



From Reveille to Résumé

Your Next Mission is A Career in Manufacturing

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"Bobcat One, this is Bobcat Three. We have jobs in Northeast Ohio."

Currently in northeast Ohio, the unemployment rate is 8.1 percent. The unemployment rate for young veterans is 27 percent – which is simply unacceptable.

Even with high unemployment rates, so many jobs in manufacturing still remain unfilled — an estimated 200,000 over the next couple years. These unfilled jobs typically require technical skills and competencies not in abundance in the general unemployed population, but skills believed to be within local veterans.

As part of the latest efforts to promote employment for former service members, the Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network (MAGNET) launched a program to match returning veterans with unfilled manufacturing jobs in Ohio, and provide additional training where needed. Cuyahoga Community College is an important partner because the college can quickly create programs to fine-tune skills and make vets attractive to manufacturers. MAGNET has partnered with the Veterans' Services group of the Ohio Department of Job

& Family Services (ODJFS) on the Veterans Program which is funded by an award from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration. Among the open skilled jobs at manufacturers in the region are CNC machinists, welding, inspection/quality technicians, electrical and mechanical maintenance. Manufacturing is still very vital for the prosperity of individuals and the state, *skilled veterans are encouraged to send their résumés and meet with local ODJFS Veteran representatives.*

Mone' Givner, Region 2 Veterans

Program Manager of the Office of Workforce Development of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services states, "Our mission is to provide policies and procedures regarding the veterans programs and services necessary for Ohio to implement the Jobs for Veterans Act. Our goal is to alleviate unemployment and underemployment for veterans and other eligible persons. We place maximum emphasis in meeting the employment needs of veterans who are economically and educationally disadvantaged."

ODJFS Veterans Services works to ensure that veterans are treated with courtesy and respect at all ODJFS affiliated offices and that veterans are given priority for referrals to job openings and other services. ODJFS Veterans Representatives provide intensive services and outreach to veterans who are unable to obtain employment through regular One-Stop Core Services and provide business outreach services and education on veteran's issues."

This partnership of community colleges, universities, businesses, and veterans will begin to fill the gap in the talent pipeline. We believe our investment in service members shouldn't end when you return home- we have employers in Northeast Ohio who are particularly ready to hire Veterans.

To meet with a representative and become part of the Veterans program, please contact Clayton Cozy at 216-898-8357 or email your resume to clayton.cozy@jfs.ohio.gov



CHRONICLE

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With Linda Woodard on Our Side, We're Almost There

One of the pleasures of putting this edition together was meeting and listening to Linda Woodard at Tri-C. We met to talk about CCC's contributions to MAGNET's new program to place veterans in manufacturing jobs here.

Woodard sees the big picture and, at the same time, knows how vital details are. I got the feeling that once she learns a topic, she never forgets it. She is more than enthused about the project — she's determined that it will make a difference in the lives of veterans and the health of the manufacturing industry.

She is as organized as a computer chip, as professional as the best headwaiter, as friendly as your favorite neighbor, and — not to be flippant, but — as committed as any squirrel eyeing a bird feeder. She brings her considerable edu-

cation and experience to the table; it's impossible not to be drawn to her vision.

Another pleasure was learning more about the efforts being made by MAGNET, CCC, Lorain County Community College, Kent State University, Hard Hatted Women, and RTA.

Allow me to lift my coffee cup and offer a toast to the men and women who work to provide veterans additional benefits: Knowledge and hope.

"Northeast Ohio is a great place to be a veteran and thanks to your efforts, those veterans will make their homes here."

Stolen Valor Update

Is lying about battle decorations a violation of law? Or does the law



violate provisions of free speech? The Supreme Court is going to decide whether the Stolen Valor Act of 2006 stands up to Constitutional rigor.

When Xavier Alvarez was running for a minor office in 2007, he described himself as a former Marine who had won the Medal of Honor. Bad move. Federal law, passed three years earlier, called for liars to be sent to jail for up to one year.

Alvarez pleaded guilty but with an interesting proviso: That he be allowed to contest the law on Constitutional grounds. An appeals court agreed with him; lying isn't a crime but a sort of a 'no harm, no foul.' Now the matter is in the hands of the highest court, where veterans are more rare than hen's teeth.

We'll keep you posted.

Tina Mathis, Hero

Every year, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* takes time to honor community heroes. If Ohio's largest newspaper didn't honor them, how would we know about them?

It turns out these heroes are happy being anonymous and no thanks are necessary. Isn't that the way it is with the men and women who give most selflessly?

Among the heroes honored at a cocktail reception at the newspaper was our columnist, Tina Mathis, who writes exclusively for DD 214 Chronicle. Her story, written by Brian Albrecht, was published on Christmas Day.

Mathis' passion is matching the aging, unidentified bones of our soldiers with descendants or relatives. It's a thankless job, though Tina doesn't do it for thanks. She does it because she believes, in her heart of hearts, "We sent them over. Let's bring them home."

Southern Cross Résumé Service

A Veteran Owned Business

You Need a Professional Résumé if:

- ✓ You want to change your job or career;
- ✓ You're eager to return to the job market;
- ✓ You haven't updated your résumé in five years or more;
- ✓ Graduation is on the horizon and you'll be competing in the job market.

At Southern Cross, it begins with a detailed interview. We want to know your strengths, your accomplishments, and your plans for the future. When we finish, you'll have the best résumé, a cover letter, a reference page, fax cover sheet, and all files on a CD. \$175.

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★ Job Training & Employment Help ★ Outpatient Services ★
Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program
Homeless Veteran Services

For more information visit www.voago.org.

Rolling Thunder Doesn't Forget; Neither Should We

by Tina Mathis

The January meeting opened in the customary fashion, the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the nation's prisoners of war and missing in action. Jim Smith, president of Rolling Thunder, Ohio Chapter 2, then asked the members to keep Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl and Army Staff Sergeant Ahmed Altaie in their hearts. Bergdahl and Altaie are currently classified as captured.

Bergdahl, a member of the 1st Battalion of the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment was stationed in Afghanistan. Whether he fell behind while on routine patrol or as the Taliban claimed, the drunken soldier was captured coming out of his garrison, details regarding the June 30, 2009 disappearance continue to

be surrounded by speculation and rumors. For Robert and Jani Bergdahl, the details are far less important than bringing their only son home alive. Throughout their two and a half year ordeal and their son's failed escape attempt, the Hailey, Idaho parents remain hopeful.

