unfold on the evening news, the cacophony of Vietnam blurred with the sounds rising from the streets of America during a time of challenge and change. For those born after the last helicopters sank beneath the waves of the South China Sea, movies and mini-series have repeatedly presented Vietnam as one part of an era defined by its divisions.

But what about the nearly three million men and women who served in Southeast Asia? What do we know about them? Their lives? Their sacrifices? Their stories? Offering a platform for these experiences and voices was the motivation behind a stimulating course recently offered by the Baldwin Wallace University Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR).

Entitled “Once Upon a Distant War: Vietnam, Myth, and Music,” the course was the brainchild of two Vietnam veterans, Cleveland’s own Mary Reynolds Powell, a nurse in Vietnam in 1970-71, and Doug Bradley, a U. S. Army combat correspondent in Vietnam during those same years.

“In this course, you will experience the Vietnam war in a new way,” Powell and Bradley wrote in the course description, “a tapestry of personal stories, meaningful music, and powerful writing. Combined, they expand our sense of what happened and what it meant beyond the usually simplistic, and often politically motivated, versions of Vietnam that have taken over popular myth and memory. The reflections of individual vets will broaden and deepen your sense of what Vietnam meant and

means.”

“All history is personal,” explains Powell, author of *A World of Hurt: Between Innocence and Arrogance in Vietnam*, an account of her own experience in Vietnam that includes the stories of several friends who served with her. “We wanted the class members to absorb and appreciate a diversity of personal experiences of war, to begin to appreciate what it was like for Vietnam veterans to come home, how America responded to them, and what their lives have been like since they returned.”

“There is no such thing as the typical Vietnam vet,” adds Bradley, author of three books about Vietnam, including *We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The Soundtrack of the Vietnam War* (with Craig Werner), named the best music book of 2015 by *Rolling Stone* magazine. “Every veteran has their own individual story, and it is dependent on what I like to refer to as the ‘3 W’s’—**W**hen were you in Vietnam? **W**here were you in Vietnam; and **W**hat did you do as your military job in Vietnam? We do our best to break down stereotypes, and the music of that era is crucial to achieving that.”

In fact, music was an integral part of “Once Upon a Distant War,” introducing and closing each of the course’s six sections and underscoring the testimony of the eight other veterans and one former VA counselor, who, like Powell and Bradley, shared their experiences and insights.

“Music was more than just background for Vietnam veterans,” Bradley points out. “It was their lifeline, a link to life ‘back in the world,’ the purest way of connecting with the things that enabled them to ‘keep on keeping on.’ They sang along to the Beatles, Porter Wagoner, Nancy Sinatra, and the Temptations before they went to war, and they listened to them after they came back home.

“Jimi Hendrix, the Doors, Aretha Franklin and CCR, they’re all there,” he continues. From the peaks of the Central Highlands to the rice paddies of the Mekong Delta to the air-conditioned jungles of Da Nang and Long Binh, Vietnam soldiers used music to form bonds, express their feelings, and hold on to the humanity the world was trying to take away.”

“We did not want history—who fought what battles when, etc.—to be the defining narrative,” says Powell, pointing out that the experiences of women veterans are too often ignored and overlooked in neatly all military histories, a sentiment echoed by Ann Kelsey, a Department of the Army civilian, who served as a librarian in Vietnam.

“About 265,000 women served in the U.S. military during the Vietnam era, with as many as 11,000, folks like me and Mary, deployed to the Vietnam theater of operations. As far as I know there has only been one study—one—that highlights the experiences of women during that long war.”

In addition to Powell, Bradley, and Kelsey, class members were enlightened by the individual stories of several other Vietnam veterans, among them John Schaninger, Michael Jackson, Georgia Davis, John Ketwig, Moses Mora, Susan O’Neill, and Jim Becker. Under individual class headings such as “Myths & Realities, In Country and Out,” “Through the Looking Glass, The Journey for Women,” and “Who’ll Stop the Rain,” these veterans gave testimony to when they were there, what they saw and did, and what it means today. In addition, Diana Congdon, a retired VA counselor, gave a spellbinding presentation on PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), Moral Injury, and Resilience.

“Individuals coping with PTSD are frequently also coping with depression,” Congdon notes. “Both

PTSD and depression are full of negativity and self-criticism. We need to help veterans get out of that box. The role of Resilience is to focus on aspects of that individual’s life he/she can control, can modify and can grow with. It encourages a feeling of empowerment, to overcome, to grow and to improve one’s life.”

From Agent Orange to survivor guilt, from war memorials to veterans’ courts, class participants were exposed to the Vietnam war in unique, and deeply individual, ways. Steve Traina, host of “Steve’s Folk Radio Show” (WRUW FM 91.1 Cleveland), a longtime supporter of veterans, shared photos and charts that enhanced the narratives.

“Thank you for bringing this class to ILR,” observed Joan Tropf, ILR Curriculum Representative. “It’s a story that has been overlooked on so many levels and in so many different ways. Your passion for the telling of this story is evident. And your time and effort are much appreciated.”

Class attendee, Beth Berman, said, “Reflecting on what I heard each week often kept me angry, awake, ashamed of the leadership and directives of the time. This course was a rare opportunity to recall events as we knew them and to garner an entirely new perspective.”

“As we hoped, the Vietnam experience was absorbed by the class,” said Mary Reynolds Powell. “More importantly, attendees and veterans established a bond that will never be forgotten.”



World War II secret mission still energizes wartime map maker

By Nancy Peacock

At the age of 100, Bea Shaheen McPherson clearly and fondly remembers the details that took her from a college student at Kent State University during World War II to a top-secret mission in Washington, D.C.

Shaheen was one of 20 KSU seniors who asked to be enrolled by geography professor Dr. Edna Eisen in a military mapmaking course in February 1943. The United States was in the middle of World War II and patriotic fervor was at an all-time high. But her mother, a widow with nine children, asked her daughter not to join the military.

"I wanted to go to service, either the Marines or the Navy," she recalled. "If I couldn't join the military, I decided I was going to help the war effort as a civilian."

Shaheen got her chance after she graduated in June 1943. She applied for employment with the Army Map Service. With 19 other women from Kent State, she was hired to join 224 other college-educated women in Washington D.C. Their mission was to create handmade geographic maps that the military could quickly utilize in different campaigns.

After three weeks of in-service training, Bea was assigned to the project drafting department and also became an assistant to the director of the department. Part of her duties were taking a train to Kent State to hire other women and as a courier to deliver maps to the office in New York City.

The young women were known as the "Military Mapping Maidens"

or "3Ms." They sometimes worked up to 70-hour weeks to meet their deadlines for battles. In the days before satellites, the maps were made from aerial photographs, older maps and other reference material. Using protractors, contour pens and India ink, their tools were crude by today's standards. But they were able to meticulously hand draw the maps to include churches, schools, bodies of water, roads, land contours and any information that would be helpful to the troops.