Staff Sergeant Ahmed K. Altaie, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, has been unaccounted for since October 23, 2006 in Iraq. Altaie was declared missing-captured on December 11, 2006. He joined the Army Reserve in December 2004 and was deployed to Iraq in November 2005. He was assigned



to the Provincial Reconstruction Team Baghdad as a translator. The Iraq-born U. S. soldier was reportedly out of uniform

when he left the base to visit his Iraqi wife and her family in central Baghdad. Witnesses reported masked gunmen handcuffed and abducted 41-year old Altaie.

Demands for the release of prisoners as well as financial compensation have been received in both cases; however, the United States does not negotiate. According to the Defense Prisoner of War Missing Personnel Office, "the policy of the United States to never offer re-

muneration for the return of captured personnel serves as a deterrent to hostage-takers and is one of the keys to protecting our service members." Their mission is to secure the release of prisoners using diplomatic and military means.

Jim Smith sent several letters on behalf of Ohio Chapter 2, including one to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, urging the negotiation and safe return of our current prisoners of war.

Rolling Thunder is indefatigable in its efforts to reignite the meaning of "no man left behind." Contact your local elected officials and ask what steps they are taking to secure the release of Bergdahl and Altaie. It is time to exercise our diplomatic and military means.

Another Way to Say Thank You to Our Veterans: Money

by John Cook

Veterans Bonus Program Director Ohio Department of Veterans Services

YOUR MONEY

On November 3, 2009 Ohio voters overwhelmingly approved Issue 1, a Constitutional Amendment that authorized the sale of up to \$200 million in bonds to finance a bonus program for Veterans who served during the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. Over 50,000 applicants have received greater than \$40 million dollars since our program launched on August 24, 2009.

Veterans and active duty service members who were Ohio residents at the start of active duty and are current residents of Ohio are eligible for the bonus. Veterans who served in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan or Iraq will receive \$100 for each month of their service up to \$1000. Veterans who served in other locations during these conflicts will receive \$50 for each month of service up to \$500. Certain survivors of Veterans killed, missing in action or taken prisoner



Rick Hatcher, standing, Superintendent of Ohio Veteran Homes in Sandusky and Georgetown, and John Cook

of war may receive \$5000.

Due to the popularity of the program, thousands of applications were received during the first few weeks of the program. Although it took us some time to work through the initial surge, we are currently processing claims in a few weeks once we have received all required documents.

Veterans and service members are encouraged to visit [### Veterans Bonus Program Eligibility Requirements](http://www.ohio-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

- The Veteran or active duty member must have been an Ohio resident at the start of active duty and is a current resident of Ohio.
- Applicant has not received a bonus from another state.
- Veterans served in or during:
Persian Gulf between 8/2/90 - 3/3/91
Afghanistan between 10/7/01 and a date to be determined
Iraq between 3/19/03 and a date to be determined
- Veterans must have served under honorable conditions.

veteransbonus.ohio.gov to apply or learn more about the program. You may call 1-877 OhioVet (644-6838) Monday through Friday from 0900 to 1700 hours to speak to one of our representatives.

Each application is screened in detail by our largely veteran staff to ensure eligibility. Additionally, status updates are made via e-mail or US mail according to their preference. Applicants may return to the

website to check on status of claim by entering claim number.

Outreach efforts by Bonus staff include radio spots, news releases, attendance at community programs, and Yellow Ribbon events.

Issue 1 continued a longstanding Ohio tradition of supporting our Veterans from World War I through Vietnam. Ohio voters also approved bonuses for Veterans of these conflicts, however, those bonuses are now closed.

Lorain County Community College Connects Veterans to Education

Whether their service was stateside or overseas, Lorain County Community College is connecting veterans with the education they're looking for.

In a one-stop shop environment at LCCC, busy veterans can enroll, utilize their financial aid benefits and visit with a Veteran's Certifying Official.

"If it wasn't for LCCC's veterans' services staff, I wouldn't have a degree coming up," said Patrick First, 35, a veteran of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force Reserve. First earned an associate's degree in law enforcement in December 2010 and is working on an associate's degree in criminal justice at LCCC. He plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in human services.

Stephanie Sutton, LCCC Dean of Enrollment and Financial Services, said the college puts a great deal of importance on serving veterans. Since opening its doors in 1963, LCCC has



2012 Career Fair

Tuesday, April 17 at John A. Spitzer Conference Center at Lorain County Community College:

Get your ambition on and fine tune your résumé – northeast Ohio companies will be there in force and they're not leaving until they find the talent they need.

It's only four hours, noon to 4; be there or be square. LCCC is at 1005 North Abbe Road, Elyria.

served about 5,000 veterans, most of who have served in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We have been committed to assisting our veterans in reaching their educational goals and will continue to do all we can to make their transitions to being a student as smooth as possible," Sutton said.

LCCC has been named a "Military Friendly School" two years in a row by "G.I. Jobs" magazine.

First served in the Navy from 1995-

1999, during which time he was stationed on a carrier in the Persian Gulf for Operation Southern Watch as an AE3 (E-4) petty officer. He enlisted in the Air Force Reserve from 2004-2008, where he was stationed at the Youngstown Air Reserve station as a SrA (E-4) airman. He performed aircraft repair during both enlistments.

Between his enlistments, First worked a series of jobs in machinery service and repair, and customer service. While working in a service po-

sition, he received some eye-opening advice from his boss.

"He told me that I wouldn't get any further in my career without a degree," First recalled. "That job eventually dissolved and I enrolled at LCCC soon after."

In addition to financial aid services, LCCC offers veterans tuition forgiveness when military personnel are called to active duty; textbook buy back services before they leave for deployment; counseling services; and designated sections of student development classes for veterans only. LCCC also has started a veteran's club with Bruce Weigl, LCCC distinguished faculty member and a Vietnam veteran, as its adviser.

For more information on services for Veterans at LCCC, call 440-366-7685, visit www.lorainccc.edu/veterans, or email veterans@lorainccc.edu.

It's Your Future. Get Started Now!

Veterans Service Center

at Lorain County Community College

The Student Veterans Services office at LCCC assists all veterans, guardsmen, reservists and their spouses with making the transition to a successful educational career. You've done your duty, now let us help you prepare for your future.