"At the time, we didn't realize how important those maps were," she said.

After the battle became public knowledge, the women learned they had created more than 3,000 maps of Utah and Omaha beaches for the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Over the course of their service, the 3M women drew more than 40,000 maps for battles that were fought throughout Europe and the Pacific.

Despite working a double shift from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. to midnight, Shaheen and her colleagues still found time to canoeing on the Potomac River, horseback riding and tea dances at various hotels. She roomed with another Kent State graduate, the late Geraldine (Skora) Newman, first in army barracks in Arlington, Virginia and then in the McLean Gardens housing that was built for defense workers in northwest Washington, D.C.

"We formed our own softball team called The Contours," she said. "I was the catcher!"

In an era when women had limited career and travel choices, it was the rare opportunity.

"We also helped with the USO at Fort Belvoir," she said. "We had the time of our lives!"

After the war ended, the 224 women returned to the lives they had left behind. Shaheen married her college sweetheart Bill McPherson and they settled in Hartsville. They raised three children: James III, Marena and Cheryl. Bea taught elementary school for 12 years and worked at her husband's law firm for 34 years. McPherson never forgot the camaraderie of the war years and decided to preserve their shared history.

"I was the organizer of three reunions," she said. "I wrote to 224 colleges to find these women."

Her efforts resulted in reunions celebrating the 25th, 35th and 50th years as Military Mapping Maidens, all held in Washington D.C.

"It was so much fun to be together," McPherson said.

In 2008, her husband passed when she was 87, setting off a three-year grieving period.

"But I perked up when I turned 90," she said. "I have had the most exciting 10 years."

Much of that excitement has come from military historians and academics working to document the profound impact that the 3M women had in the war effort and subsequent map making industry. The Alumni Office and Library at Kent State University and the

Chief Historian at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency worked with Museum Pros, LLC of Arizona. With Michelle Reid, they created a traveling exhibit that is currently on display at the MAPS Air Museum, 2260 International Parkway, North Canton, OH 44720.

The exhibit, housed in the museum's Gallery of Heroes, includes photos of the women at work, a drafting tool kit used by the mapmakers and one of the full-color maps printed on fabric to withstand the rigors of battle.

To celebrate the opening of the exhibit in North Canton on May 7, McPherson was honored for her service. She gave a demonstration to children on how to make a map. And the demand for her recounting of the mapmaking war effort shows no signs of slowing down.

"I can't believe all that has happened in the last 10 years," she said recently. "This is what is keeping me alert—all of these challenges."

The exhibit is open through August 5, 2022. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sunday: 11:30 to 4 p.m., closed Mondays. Adult admission is \$15. Senior (60 and over) admission is \$13. Child admission (ages 6-12) is \$8. Children under 6 are free. Discounts for all veterans is \$2 off regular admission. World War II and Korean War veterans admission is free. For more information, about MAPS Air Museum, visit mapsairmuseum.org



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How Did You Find Out?

George Fanta and Terence W. Barrett

There are moments in time we never forget, becoming images that reappear in waking moments or during dream sleep. Thoughts and memories that intrude, triggered for no apparent reason, coming as if “it was just yesterday.”

If you are a member of the “Baby Boomer” generation and you read the *DD214 Chronicle*, you likely know someone who went to Viet Nam and did not return home. How did you learn of the death? Was it a letter, a phone call, a knock at your door, conversation in a tavern, a newspaper clipping or evening newsflash? However the news reached you, it’s arrival is one of those moments never forgotten.

When George Fanta received his copy of the November/December 2021 *DD214 Chronicle* issue, he was stunned to see a picture of Terry Lavelle, his best friend from St. Edward High School, Class of 1965. The article was a reminder, not a new revelation. He had learned 54 years earlier from a newspaper clipping and a letter.

“I have never gotten over his death,” George wrote. “I think of him often.”

The times, events, the places have left a permanent imprint on his mind, though he doesn’t recall exactly when he met Terry or Dennis Duch, another classmate. As freshmen arranged loosely in alphabetical order with a lot of Irish kids, Dennis was in Homeroom 2 with Jim “Seamus” Davenport, George sat in front of Rich Farrin in Homeroom 5, and Terry was in Homeroom 7 with Tom McManamon. Sharing several classes, the three slowly became friends.

“Our junior and senior years were wonderful times.”

George’s parents had relocated from Cleveland to Parma, so his trip to school was via a very twisted bus route. Dennis lived in Brook Park, also relying on public transportation for the long, daily journey. Terry lived the closest to St. Ed’s, taking the bus from West 131st, off Lorain Avenue. The friends worked out a deal once

Dennis started driving his “new,” orange *Edsel*. That car with dual headlights and vertical grill that went out of production in 1960 after only three years on the assembly line. The two turned over the bus money to their chauffer to help

cover gas and insurance costs. Dennis picked up George then Terry and drove George, 1965 to school. The fun began. Terry, 1965

Over time, the teens met each other’s parents, who agreed driving was the best way for them to get to

school, but had some (reasonable) reservations about them driving around town. Mr. Fanta wanted to know the condition of the brakes. Mr. Lavelle just shook his head, wanting to know the car’s reliability. Terry’s parents were both Irish immigrants from County Mayo, and George one day thought to tell them that his grandmother was from County Mayo. That revelation enhanced his status with the Lavelles.

The friends became inseparable for several years. When not at school or their jobs, they hung out at one or another’s home or drove around town in the *Edsel*. The Fanta’s had a pool table, and the three spent many a day enhancing their billiard skills.

Neither Terry or Dennis went out for sports. George had played CYO baseball through grade school, fancied himself to be a good ball player, but learned Coach LeRoy Challet did not need his skills, so practice and training did not interfere with their drives to and from school. An idea emerged, growing over the weeks, consolidating into a plan. After graduation, the three would travel

the country in the *Edsel*, eat at roadside diners, camp out in the plains, see the wonders of the west, sleep in the car along the road. “All the world was ours and adventure lie ahead.”

Terry never had a steady girlfriend and did not talk about any specific

girl. He had some acne and was self-conscious at times. George and Dennis double dated many times. All three friends cheered at the Eagle’s home football games and danced at the mixers afterward.

Terry was a quiet guy,

observant of things going on around him, with an intensity greater than his two friends. He liked the idea of being in a team of three, friends and buddies, maybe leading to his decision about Marine fireteams. Not that it got much attention—the boys were in 8th Grade when the first 450 Marines landed in Viet Nam with 15 combat helicopters on April 9, 1962—but the desire to join the Corps began for Terry and grew stronger as graduation neared. Historians would come to consider 1965 to be The Pivotal Year in America’s involvement in the war. It would be so in the Lavelle home.

Terry never considered going to college, sure that he was going to enlist. George had a girlfriend and was headed for college to take business courses. Then, one day, Dennis announced seriously he was joining the Air Force. George was shocked that the two were leaving for the military; the team was really breaking up. He volunteered to keep the *Edsel* while Dennis was gone, but the offer was declined.

Two comments were implanted in George’s mind, always staying with him. A teacher at St. Ed’s would look over the class and ask, “Why is youth wasted on the young?” A long time would pass before he would appreciate what the teacher meant. The other

Dennis, 1965 comment was presidential.

Wednesday morning, October 21, 1964, was a chilly, cloudy day, temperatures at the 42°F mark. Students were getting ready for the Eagles’ trip west to take on Toledo Clay. After starting the season with three losses, the team was on its way for their fourth gridiron victory in its 7–3 season. On an election campaign stop, Lyndon B. Johnson, incumbent president and Democratic candidate, delivered a speech in Akron University’s Memorial Hall. Amid the cheers, applause, and waving banners, among several concerns he addressed to the public, he affirmed, “But, we are not about to send American boys 9 or 10 thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves.”

For George, the whole concept of a place called Viet Nam, or a war, seemed too remote to contemplate. The president’s remark would haunt him and the nation. “As with so much of Vietnam,” he remembers, “that proved not to be true.” The following year, President Johnson approved sending combat troops to Vietnam.

So after graduation, Terry left for Parris Island. A short time later, Dennis left for Lackland Air Force Base in Texas to become an airman. It was a somber time for George. His conversations with his two friends were now only by mail. Terry wrote that all recruits and instructors talked about at boot camp was Vietnam. By then, seven Marine combat battalions, 17,558 men, were stationed in-country.

George had a cousin in the military, so dinnertime discussions often touched upon boys going to Vietnam. He told his parents that

Continued on next page



Terry said he'd be going there. Mr. Fanta hoped that would not be necessary.

"We fought WWII so no one else would have to fight," he said, "and now we're being dragged into another war."

That August, Terry wrote that he was in the Beaufort Naval Hospital with a heel infection and thought he'd be there for a month or longer. That was distressing because he was falling behind in basic training. His later letters said he was getting better, training weeks were cut back, and the Corps was prepared to deploy. The many new recruits arriving at the Depot would all be headed for Vietnam.

Once finished with boot camp, Terry was home for a few days. He and George got together. The new Marine was "bubbling around." He had volunteered to go to Vietnam and seemed anxious to get there. Being a Marine meant he had a job to do and he would gladly do it. George was not passive about what his friend was saying, but just did not understand Vietnam or why his friend wanted to go there.

Completing a year of college, George's student deferment lapsed due to some carelessness. Slow to follow up, a Greetings from the Army notice arrived, and he was quickly at Fort Benning, Georgia, for boot camp in September 1966. His advanced training would take him into the Army Signal Corps. Terry and Dennis were quite pleased as the old team was set to leave their mark on the Marines, Air Force, and the Army.

Dennis was pleased with himself, proud to be in the Air Force, but his

military career came to an unexpected end. His father fell very ill. As the only son, he was given a hardship discharge to care for his mother. Mr. Duch held on to life until March 12, 1980.

In April 1967, Terry wrote that he had his orders to Vietnam. Shortly afterwards, George's orders arrived. The two friends were heading to Southeast Asia at the same time. They planned to get together while on leave, which turned out to be just a couple days. Mr. and Mrs. Fanta had an open house on a Sunday in May, the day before George left for overseas. Terry came to the house, ready to leave a couple days later.

Outside that afternoon, standing by Mr. Lavelle's Chevy, they talked about what could lie ahead and how they would meet it. They decided they would meet up in-country. George would realize later how little they understood what they were going to encounter. "It was foolish talk by young men going to a war neither of us having any idea what it would be like."

They said goodbye. "Keep low," George said in parting. He watched Terry climb into the car and drive away. That enduring image turned out to be the last time he saw his best friend.

Terry went to Da Nang, arriving on June 1. Stationed in Nha Trang, north of Cam Ranh Bay, George was 275 miles south of Da Nang. He got his friend's in-country address from Mrs. Lavelle, wrote a letter to Terry, including his own APO address. There was never a response.

A day came in early September 1967 when he picked up his mail

on the way to the mess hall. A letter from his mother was on top. He grabbed his meal, sat down, and opened the letter. A newspaper clipping fell from the envelope. He could not believe what he was reading. Cleveland Marine Killed in Vietnam. Terry was dead. Killed on patrol on Gò Nôi' Island on August 25. They had both been in-country for only a couple months.

Dennis wrote a short time later with some additional details the funeral director had given him. He said the Lavelles were a wreck. George's parents wrote about how the Lavelle family was doing. He could only imagine his mother and Mrs. Lavelle dealing with the situation. Mrs. Lavelle expressed concern for his wellbeing. "That would be like Mrs. Lavelle, to worry about me in her grief."

George wrote to tell her how sorry he was that Terry was killed. He knew his friend wanted to be a Marine, but not what had happened. Mrs. Lavelle wrote back imploring him to be safe and said they would pray for his safe return every day.

Finishing his tour, George came home. He paid a visit to 3451 West 131st. It was difficult, one of the hardest moments of his life. When Mrs. Lavelle opened the door, tears overtook them both. The sadness of losing a child never eases, and the Lavelles' grief was so very evident. The moments when he first stood at Terry's grave in Section 11 at Holy Cross Cemetery brought sadness and deep reflection. "We were just kids, a few years past Friday night mixers and Sunday dinners."

George and Dennis remained

friends and stayed in touch for years. Dennis was best man at George's wedding. Dennis married Mary Kathleen Haviland, resided in Medina, had 11 children, and worked as a comptroller in the transportation industry for 50 years. George became a banker. As he sees it, they had the life that Terry and so many others never had a chance to experience.

As so often happens, busy lives drift off in different directions. The two had been out of touch for several years when George decided in March 2022 to track Dennis down and reconnect. The result was sad, turning out to be another loss. Dennis had passed away on March 31, 2021, and was buried in the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

George looks back on those days of driving around in the orange *Edsel*, laughing at life as it presented itself to their teenage world. He sees them, Terry and Dennis, up the road a piece ready for their trip across the country.

"Terry's life and spirit have never left me."

With his wisdom, King Solomon wrote that good people are remembered with blessings (Proverbs 10:7).

There are 58,195 names engraved on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. The memories and thoughts we carry of any one of them are a tribute and an acknowledgment of how much meaning their short lives held for us.



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William M. Denihan

*The Cleveland Police Foundation joins the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University in saluting our late colleague and friend, **William M. Denihan**, for his long career in public service as a highly effective "agent of change."*

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Sean Quinn's Amazing Navy Adventures

By JC Sullivan

I joined the Navy to see the world. What did I see? I saw the sea." So goes the ditty about the U.S. Navy. Sean Quinn saw the sea all right but never on a named Navy ship.