LCCC's Veterans Service Center is a one-stop shop where you can:

- Learn how to maximize your veteran's benefits
- Learn about other scholarships available
- Talk with a Veterans Certifying Official
- Meet with a Counselor
- Explore all that LCCC has to offer



"LCCC has a lot of opportunities for veterans." - Angela Johnson. U.S. Army, 1995-2006. Pursuing Social Work degree through LCCC's University Partnership.



Call LCCC's Veterans Service Center at 440-366-7685

or visit www.lorainccc.edu/veterans

or email our office at veterans@lorainccc.edu.



Connecting Female Veterans to Non-Traditional Civilian Careers

by Kathleen Wildman, Hard Hatted Women

With the close of the war in Iraq, and the drawdown of troops in Afghanistan, a great number of servicemen and women are returning home, only to be confronted by an economy that is still struggling. Among veterans ages 18-34, the unemployment rate in October 2011 was nothing short of shocking.

Hard Hatted Women wants to change that. Hard Hatted Women (HHW), a statewide nonprofit that accelerates women's advancement in high-growth careers, sees opportunity for female vets in "non-traditional" occupations — those in which women comprise less than 25% of the workforce. These careers, in energy, construction, and skilled manufacturing, tend to offer higher wages and more opportunity for advancement than careers more typical for women. Chrissa

France, President of HHW's Board of Directors, says, "Female veterans are great candidates for nontraditional careers. Like all veterans, they tend to be hard-working and disciplined, experienced in teamwork, and are able to cope with high-pressure situations."

"These careers, in energy, construction, and skilled manufacturing, tend to offer higher wages and more opportunity for advancement than careers more typical for women."

HHW provides orientations across the region at local libraries, community colleges, and other local organizations. The orientations are one hour and provide an overview to attendees of the careers available in a variety of industries.

One such example is Gabrielle of

Warrensville Heights. Gabrielle did electrical work in the armed services. Since being discharged she has been working at a movie theater, but would like to put what she learned while serving to use in a new career. She came to one of Hard Hatted Women's orien-

tations to trade and technical careers and is applying for an apprenticeship program with the electricians.

In addition to the monthly introductory Orientations like the one Gabrielle attended, HHW also offers its WISE (Women In Sustainable Employment) Pathways program. This

40-hour career exploration and readiness workshop features panel presentations by employers, training providers, and role model speakers in growing, high-wage fields. WISE Pathways also helps women acquire core skills in communication, conflict resolution, and dealing with sexual harassment. Site visits and hands-on projects give women concrete experience on which to base career decisions. HHW is offering the program in Cuyahoga, Trumbull, and Lorain counties in partnership with Cuyahoga Community College, Eastern Gateway Community College, and Lorain County Community College.

If you are interested in pursuing a nontraditional career or volunteering with Hard Hatted Women, you can contact them toll-free at 1-877-353-1114 or info@hardhattedwomen.org.

Veteran Manufacturing Job Fair

Tuesday, March 6th, 2012
11:30a - 2:30p
The Job Center
1040 E Tallmadge Avenue
Akron, OH 44310

Tuesday, March 13th, 2012
11:30a - 2:30p
The Employment Source
822 30th Street NW
Canton, OH 44709

Ohio Department of
Job and Family Services

MAGNET
Manufacturing Advocacy & Growth Network



Open to Veterans and their family

Employment Opportunities

On-Site Applications and Potential interviews

Ample Parking

For more information call the Veteran Employment Representatives at:

Stark: 330-491-2639/2606.

Tuscarawas: 330-602-2863

Summit: 330-630-3065/3059/4632

Wayne: 330-264-7761

A Veteran Student at Baldwin-Wallace College

by Kimberly Hazelgrove

Returning to school full-time was intimidating. It meant a lifestyle change, quality of life adjustment and halt to a budding career. As a veteran, working professional, single mom of three (all under the age of 12) and a military widow, taking advantage of my education benefit promised by Uncle Sam would take a lot of sacrifice. To be successful, I needed a school to fit my lifestyle as much as possible

There were three criteria the school had to meet: fully evaluate all of my experience and education for credit, provide a flexible schedule of classes to fit my lifestyle, and provide support to educational, emotional and professional development. I had previously attended both community col-

leges and campuses on military bases, so I was looking for a new experience.

Baldwin-Wallace College automatically awarded credit for my military service and transferred my completed college courses from transcripts. At B-W, students have the opportunity to review professional civilian experience with faculty for academic credit after completion of the first semester. My advisor reviewed all my paperwork to help select appropriate classes within my major to get me started.



Kimberly Hazelgrove

Baldwin-Wallace College is a Yellow Ribbon School and offers great support to their veteran population. The college participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program and provides assistance to ease the financial burdens of getting started.

The veterans group on campus provides useful information, support and opportunities to network. From my experience in the military and civilian career, I know that networking is a valuable tool in any industry. The veterans share knowledge of classes,

benefits and their own personal military experiences.

As a single parent, it is challenging to juggle family obligations and school. However, this is not a choice that I have to make at B-W. The college offers a program to accommodate single parents with young children. While I don't need campus daycare or lodging, I have worked with my professors to meet my needs. My kids have attended classes and sometimes even participated.

With my life and work experience, I am not the typical B-W student. Studying and learning at B-W is an assignment I never imagined and it's a generational experience unlike any other. In the midst of my second semester, I'm glad I took the next step.



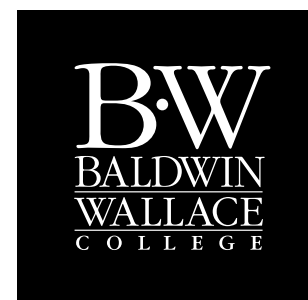
**READY TO
CONTINUE YOUR
EDUCATION?**

B-W offers a great adult learning community and all the resources of one of "America's Best Colleges."

- Choose from programs for bachelor degree completion, MBA, or a masters in education.
- Classes are offered in Berea and Beachwood. Some programs can be completed online.
- Your DD214 gives you 8 hours of college credit. Other military training and previous college credit may count toward degree requirements.
- Post 9/11 Veterans: B-W is proud to be part of the Yellow Ribbon program. Your new G.I. Bill benefits may make your B-W education **tuition free!**

Contact an admission counselor today!

Go to
www.bw.edu/military
or call 440-826-8012.