After boot camp Quinn trained in the Philadelphia Shipyard for Explosive Ordnance and then was sent to schools in Florida and South Carolina. At the latter he trained in UDT (Underwater Demolition). "That was for explosives that don't go off," he said. "The senior divers were experienced so about all I did was ancillary help." At his Command in Little Creek, Virginia he was assigned to a Mobile Division. "This meant we were an Expeditionary Force where within 24 hours we went where our Commanding Officer ordered us. I went with them after the "Rwandan Genocide" to recover unexploded ordinance, spent shells that didn't go off. From there we headed to Kosovo to recover the same."

Quinn underwent further training in the U.S. and ended up three MOS' and became a qualified diver and a Coxswain in SBC (Special Boat Command). They were ordered to Panama where workers were being shot at by FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia). "We had to stay around to make our presence known. They shot at us but we never took any casualties. Also, two U.S. maritime prepositioning ships conducted training activities offshore." (see more on this below).

In July, 1990 a TWA Jumbo Jet Boeing 747, Flight 800, left New York bound for Paris. Off Long Island it exploded and crashed, killing all 230 souls aboard. The U.S. Government claimed it was the result of a mixture of fuel and air but many others speculated it was a missile that brought it down. Quinn spent about fifty days out on the water in a SLWT (Side Loadable Warping Tug), a giant tugboat that doesn't do one mile a nautical mile an hour but it holds its position. "I was the Coxswain holding it over the wreckage. With its a winch and we could communicate with the diver, 'go port or starboard, go aft, just hold the position' and they would winch pieces of the plane up on the deck. A lot of NTSA and FBI were there."

When asked if they brought up any human remains Quinn said "When we brought them up they were full of marine life," he replied. "I saw what I thought was probably the pilot or co-pilot with polyester uniform pants. It was the size of an obese male."

Yemen was the worst country he visited. "In October, 2020, we were there 22 hours after the USS Cole was struck. "Those savages were running around celebrating a their 'victory' after they killed 17 of our sailors and wounded 37." Quinn's job was to recover unexploded ordinance from the ship. "Obviously it went off without a hitch."

He participated in an operation called 'Baltic Challenge 98', a series of training activities to develop

common understanding of peace support operations. The training events included check point observation, land and maritime convoy, mine awareness, counter sniper, patrol and aviation, medical, quick reaction, maritime mine, parachute, and humanitarian relief. Also, two U.S. maritime prepositioning ships conducted training activities offshore.

"Before that, in '96, we were in Ukraine, mostly in Crimea, scoping the area out. There's a submarine base there that's important to Putin's war strategy. That's why they took it in 2014. It's the only way he can get his subs to the Mediterranean Sea. The subs basically drive into the side of a mountain that opens up for them to reload, refuel and head back out."

In 98 we were in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Russia. They wanted us to demonstrate some of our capabilities. It also included Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Ireland. "For some reason we always managed to schedule about 30 round trips to Ireland."

During this time there were two U.S. MPP's (Maritime Prepositioned Force) ships conducting training activities offshore. "There are several 'ghost ships' around the world hanging out in the deep blue until they're needed. They're just packed with anything you can think of that's important. Quinn was inside one of them when an F-16 jammed into the side."

"There were tanks, dragon

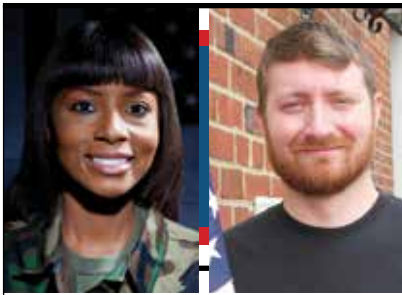
wagons, EMVs, water...everything you need to bring the fight to the enemy. Their location is secret, no one knows where they are."

The most interesting work Quinn in the Mediterranean with dolphins. "The Navy used them to find underwater ordinance, mostly UDT and EDT. Back then they were used for reasons that are probably still Classified. However, now I think they're mostly used to search the hull of ships."

Quinn took thirty days off with Navy buddies to take 'a rogue tour.' "We rented scooters and went from Vladivostok to St. Petersburg in Russia, a distance of almost 12,000 miles. We ended up going through a tip of Mongolia. One of us was from Fiji, of Turkish descent. He had friends that could get us the fuel for our bikes. That's all we really needed. We had K Rations and MREs and ate on the local economy when available. We didn't need a passport as our Navy ID served the purpose."

Although Quinn visited approximately 300 cities and 82 or 84 countries, as readers can imagine, he says they weren't allowed a camera on any of his assignments. But his father Gerry said, "I'm the only one in the family who takes photos." As a result we were only provided his boot camp picture.

Quinn was unsure if some of the information he shared for this article might still be 'need to know', i.e. still classified.



Volunteers of America

Commissioned to the U.S. Marine Corps by President Richard Nixon in 1972, Sara J. Harper served as its first female judge. She was elected to the Cleveland Municipal Court and to the 8th District Ohio Court of Appeals, and she served by assignment on the Ohio Supreme Court. Her long life of service has included a stint as President of the Cleveland NAACP, initiatives to foster academic achievement, and commitment to anti-drug programs.



Volunteers of America

Judge Sara J. Harper Village nears completion.

Volunteers of America's Judge Sara J. Harper Village Set to Welcome Women Veterans

By Jerri Donohue

Despite skyrocketing lumber costs, supply chain interruptions, and shortages of construction workers, Volunteers of America (VOA) expects to open its Judge Sara J. Harper Village in August.

"All the same things that are happening in the world are happening on this project," said Becky Carlino, the nonprofit's Director of Development, Donor Experience Team. "It hasn't stopped us. It's slowed us down."

Building homes, rebuilding lives Last summer VOA broke ground on the 12-apartment complex, its latest initiative to assist the growing number of homeless female veterans. Located in Cleveland's Glenville neighborhood within walking distance of Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center and

the Center for Women Veterans, Judge Sara J. Harper Village will provide safe, supportive and affordable housing for homeless or traumatized female veterans. In addition to efficiency apartments, 1-bedroom suites are reserved for mothers with small children. Each apartment has its own patio. One of the two free standing buildings provides office space where residents can meet with counselors. A dedicated staff person will work with the women five days a week, while an independent company will manage the property.

Tenants sign rental contracts but have no time limit on length of stay as they rebuild their lives.

"Some will rebuild and move on," Carlino said. "Some will rebuild and choose to stay."

Because the buildings comply with the Americans with

Disabilities Act, aging in place is an option.

The VA is referring some of the residents. Women staying at the Homeless and Mental Health Residential Treatment Center (formerly the Domiciliary) might need transitional housing when they leave. Other women learned about the project from various sources, such as the veteran who calls every day to ask when Judge Sara J. Harper Village will open. (As *DD 214 Chronicle* goes to press, the date of the grand opening is undetermined.) Another potential resident excitedly describes her plans to plant a garden there. Yet another woman left military service years ago, but belatedly suffers from PTSD. She believes she would feel safe and understood if she lived among female vets.

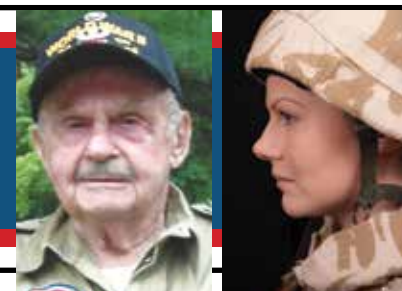
VOA consulted an interior design

team to ensure the apartments are fresh and contemporary. Although similar, the units vary in details such as color scheme. Tenants will move into fully furnished apartments where everything is new.

While the state of Ohio and Federal Home Loan Bank provided some of the funding, Carlino said local support was instrumental in completing the project.

"We've had incredible foundation support from the Cleveland community," she said. "On top of that, different VFW posts and American Legion posts stepped up."

One veterans group raised money to buy beds for the apartments. Another held a wine-tasting event and donated the proceeds to construction costs. Yet another simply sent a check to be used as needed. Carlino said many organizations and corporate donors invested



Volunteers of America

By March, construction on Judge Sara J. Harper Village was well underway.

Volunteers of America
Although similar, the apartments at Judge Sara J. Harper Village are not uniform. Each is decorated in a contemporary style and equipped with brand new furnishings.



“heart, soul and finances”. Some of these people will also contribute their labor, helping with set up before Judge Sara J. Harper Village welcomes its first residents.

The home stretch As the project nears completion, VOA still seeks funding for items ranging from sheets to television sets. Carlino encourages interested donors to visit the Judge Sara J. Harper Village website (www.voahin.org/judge-sara-harper-village) and follow the link to shopping (<https://event.gives/>

harpervillage)
“Everything helps at this point,” Carlino said.

In addition, VOA seeks volunteers to pitch in with cleaning and apartment installation. Carlino advises interested individuals or groups to periodically check the website throughout July when volunteers will be able to sign up online for specific chores.

Several dignitaries are expected to attend the grand opening festivities, and VOA hopes that Judge Sara J. Harper will be able to join

them. The village is named for the 95-year old retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, the first female military judge in Marine Corps history. Harper was also elected to Cleveland Municipal Court, and later to the 8th District Court of Appeals. Her numerous achievements include founding the Stay in School and Back to School Project and co-founding Parent Power Cleveland. Her daughter, Constance Trumbo Haqq said Judge Harper always emphasized the need for all people to be aware

of their basic human rights.
“Defending those rights has been our mother’s passion,” she said. “She has been an uncontested warrior for justice for Black people and especially for women and children.”

For information on VOA’s Supportive Services for Veterans and Families, visit www.voahin.org/ssvf

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REMEMBERING THE FORGOTTEN



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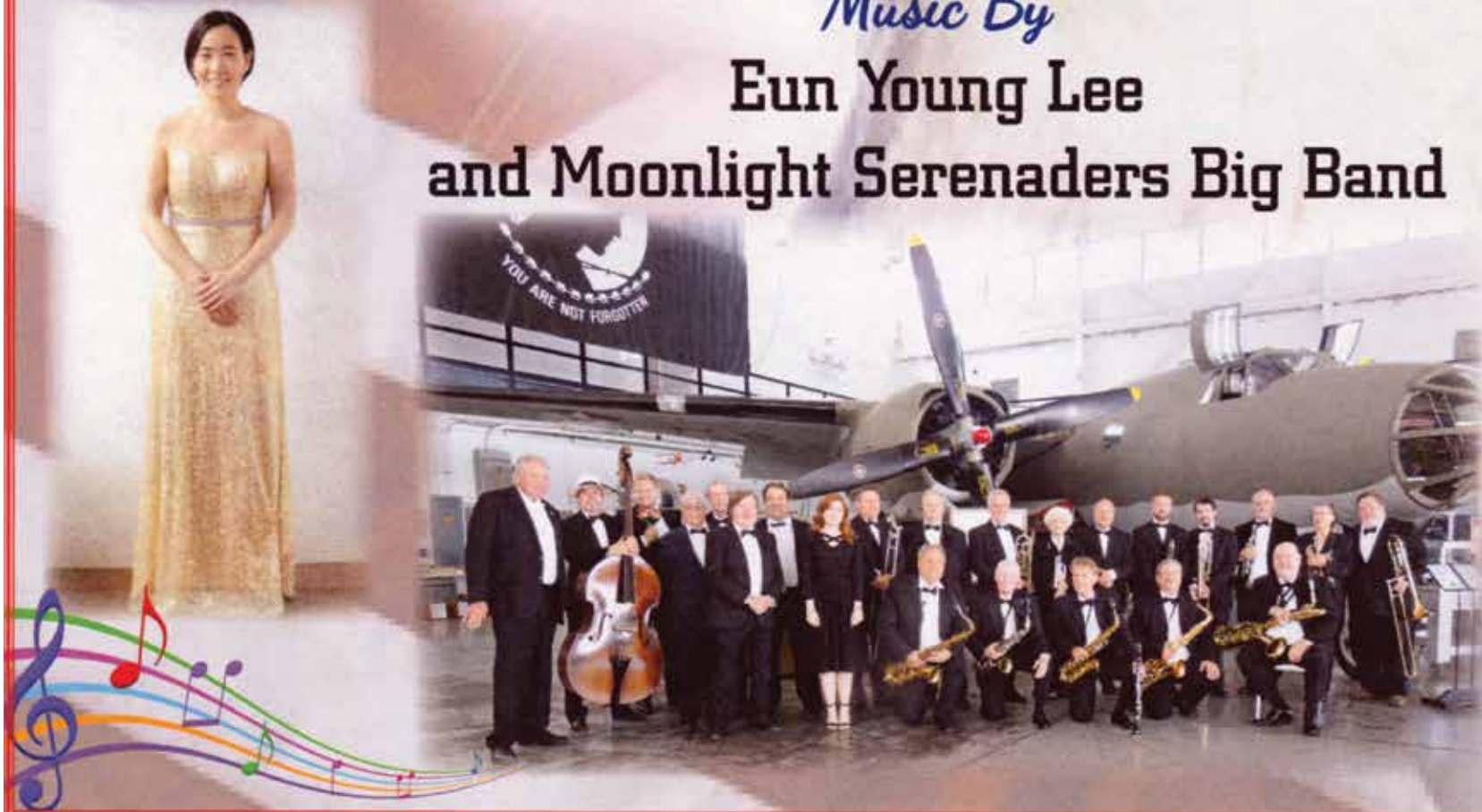
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Ralph Ware (216) 509-2785 | ralph@warehouseind.com

Terry Whalen (216) 224-1408 | terrywhalen680@gmail.com

LCCC among first in Ohio to receive state Purple Star Award for commitment to veterans

Lorain County Community College today was among the first colleges in the state to receive the Collegiate Purple Star Award from the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

The Collegiate Purple Star recognizes public and independent colleges and universities in Ohio that are supportive and inclusive of military-connected students. This is the first recognition program of its type for colleges and universities in the United States.