PRIORITY OF ENROLLMENT WILL BE GIVEN TO VETERANS.



Technical Skills Training Program

NO COST*

*Funding available to cover tuition, books and certification exam fees.

NETWORK SUPPORT SPECIALIST

This program is designed using a progressive career ladder framework resulting in three national industry-recognized credentials.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Currently reside in one of the following counties: Cuyahoga, Medina, Lorain, Lake, Geauga (30 days minimum)
- Long-term unemployed (27+ weeks unemployed) with special efforts to target and recruit minorities and women
- Able to train at one of the College facilities
- Pass assessments in computer literacy and in math and English (tenth grade proficiency in both)
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Willingness to participate in a five-week internship (unpaid)

Background check may be required.

E-mail joblink@tri-c.edu for more information.

www.tri-c.edu/joblink



Training funded through a Department of Labor (DOL) Employment, Training and Administration (ETA) grant.

One Great Benefit: the VA-backed Mortgage

by Leo Cantrelle

Q: What's the difference between myths associated with the Loch Ness Monster and myths associated with the VA home mortgage benefit?

A: You can stay dry dispelling VA myths. There are some myths about the benefit; let's clear them up.

The Myth: Loans cannot be used for short sale or foreclosed properties.

The Fact: Ah, baloney. Not only can you buy them, but a VA appraiser will certify the value of the property. The appraiser is going to know if you're buying a great home or a money pit.

The Myth: Surviving spouses don't qualify for VA mortgages.

The Fact: Our benefit is available to qualified surviving spouses. They can borrow up to \$417,000, and more if the VA determines the county is especially high cost. Not only that, but surviving spouses don't have to pay the VA funding fee.

The Myth: If you're overseas, you can't get it.

The Fact: It's a simple matter of giving power of attorney to your spouse

or someone else. There are a couple more details, but if you can pack a duffel bag with all you'll need, you already know how to handle details.

The Myth: All real estate agents are good VA home loan advisors.

The Fact: Not hardly. And an ignorant real estate agent can screw things up. First, the VA doesn't have any certification program for agents or companies. Real estate agents who understand the benefit have an extra tool to help homebuyers. (I wonder if the VA should offer a course to real estate agents. Or if the real estate industry should put on its own classes, and ask the VA to provide speakers.)

The Myth: The time it takes to close a VA loan is the same for an infant to grow to adolescence.

The Fact: Nonsensical. Until the lender closes the loan, the lending agency isn't making money. What we seek are lenders who specialize in VA home loans. Closing can often be done within 30 days.



Space is available for only 16 students, so apply soon!

Campus Housing Exclusively for Veterans

Kent State University's Center for Adult and Veteran Services assists military veterans in their transition to higher education. The center is now offering on-campus housing exclusively for veterans.

- VA benefits can cover tuition, room and board
- Located in the center of campus
- Kitchens are available
- A veteran student mentor lives in the community to assist others
- Benefit from the camaraderie of other veterans

Visit www.kent.edu/admissions/apply to apply to Kent State University or www.kent.edu/veterans/community.cfm to learn more.

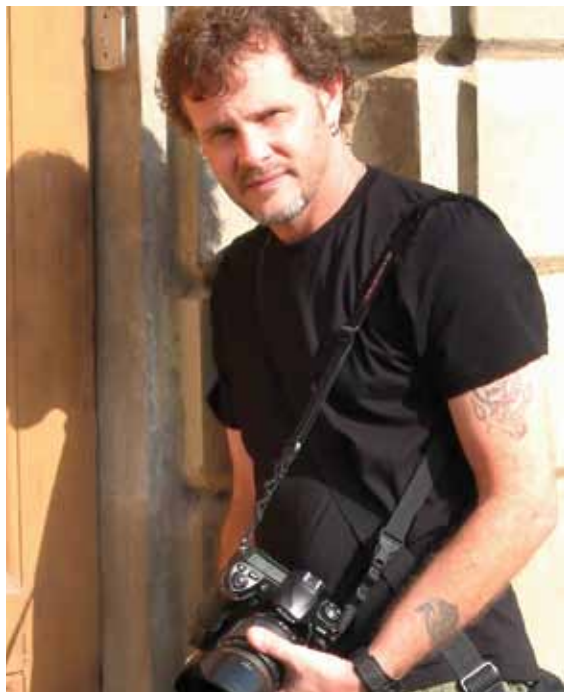

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www.kent.edu/cavs

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Thom Sivo and Hospice of the Western Reserve: Friends Forever

by Ailsa Craig



The essence of volunteerism, Thom Sivo

If you look up serendipity in any dictionary, next to the definition is a picture of Thom Sivo, smiling so broadly his teeth are easily counted.

Sivo is a veteran photographer and a member of the Community Relations team at Hospice of the Western Reserve. There is no place he would rather be and no team he would rather join.

The serendipity part goes back to 2002, when Sivo got an assignment from *Cleveland Magazine*. His subject was Jim Reeves, a patient at Hospice.

“It was that rare assignment that worried me, because I had no idea what a hospice was,” he said. He need not have worried. His first impressions of hospice would be life long. “Right away, I knew it was a special place because everyone was so nice. I was able to see how the staff worked with patients, especially Mr. Reeves and his wife, Eileen, and I learned the mission of hospice.”

Sivo had something to volunteer: His time and talent and experience as a photographer. At the same time, Hospice of the Western Reserve was designing a unique program for patients. “Peaceful & Proud” was created for veterans and begins with recognition of their service. It goes well beyond that to include emotional support for caregivers and loved ones, spiritual care with attention to remorse, and resources to help navigate veteran benefits for dependents.

Another part of “Peaceful & Proud” patient interviews. Many had never spoken of their war experiences. Sivo photographed the subjects during the interview. “It was a series of history lessons unlike anything you might learn in school. It was personal, of course, but it was often intimate, too. There are reasons we call theirs “The Greatest Generation,”

and each interview taught me why the title is perfect.”

Jane Van Bergen, Director of Communications and Public Relations, would often call Sivo, not to ask for his volunteer services, but to demand the photographer send a bill. No deal. Sivo is a Navy veteran and his volunteer service was his way of thanking “The Greatest Generation.”

After nearly a decade as a volunteer, Sivo applied for a staff position, coordinator of volun-

teers. Van Bergen called Sivo and asked why he wasn't applying for a position with Community Relations. It was to Community Relations he went.

Sivo is finishing his first year as a team member with Community Relations. Like other Hospice staff members, he arrives in the morning with a smile on his face and leaves at the end of the day knowing his contribution was valuable, personal, and made a difference.

Peaceful & Proud: Personalized Care for Veterans

Ohio is home to a large veteran population with over 29,000 expected to become seriously ill or die this year.

Their unique and often traumatic experiences shape their end-of-life preferences. We recognize their needs and give them the honor of dignity and choice.

Hospice of the Western Reserve's Peaceful & Proud Program provides:

- Comfort from pain and difficult symptoms
- Emotional support for caregivers & loved ones
- Spiritual care with attention to remorse & regret
- Recognition for service
- Opportunities to share military experiences
- Resources to help navigate benefits for dependents



For more information or to view our video, *Welcome Home*, visit hospicewr.org.

To refer someone to our program, call 800.707.8922.

Find us on:    

Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Seeks Veterans RTA Wants Your Experience, Reliability and Skills ... and RTA Wants You *Now!*

by John H. Tidyman, editor

The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority can trace its roots all the way back to 1818, when a stagecoach ran between Cleveland and Painesville. Even then, public transportation was vital.

Fast forward to 2012.

Millions of miles and hundreds of millions of passengers later, public transportation remains an irreplaceable stanchion in our economy and society.

To respond to community needs, RTA grows, adapts, and innovates. "The heart of RTA is the dedication of its employees to provide service to customers, not diesel buses or rail cars," said Joe Calabrese, CEO, General Manager and Secretary/Treasurer, RTA. "We rely on the men and women who make their careers with us to offer customers the best service. And we know excellence is a military virtue."

RTA's human resources staff is looking for career-minded men and women who have talent and experience; men and women who want professional challenge and professional rewards.

They want veterans and active members of the National Guard and Reserve.

Calabrese said, "Veterans have a wealth of training that can be adapted to our needs. Just as important, veterans understand teamwork, responsibility and the big picture."

RTA is looking for drivers, mechanics, electricians, project managers and business analysts, among many other positions. At present, RTA employs members of the National Guard as well as veterans. It's one way RTA can support employees who continue to serve their country.



Here are just a few of the positions currently open, both in hourly and salaried positions.

Mechanics: *Starting at \$19.18/hour*
Part-Time Bus Drivers (referred to as Operators at RTA): *Starting at*

It takes all kinds — and all sorts of talents — to keep RTA rolling.

\$14.50/hour

Electronic Equipment Maintainer: *Starting at \$18.72/hour*

Signal Maintainer for Rail: *Starting at \$18.72/hour*

Line Maintainer: *Starting at \$18.72/hour*

District Business Analyst: *Starting at \$44,000 annually*

Material Planner: *Starting at \$48,000 salary annually*

Project Manager, Systems Engineering: *Starting at \$64,800 annually*

RTA knows many active and former military are back home in Northeast Ohio looking for employment:

With dozens of positions open, RTA is a fantastic option. RTA is an equal opportunity/ADA employer and a drug-free workplace.

Wages and healthcare benefits are competitive and there are opportunities to advance, as well as many positions that offer flexibility needed for active military members.

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And if you want to talk to a human voice, George Fields is waiting to talk with you. His telephone number is (216) 781-4667. His e-mail is gfields@gcrta.org.

A Man, the Open Road, and a Sack Full of Sticks

by Egbert Williamson

TOBACCONIST

If April is the next month on the calendar, time to plan my annual mini-vacation. It isn't fancy; I drive the interstates south until I can put down the top on my car.

Then I slow down, trim and light a stick, and maintain the speed limit on secondary roads. I don't really have a destination, I just want to hear a soft Southern drawl, enjoy a cold PBR with my bacon and eggs in the morning, and poke around small town America.

The only real planning is what to put in my traveling humidor. Mini-vacation is a chance to sit outside and enjoy some cigars I don't regularly buy.

Here are the five I'm thinking about. I'll take two each so I can take notes on consistency and flavor.

The first is a Royal Buttera Fumo Dolce. It's a brief 5 ½ by 44. It's all Dominican with a Connecticut shade wrapper. According to my Cigar Journal, the last time I enjoyed this cigar was seven months ago and I

wrote, "... one of the smoothest, most distinctive flavors. Tastes well aged. Burns perfectly. Flavor deepens, but not much, at the half way mark."

Both my second and third choices come from Oliva and they are two very different cigars: the Connecticut Nub 358 and the Serie V Liga Especial double toro.

The Nub, despite its awkward name, is not only a satisfying smoke, but it's fun, too. I mean, it's under four inches yet has a 58 ring. Care must be taken when lighting lest you torch your eyebrows. But once lighted, it's a joy. One of the notes I wrote about it in the Journal: "... I love a lot of smoke and the Nub provides. On the mild side, best enjoyed with black coffee. Nicaraguan filler, which is on the mild side, but distinct. Well constructed — not an easy task for the cigar roller."

As the Nub is a morning smoke, the Serie V is an after dinner smoke, preferably under a gazebo covered

with wisteria, a small snifter of brandy at hand. At 6 by 60, it's a lot of cigar. I pass on smokes like this, because ligero gives me bad dreams. But this magnificent cigar, paired with a couple fingers of Black Jack, is as close to heaven as I'll ever get. The Serie V is big, powerful, intimidating,

and packs a wallop. And yet it isn't overwhelming. Think of the most flavorful sirloin you've enjoyed; it's that level of pleasure. It tends to get slightly hot toward the last few puffs, a hint to put it down, enjoy the

last few drops of boubron, and think about making ready for slumber.

Alec Bradley makes a cigar I'm eager to enjoy: Tempus, and though I've heard occasional negatives about it, the one I had last fall was very, very impressive. On first lighting, it comes across like a howitzer, and then suddenly settles down to a dreamy, rich, competitor to Cubans. Not quite as strong, but with just as much flavor.



Egbert, the sage of Kamms Corners.

Not quite the production standards of Cubans, but darn close. Definitely a cigar to enjoy in the evening. I have a feeling this cigar is sneaky-excellent and my plan is to enjoy it with either a French press Columbian coffee or a perfectly made cup of espresso with sugar and lemon spritz.