Today's announcement by Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor Randy Gardner included a list of 33 colleges and universities who are part of the inaugural class of the Collegiate Purple Star.

"At Lorain County Community College, we prioritize supporting veterans and military-connected students and work to remove barriers as they advance their education," LCCC President Marcia J. Ballinger, Ph.D., said. "Being

named a Purple Star college recognizes LCCC's dedication to helping veterans thrive on our campus."

"Congratulations to the 33 schools chosen as the first Collegiate Purple Star campuses. Thank you for being examples of Ohio's proud tradition of honoring our service men and women," said Gov. Mike DeWine. "With these Collegiate Purple Star Award designations, service members, veterans and military-connected students are able to pursue higher education knowing that their school has the necessary support system and guidance to help them find their next steps."

The LCCC Veterans and Military Services Center serves as a one-stop shop for veterans on campus—supporting veteran students at every stage of their academic journey and beyond. Acting as Veterans Administration liaison, the center assists students in utilizing GI Bill and vocational rehabilitations

benefits. The center also works closely with the Prior Learning Assessment team to ensure veterans receive credit for their military experiences.

"LCCC is committed to helping its veterans and service members navigate the path to their academic and career goals. The College is more than deserving of this Collegiate Purple Star designation," Chancellor Randy Gardner said.

To help veterans engage in campus life, LCCC offers a Veterans Club and a dedicated veterans' lounge on campus. Additionally, LCCC has a chapter of the LCCC Salute Veterans National Honor Society, which honors veteran students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Veronica Payne, of North Ridgeville, served four years in the Navy before she transitioned to civilian life to focus on her children. During her service, she worked in naval kitchens, keeping sailors fed as they traveled the world. After

her service, she came to LCCC to further develop her love for cooking. LCCC's office for Veterans and Military Services Center was a constant support system while navigating the enrollment process and beyond.

Payne earned an associate degree in culinary arts in May. She plans to continue her education to study the business side of culinary arts, and hopes to work at a bakery or restaurant.

With the support of LCCC, she said she is reaching her goals.

"I'm proud of how far I've come," she said. "The pandemic did not slow me down; three children have not slowed down. I'm finally at the finish line, and I'm proud of myself."

Learn more about veterans services at LCCC at www.lorainccc.edu/veterans.

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FLAG DAY 2022

By Don Stark

So, we at the DD214 Chronicle didn't have a writer available on short notice for a request for coverage from the Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County for a fabulous event at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, FLAG DAY 2022. Therefore I assigned myself to the task, and so very glad that I did.

The two hundred forty-fifth anniversary celebration included the U.S. Army's 247th Birthday, a naturalization ceremony for 25 brand new American Citizens, and future soldier enlistments for four excited young Americans. Something worth expressing is that the Naturalization Ceremony included new Americans reciting the oath from Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Jamaica, Jordan, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, Syria, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

Talk about an example of pride in the USA, you couldn't avoid being moved by the wonderful pomp and circumstance. Hosted by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the weather was perfect, the speeches inspiring, and the renditions of the National Anthem, America the Beautiful and God Bless America sung a cappella by Tampa Lann-Murphy were thrilling.

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Transitional Housing for Women Veterans & Children



Honor Home – Women Veterans Campus Family & Community Services Inc., Women Veterans

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Contact Sarah Shaheen, Program Manager at sshaheen@fcsserves.org or 330-676-3070 for eligibility and entry process, located in Canton.





Photo courtesy of Joseph Sepesy

Joseph Sepesy, center, was a young helicopter pilot during the war in Vietnam who flew 2,200 hours of combat flight time during his three tours. He is shown here shortly after his 20th birthday.



Photo courtesy of Joseph Sepesy

Joseph Sepesy dances with his wife, Linda, whom he met on the dance floor. She described him as a “wonderful dancer in spite of his physical challenges” resulting from a helicopter crash during the war in Vietnam.

A soldier’s recovery, from battlefield to ballroom

By Brian Albrecht

Joseph Sepesy still battles his “demon dreams.” Only now, backed by a ballroom beat.

The dreams result from lingering memories of his war in Vietnam. Montages of horror and fantasy. Like the blood that splattered him from a headless corpse. The death of an 11-year-old Vietnamese girl. Shadowy figures of Viet Cong soldiers with burning red eyes creeping to his bed.

But this former helicopter pilot who served three tours in Vietnam has a weapon in his fight with the past.

Dancing. Specifically ballroom dancing. This Kent resident says it has eased both the mental toll of the war and the physical damage resulting from a combat helicopter crash.

That struggle and recovery is detailed in two books that Sepesy, 70, has written, “Once We Flew” (volumes one and two). The title comes from a poem he wrote after the war, including the stanza: “Once we flew, a machine and I, strangely allied by death. Oh, daring, insane joy!”

His path from the battlefield to the ballroom started when he was a child in Youngstown, dreaming of flying like Peter Pan and transfixed by his first sight of a helicopter passing overhead.

He grew up listening to the music

of World War II, Glenn Miller and the like, in a family steeped in military service. His father, a Marine, serviced Corsair fighters on Guadalcanal, his grandfather served in World War I, an uncle survived an attack on his aircraft carrier, and another uncle was an Army paratrooper.

Sepesy enlisted in the Army after high school in 1968. He wanted to be a pilot but the Navy and Air Force required a college degree. The Army would accept a high school degree for warrant officer chopper pilots.

He was ambivalent about the war raging in Vietnam. Sepesy recalled that his attitude was, “Let’s go, let’s fly, we’re going to kick some ass. I was 19 and stupid. I thought I was going to live forever.”

It didn’t take long for Sepesy to discover the brutality of war, the depths of its horror, and “things one should never have to see,” he said.

Flying his first tour with the 1st Cavalry Division, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, Sepesy said his primary missions included command and control, logistics, and combat assaults. He also ferried the wounded and dead.

An enemy weapon that chopper pilots particularly feared was the .51-caliber anti-aircraft gun. “It’ll

take your head off, or split you in half,” Sepesy said.

On one mission a fusillade of .51 fire, some 60 rounds, tore through an open door on one side of his aircraft, and passed through an open door on the other side without touching anyone or anything. “I should be dead,” Sepesy said. “Really dead.”

His luck continued when his helicopter was shot down during one take-off. Sepesy survived the crash with some pain and numbness in his lower back. He didn’t report the injury, however, fearing he’d be grounded. That decision would have telling consequences after the war.

Sepesy said that eventually, after a progression of missions seeing battered and bloody soldiers, mangled and charred aircraft he assumed a grim, fatalistic warrior’s ethos, but became a self-described emotional ennuich.

His life’s soundtrack was rock music of the ‘60s and 70s. Missions flown to an accompanying beat of “Spirit in the Sky” and Steppenwolf.

There were good times. “The camaraderie. The ‘Band of Brothers’ mystique,” Sepesy said. “Leading a flight of six to eight Hueys [helicopters] and the missions were clicking. Just clicking.”