I'll save two smokes for the ride home. The first I'll fire up after breakfast and enjoy until the weatherman tells me to put the top back up. Just over the Ohio line, I'll light the second. Both are made for Dad's and come in boxes that read, Marker 82. They are made by Yaxil Ortiz, a Cuban-born cigar maker in Miami. His smokes are exclusive to Dad's. His 5 by 50 stick is a very smooth smoke, both draw and flavor. Don't quote me, but I think the wrapper is a Salvadoran Connecticut Shade. The filler is Yaxil's own blend. It's mild, too, the sort of cigar you don't have to pay attention to and instead just enjoy.

I usually stop in Columbus' Germantown for lunch, then back on I-71, my second Marker 82 leaving a smoke trail.

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Tri-C's commitment to veterans

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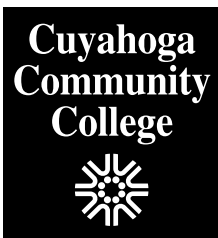
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www.tri-c.edu/veterans/

Sometimes We Need Chaplains to Remind Us What We're Fighting For

FAITH

The first rabbi to serve the United States Marine Corps was Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn and he was assigned to the Fifth Marine Division. At Iwo Jima.

In the madness of battle, he comforted his wounded and dying Marines and inspired his Marines who were slowed or confused by fear. They were black and white and brown, Protestants, Jews, Catholics, and atheists.

When the smoke finally cleared and an American flag snapped and waved above the battleground, the division chaplain planned a memorial service and asked Gittelsohn to prepare a sermon.

Many of the Christian chaplains wouldn't hear of it. A Jew praying over the bodies of fallen Christians? The Catholic chaplains refused to participate in any joint service.

Three separate services were

held. Gittelsohn delivered his sermon to a group of six dozen Jewish Marines. Three Protestant chaplains, sickened by the prejudice, ignored their

own services and attended the rabbi's. One of them borrowed the sermon and had it reproduced and distributed it throughout his regiment. Some Marines sent copies home and there it was shared with friends and families. The news media picked it up and sent it around the world. *Time* magazine published excerpts. The sermon was entered in *The Congressional Record*. The Army released it for broadcast by short-wave radio.



Rabbi Gittelsohn

Gittelsohn read a portion of the sermon at the 50th anniversary of victory at Iwo Jima. It was held at the Iwo Jima statue in Washington, D.C. He died

later that year at age 85.

The Purest Democracy

Here lie men who loved America because their ancestors generations ago helped in her founding. And other men who loved her with equal passion because they themselves or their own fathers escaped from oppression to her blessed shores. Here lie officers and men, Negroes and Whites, rich men and poor, together. Here are Protestants, Catholics, and Jews together. Here no man

prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color. Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or allowed. Among these men there is no discrimination. No prejudices. No hatred. There is the highest and purest democracy.

Whosoever of us lifts his hand in hate against a brother, or who thinks himself superior to those who happen to be in the minority, makes of this ceremony and the bloody sacrifice it commemorates, an empty, hollow mockery. To this then, as our solemn sacred duty, do we the living now dedicate ourselves: To the right of Protestants, Catholics, and Jews, of White men and Negroes alike, to enjoy the democracy for which all of them have here paid the price.

We here solemnly swear this shall not be in vain. Out of this and from the suffering and sorrow of those who mourn this will come, we promise, the birth of a new freedom for the sons of men everywhere.

Dominion East Ohio Honors Six at Annual Excellence in Leadership Program; Air Force Major Shawna Rochelle Kimbrell Was “Born to Fly”

Interview by A.M. Stasko

DD 214 Chronicle: When did you figure out you wanted to fly around in an airplane and not just any airplane?

Major Kimbrell: I figured that out at a very young age. I wanted to be an astronaut when I was in kindergarten and I wrote to NASA and said what I wanted and asked, “how do I become an astronaut?” I got flying lessons from my Dad for my 14th birthday. I knew I wanted to go to the Air Force Academy because they have the most slots for pilot training and give you the best opportunity to maybe make it to the fighters.

DD 214 Chronicle: Who encouraged you best?

Major Kimbrell: My parents. While they are not military, they supported me wholly and fully in whatever I wanted to do. Even though I told my Mom I wanted to do this job — she still isn't even crazy about it today — she loves the fact I'm doing what I want to do. They totally supported me throughout the whole time.

DD 214 Chronicle:

You received a vice presidential nomination to the Air Force Academy. How difficult was the curriculum? Your life changed a great deal when you went to the Academy.

Major Kimbrell: The curriculum steps it up a pace, but you are not just studying. You have extra curricular activities. Plus, you have your military requirements. You have to march, you have to go to football games, and you have to do parades. There is all this on top of just studying.

DD 214 Chronicle: After graduation, you began flight training.

Major Kimbrell: If you qualify, it's one year. First time I got to fly a jet. It was awesome. It was a twin engine small jet that could do fully aerobatic and it was just great. It was the most powerful thing



Major Shawna Rochelle Kimbrell

Portrait Courtesy of Gary Thomas

I had flown.

DD 214 Chronicle: In retrospect, how would you describe your training and education?

Major Kimbrell: It was great training. Great education. Great stress management. Great time management. It was a very

stressful year. It was a lot of fun and it was very exhilarating almost every day.

DD 214 Chronicle: What was your first overseas assignment?

Major Kimbrell: I went to Misawa, Japan for my first assignment and spent three years over there. That's where I got the opportunity to shoot a few HARMs, high speed anti-radiation missiles.

DD 214 Chronicle: What about racism and sexism as you started your career?

Major Kimbrell: As I look back

those things were there but I did not allow myself to focus on any of that while I was going through my studies and steps. It was not prevalent, because we've got policies, rules, regulations against that, but there was some underlying tones still. Specifically from older, higher up people. Not my peers.

DD 214 Chronicle: Where do you think your career is going to go from here?

Major Kimbrell: I don't know. There are a lot of changes going on in the Air Force right now. We have cut back on squadrons, losing a bunch of armament, closing some bases, downsizing in general.

As part of Black History Month, Dominion East Ohio is host every year to the Strong Men and Women Series. Other honorees this year were: Judge Jean Murrell Capers, Dwight C. Jones, Dr. Christopher B. Howard, Debi Thomas, M.D., and Carl B. Mack.

When There's a Death in the Family, We Turn to Family-Owned Funeral Homes

By Dan Avis

Since the early 1980s, thousands of family-owned funeral homes have been acquired by large corporations.

Once acquired, these funeral homes became part of a larger portfolio of like businesses whose shares are publicly traded on a stock exchange. They must answer to a board of directors and to stock holders on the profitability of the funeral home's operations.

Independent family-owned funeral homes are not like convenience stores or restaurants and retail chains. They're a generations-old part of the community. They're in the community to stay and to be good neighbors and friends, and, they offer a very personal service.

According to a nationwide telephone study, an overwhelming majority of Americans over the age of 40 who have attended funerals, be-



lieve that funeral and memorial services are a valuable and important part of commemorating the life of a loved one.

A large percentage of those 40 and older said the funeral industry



provided meaning and value to the arrangement process. Almost all surveyed

said that the service was helpful in paying tribute or commemorating the life of a loved one. Almost everyone said that the service was an im-

portant part in helping them begin the healing process after the death of a loved one.

Those that arrange for a funeral are generally more comfortable selecting caskets and other funeral-related items at a funeral home, and they prefer privately held independent funeral homes over publicly held corporations.

Family-owned funeral homes are able to form business alliances, such as Foresight Family Funeral Homes, that allow them to save money through volume purchases, and they will pass the savings on to the families they serve.

When making decisions most families prefer to work closely with their independent family-owned funeral home, and not with board members half a continent away.

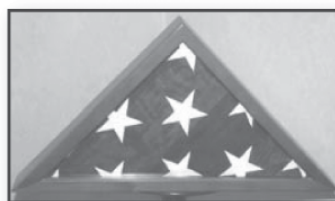


THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

As a veteran, you have served our country with dedication, bravery, and courage, and we are forever grateful.

Foresight Family Funeral Homes would like to thank you by offering our assistance in helping you prearrange your funeral. Every year, millions of dollars in veteran's benefits go unclaimed because of lack of planning...we don't want that to happen to your loved ones.

And now, for a limited time, with your funded prearrangement, your local Foresight Family Funeral Home will include a beautiful, wood flag case **FREE!**



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DD 214 Chronicle's Fishin' Guide, John Barbo

OUTDOORS

Adapted from the book, *The Cleveland Fishing Guide, 2nd Edition* ©2007 by John Barbo. Reprinted with permission from Gray & Company, Publishers. The book is available at Northeast Ohio bookstores and online from Amazon.com. For more information, call the publisher at 1-800-915-3609 or visit their web site at www.grayco.com

Exploring a new fishing destination can lead to more than just a great place to fish. For example, my fishing trip to Arcola Creek Park in Madison also led to the discovery of a fascinating piece of local history.

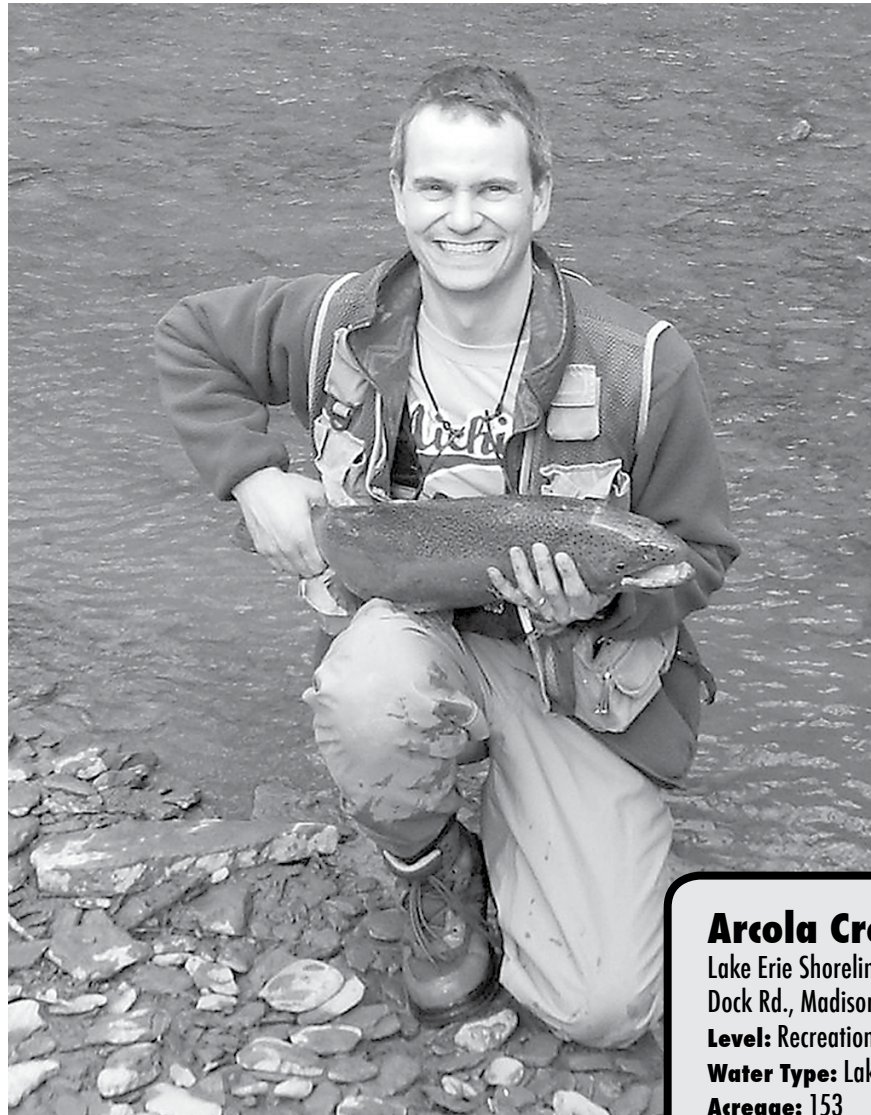


At the beginning of the 1800s, a town named Ellensburg was built at the junction of Arcola Creek and Lake Erie. The sheltered waters formed a natural harbor, and Lake Erie provided a great means of transporting goods. Arcola Iron Works prospered at this time, using bog iron, which was discovered in Madison in 1812, as its raw material and the area's abundant timber to fuel its fires. A thriving community of shipbuilders, fishermen, and merchants developed. During the early 1800s more ships were built in and launched from this port than any other on Lake Erie. By 1840, however, supplies dwindled and shifting sandbars made it difficult to bring goods into the harbor. The last ship was built in 1863, and Ellensburg was soon abandoned.