And there were bad times. One of

the worst happened when Sepesy was flying over a convoy of civilians and one of his crew members started dropping flare fuses out the door, hitting a Vietnamese girl in the head, killing her. Sepesy was told by a superior not to talk about the incident, but when questioned by investigators, he told the truth. The crewman who dropped the fuses was grounded, yet the incident haunted Sepesy. “That was probably my worst day ever as a pilot,” he said.

Sepesy served three tours during the war, with 2,200 hours of combat flight time. “I found something I was good at, and I wanted to keep doing it,” he recalled. “I had convinced myself they [the enemy] weren’t going to get me.”

He had survived a conflict that killed 2,202 helicopter pilots. But, as he later wrote, he had sunk into a deep emotional abyss where all his feelings had been buried.

After the war, Sepesy flew helicopters for off-shore oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, then went to Youngstown State University, earning a degree in education, and spent the next 30 years teaching in the Youngstown city schools.

They were also years when the war repeatedly resurfaced in the form of demon dreams, intense reactions to triggers such as sudden

Continued on next page

FLAGS Continued from page 21



Photo courtesy of Joseph Sepesy
Photo courtesy of Joseph Sepesy

Joseph Sepesy always wanted to fly and wasn't particularly concerned about going to Vietnam as an Army helicopter pilot. He recalled that his attitude back then was "Let's go, let's fly, we're going to kick some ass."



Photo courtesy of Joseph Sepesy

Joseph Sepesy, shown in the aircraft commander's position, flew with Bravo Co., 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, during his first tour in Vietnam in 1970. He described the service as a "legendary but routine job."



Photo courtesy of Joseph Sepesy

Joseph Sepesy poses with a vintage M3 submachine gun during his service as a helicopter pilot during the war in Vietnam. He said he served three tours because "I found something I was good at, and I wanted to keep doing it, and I convinced myself that they [the enemy] weren't going to get me."



U.S. Army photo

The cover photo of Joseph Sepesy's books, "Once We Flew" (volumes one and two), detailing his experiences as an Army helicopter pilot during the war in Vietnam, and his struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder after the war.



Photo courtesy of Joseph Sepesy

Joseph Sepesy, of Kent, flew three tours as an Army helicopter pilot during the war in Vietnam and has written two books about his experiences and subsequent battle with post-traumatic stress disorder that includes a surprising ally: ballroom dancing.

noises, an extreme sensitivity to injustice (which he attributed to the Vietnamese girl's death), anger, depression, guilt, a divorce, and eight operations on his back, neck and shoulders resulting from his old crash injury, putting him in leg braces. At one point he didn't care if he lived or died.

Sepesy said he didn't know he had severe post-traumatic stress disorder until 2006 when he picked up a pamphlet about PTSD and discovered that it seemed to written directly to him.

He started participating in counseling, and at one point was directed to set three goals for improving his life. Sepesy chose writing a memoir of Vietnam, taking up the guitar that he hadn't played since he was a kid, and ballroom dancing.

His parents were ardent ballroom dancers, he loved music, and it seemed like it might be a good fit.

Once he started, "I was hooked.

It was where I was supposed to be," Sepesy said. "You deal with PTSD by improving the quality of your life, and I was out in public, not sitting in front of a TV feeling sorry for myself."

Writing his memoir helped him understand and better cope with the PTSD triggers in his life, and ballroom dancing has been totally transformative, mentally and physically, according to Sepesy, who once noted that he can dance better than he walks.

He also met Linda Deitrick-Rios on the dance floor, and they wed in 2019. She said she was struck by his "outgoing personality, sense of humor, open heart, and his ability to dance so well in spite of wearing leg braces.

"Just as he had worked very hard to become a helicopter pilot and leader during his time in the Army, he applied that same determination and persistence on the dance floor,"

she added.

Plus, it helped with her husband's outlook on life. "When you're dancing, it's almost impossible to be unhappy," she said.

Sepesy recently experienced what some might regard as the ultimate PTSD trigger: Flying in a Vietnam-era Huey at a reunion of veterans. "I was nervous, then I calmed down, and everything came back to me," he said.

Vietnam represents what Sepesy described as "a military victory and a political defeat." For him, it's now "a mixed bag of emotions and thoughts."

He noted, "it was a defining moment of my life . . . a proving ground for myself. I don't know if it's courage or bravery, but you do what you have to do. Someone shooting at you just makes it more interesting."

Sepesy said his PTSD is not cured, but he's learned to live with

it, and continues in counseling.

"The demon dreams will never go away, but they're less frequent," he noted.

His advice to fellow vets with similar conditions is to take advantage of Veterans Administration PTSD programs. "You owe it to yourself and to your family to get it checked out," said Sepesy, who always carries a challenge coin inscribed with with motto: "PTSD is not who you are but what happened to you."

For the future, Sepesy plans to continue writing books, not about himself, but perhaps something dealing with time travel.

As for now, he smiled and glanced at the artwork decorating his house, depicting vintage ballroom music and movie posters of glam-hoofing in tuxedos and gowns.

What's next? "We dance tonight!" Sepesy beamed.

Cue the tango.



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Adding to Visitors Log



Taking A Chance

By Barb Smith

My husband Bob, a Navy veteran, and I enjoy watching historic films.

One of our favorite “wartime” films is *Taking Chance*, where not one weapon is fired. Instead, this poignant story told by USMC Lt Col Strobl, played by Kevin Bacon, escorts the remains of fallen marine Chance Phelps, (killed by enemy fire in Iraq, on April 9, 2004,) from Dover Air Force Base to his hometown of Dubois, Wyoming. Strobl is struck by the respect given to Chance by civilians young and old, as his flag-draped casket is loaded and unloaded on airplanes throughout the cross-country journey.

Never did we think that we would actually have the opportunity to visit Chance’s gravesite, not until that is, we decided to attend the Grand Opening of the world’s largest privately-owned collection of military vehicles, a museum located just miles outside Dubois amongst the pronghorns, deer and elk, and where eagles fly. Dan Starks, the owner of the National Museum of Military Vehicles was expecting 5, 000. After our three-day ride to Wyoming, we checked in Thursday, afternoon, May 26, at the Tomahawk Motor Lodge in the town of Riverton, Wyoming, for our three-night stay. Wethen drove the scenic route to Dubois, population, 911. We drove slowly through the quaint town of bars, small shops, and motels, watching as a cowgirl moseyed across the downtown intersection on her white steed.

Straight out of the film, we drove up the hill to the cemetery. We exited the car. Four deer stood sentry, seemingly taking over for USMC Lt Col Strobl, who saw to it that Chance made it home safely. We approached the red granite monument, decorated with silk flowers, tribute rocks, commemorative coins, deer antlers, a Budweiser can, and American flags on sticks. Resting against the left side of the monument, was a green

ammo box with “Visitors Log” on the lid. I lifted the metal latch, pulled back the lid, exposing the treasure chest of tokens, notes, and a Ziploc bag containing a spiral bound notebook, folded in half. I removed the notebook and opened the cover.

7/14/17-Thanks to everyone for taking the time to share your thoughts and prayers for our boy.”

Respectfully, Chance’s mother, Gretch Mack.”

Hers is the first entry: Guest Log May, 2017 Memorial Day Weekend “Love you, son, miss you till we see you again... Mom.” I thumbed through many pages of tributes, and began my entry, as, Thursday, May 26, 2022.

I belted out the Star Spangled Banner as Bob held the USMC Flag. Behind the monument was Chance’s gravestone. Bob saluted as I sang the Navy hymn, *Eternal Father* including the verse honoring marines. Bob pulled the grass from the edges of Chance’s grave marker, wanting it to look shipshape.

Before the hour-long trip back to Riverton we stopped in at Dubois VFW Post 10056, like the scene from *Taking Chance*, when Col. Strobl meets the local veterans the night before Chance’s funeral. We walked in, signed the guest book, nodded to the young guys as we passed the pool table and were soon heckled by the guys at the bar, making us feel right at home! Mikee the bartender, was equally as friendly. I asked her about Chance. She nodded to the double doors. I walked into the meeting room. There I saw many tributes to Chance, signs, plaques, and paintings. “The portrait of Chance and the western themed paintings were done by Chance’s Dad, John Phelps, a US Navy Vietnam veteran, who lives nearby, said Bruce, a fellow marine.” He invited us to ‘come back tomorrow at 6”, for the chicken parmesan dinner. On Friday, during our ride from Riverton to Dubois, I

read to Bob the actual words of Col. Strobl’s recollections of escorting Chance home, the inspiration for the documentary, *Taking Chance*. We felt that we were reliving the scene in the film, when the hearse is taking Chance on the last portion of his trip home, with Strobl following behind in a rental, and a convoy following Strobl along the mountainous, desolate road. Bob was driving the same road the hearse had travelled.

Upon arrival to the museum, I purchased gifts, T shirts, a hoody and four ammo boxes, decorated with military themes. We entered the Chance Phelps theater to view the eleven-minute intro-to-the-museum film then, studied the images of Chance on the theater walls. We spent the entire day touring the 140,000 square foot incredible military museum, then drove back up to pay homage to Chance before returning to the VFW for dinner. The adult deer were walking under the trees to join their fawn bedded down, watching us as we parked on the gravel road, 100 ft below Chance’s gravesite. I read aloud Strobl’s words: “Chance Phelps was wearing his St. Christopher medal when he was killed on Good Friday. Eight days later, I handed the medal to his mother. I watched them carry him the final fifteen yards. I felt as long as he was still moving, he was somehow still alive. When they put him down in his grave, he’d stopped moving. I didn’t know Chance Phelps before he died. But today, I miss him.” “We miss you, too, Chance!”

The one-mile drive below cemetery hill brought us back to the VFW, where we rejoined our new friends at the bar, still seated in the same seats. In the large meeting room, we joined veterans and families for a tasty meal and comradery. Seated with us were the VFW state commander Jim Rishand

Commander Seth Wood of Dubois VFW.

I presented Commander Wood with a framed picture of our Amherst Veterans Mural, in Amherst, Ohio. He said he would hang it with the trio of western themed paintings by John Phelps.

Just then, we met John Phelps, tall, muscular and mustachioed, enjoying the dinner amongst friends. I presented him with a mug of our Amherst Veterans Mural. He stood with a buddy and Bob in front of Chance’s tribute wall as I sang the Navy and Marines verses of *Eternal Father*. Bob remembers the strong grip he had on Bob’s hand throughout the song.

Saturday, Grand Opening Day of the NMMV. I greeted John Phelps, and met Chance’s mother, “Gretch.” Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon presented each a governor’s Challenge Coin, prior to Dan Starks, owner of the 100-million dollarmuseum welcoming the 3000 visitors under the Veterans Pavilion, despite the downpour. On our drive back home to Ohio, I discovered more about John Phelps, artist, sculptor, donor of sculptures, such as “No Man Left Behind,” at Camp Pendleton, Camp LeJeune, and National Museum of the Marine Corps.

For more information, log on to: YouTube-2:11-Taking Chance: Charity Event (HBO)- View archival footage of young Chance, cowboy, horseback rider, water skier, football player, son, brother. Chance’s dad, John, laments, “These kids join the Marine Corps to fight for the United States, but they die for their friends next to them.”
<https://www.nmmv.org>
<https://johnphelps.com>
<https://vva.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/Veterans.Mural>

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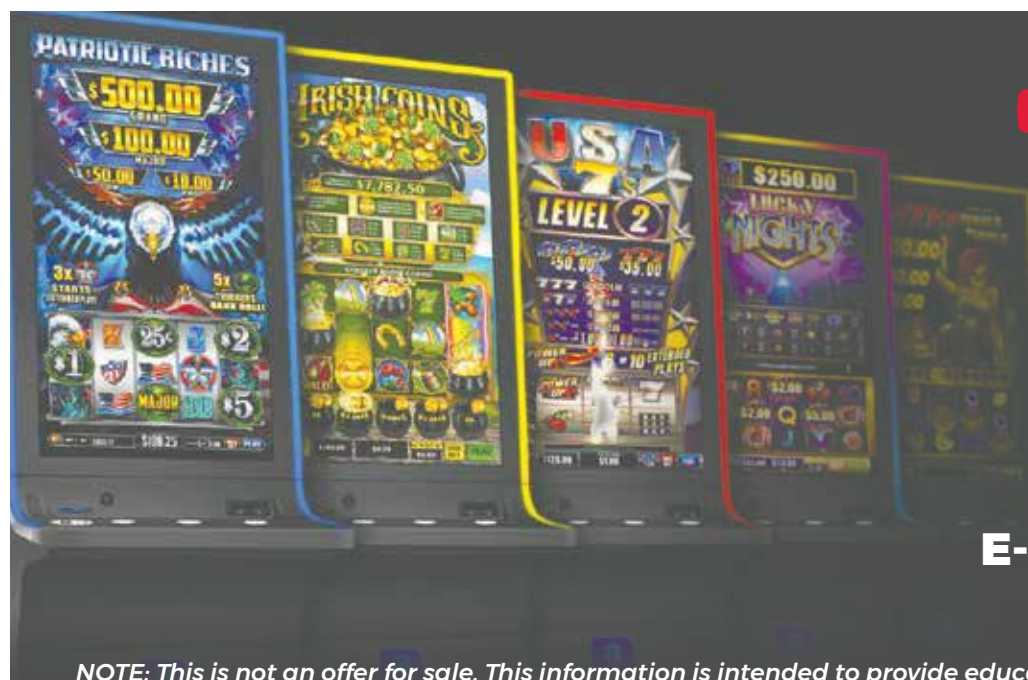
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