There's not much sign left of Ellensburg. In fact, it seems impossible that a shipbuilding industry could have ever existed at the tranquil shoreline setting of what has since become Arcola Creek Park. To me, the park represents the impermanence of human endeavors.

Arcola Creek Park still provides great access for fishing the shores of Lake Erie and Arcola Creek. From the parking lot, you can take the trail heading north to get to the lakeshore. Surf fishing is popular from the beach and especially around the mouth of the creek. Smallmouth bass, sheepshead, and steelhead are just some of the species you might hook into. If you are going to still fish, minnows and worms are a good bet. If smallmouth bass are your quarry, try lead-head jigs or twister-tails.

Steelhead fishermen can be success-



ful using plugs, spinners, and spoons for steelies. PowerBait fished on the bottom is an especially effective shore-fishing method here. Attach a small to medium-sized short-shanked bait hook about a foot below a sinker. The sinker gets the whole rig down deep, while the buoyancy of the PowerBait elevates it off the lake bottom, putting it right in the strike zone. A friend hits the mouth of the creek every fall and consistently lands large, hard-fighting steelhead. His weapons of choice are spoons, primarily Little Cleos.

Upstream from the park Arcola Creek winds through mostly private property, and although there are several points on the creek that anglers can

fish from without harassment, the legality of fishing there is questionable. Suffice it to say that the inquisitive angler can still locate access points on Arcola Creek. Unfortunately, wooded, quiet areas that were open for fishing a year or two ago have since fallen victim to residential development, decreasing access to this natural resource.

Arcola Creek has earned a reputation as a potential hot spot during the steelhead season. It's not a huge waterway, but it reportedly gets very good runs in the spring and fall. Indeed, some stories I've heard from fellow anglers tell of steelhead catches that would seem almost unbelievable (except that I know fishermen don't lie or exaggerate). You can't go wrong with maggot-tipped jigs or spawn sacs drifted freely near the bottom. The shoreline can be tight, making this a very challenging fishing location for fly fishermen. Arcola Creek's shoreline is a popular place for Lake Erie surf fishermen, who cast plugs, spinners, and spoons for steelies. PowerBait fished on the bottom can be effective. Attach a small to medium-sized short-shanked bait hook about a foot past a sinker. The sinker gets the whole rig deep; the buoyancy of the PowerBait elevates it off the lake bottom, putting it right in the strike zone.

Arcola Creek is one of the last remaining natural estuaries along the Great Lakes. A freshwater estuary is defined as a place where creek or river water mixes with the waters of the Great Lakes, creating a separate habitat. It is truly an unusual park, and the great variety of birds it attracts is worth a visit in itself. An observation deck overlooking the estuary affords the observant a chance at glimpsing a host of songbirds, including the migratories that

make this a rest stop on their way to winter or summer grounds north and south of Ohio.

Arcola Creek Park

Lake Erie Shoreline, Arcola Creek
Dock Rd., Madison

Level: Recreational

Water Type: Lake Erie, river

Acreage: 153

Access: Shoreline

What's Biting: Bluegill, smallmouth bass, carp, catfish, perch, sheepshead, steelhead, suckers, sunfish, walleye

Season: Year-round
Hours: Sunrise-sunset

Fee: Free

Permission: Not required

Facilities: Restrooms, picnic area, food nearby

Administered by: Lake Metroparks

Directions: SR 2 east to US 20; east on US 20; left (north) on Dock Rd. for 3.5 miles; entrance on right (east) side.

Marine Week: June 11 to June 17

From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of ... Lake Erie!



The Devil Dogs of Combat, the brave men and women who have been fighting America's battles since November, 1775, are coming to town in June, and they're coming by land, sea, and air.

While they're here, the Marines will show us their military hardware and how it works, their bands and drill teams, and their amphibious assault vehicles.

They will be at four different downtown locations during the week, and the end-of-the-week, full-scale combat assault will have you humming the Marine Corps hymn.

DD 214 Chronicle's May/June

edition will be dedicated to the Marines, and filled with stories about the Corps' history, its development, Greater Cleveland Marines, and the Third Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, Fourth Infantry Division, the leathernecks

who are based in Brook Park.

We hope every fraternal organization and area business joins DD 214 Chronicle in welcoming the Marines ... and providing each Marine with a newspaper to take home and cherish.

Call editor John Tidyman (216.789-3502) for more details and the opportunity to be part of Marine Week.



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THE SERIES

Excellence in Leadership

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012 HONOREES

1950s

JEAN MURRELL CAPERS is sworn in as the first African-American woman to serve on the city council of a major U.S. city.

1980s

DEBI THOMAS holds both U.S. and world championship titles in figure skating and becomes the first African-American to win an Olympic medal in the Winter Olympic games.

2000s

DR. CHRISTOPHER B. HOWARD becomes the first African-American president of Hampden-Sydney College.

DWIGHT C. JONES is elected mayor of Richmond, Virginia, after a distinguished record of service in the Virginia House of Delegates.

MAJOR S. ROCHELLE KIMBRELL receives her wings as the first African-American fighter pilot in the United States Air Force.

DR. CARL MACK is named executive director of the National Society of Black Engineers and increases membership and sponsorship in the organization to record levels.



TOP: Jean Murrell Capers, retired judge; Dwight C. Jones, mayor; S. Rochelle Kimbrell, fighter pilot.
BOTTOM: Dr. Christopher B. Howard, college president; Debi Thomas, M.D., Olympic medalist; Dr. Carl Mack, engineer.

When they took on tough jobs in government service, education, the military and athletics, the men and women pictured here weren't satisfied simply to show up. Through their hard work and dedication, they brought about change and became shining examples for tomorrow's leaders.

These are the honorees of Dominion's 2012 Strong Men & Women: *Excellence in Leadership* series. Wherever they've gone, they've opened doors for those who follow. In the skies over enemy territory, in the quest for higher learning, in the glare of the public eye and on Olympic ice, they've made things happen. And inspired a new generation to do the same.

The Strong Men & Women: *Excellence in Leadership* series is sponsored by Dominion to honor the contributions of influential African-American leaders. In conjunction with this series, Dominion is helping prepare future leaders by providing student scholarships and grants, as well as resource material for schools. To learn more about the series, its honorees, and available resource materials, visit dom.com, search: strong.

