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MARCH/APRIL 2021



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# War and Weather

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**A**h, weather, that fierce and undisciplined force of nature that knows no loyalty, respects no flag, cares not a whit for rank. Yet weather, that constant force which rarely warns, is always on the curb, waiting to jump into that street fight.

The elements of success in war are clear and simple: Do whatever is necessary to destroy the enemy. And pray weather favors you, not the enemy.



# St. Patrick's Day – 2021

*By Rev. Richard J. Watts, Chaplain, DD214 Chronicle*

**Y**ep, another St. Patrick's Day. Wearing of the green, eating corned beef in the morning, getting drunk at the local pub, watching a parade of marchers, sharing stories that you won't remember the next day, and of course, starting the day off at a church. It's not a Federal Holiday, but maybe it should be. With all this Covid-19 bullshit, what are we celebrating this year?

Patrick, not yet a Saint, was born in Britain around the 4th Century. At age 16, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold as a slave to a Celtic priest. He endured forced slavery in Ireland for six years and escaped back to Britain.

Patrick returned to Ireland and converted a large number of the Irish to Christianity. He also established a number of monasteries, churches, and schools. The legend of him driving the snakes



out of Ireland might be a bit of blarney.

He would use the shamrock (a 3-leaf clover) to explain the Trinity. The Trinity is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; referred to as one God. The Trinity is considered to be one of the central Christian affirmations about God.

Patrick passed away March 17, 461 AD. The first St. Patrick's Day was celebrated March 17, 1631 AD. He was never officially canonized; however, he is highly respected as a Saint by the Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Wherever you are on St. Patrick's Day, raise a pint or a n.a. beer to honor St. Patrick. Maybe, like the snakes in Ireland, he'll drive the Corona virus out of the world and we can all celebrate once again.

## HEADLINES AND EDITORIAL COMMENT

### **A ferret is the first North American endangered animal to be cloned**

*...unfortunately, 307 live ferrets died while scientists tried to figure out the correct cloning procedure.*

### **Entire school board resigns over comments bashing parents**

*...apparently the school board members had less technical knowledge of Zoom than their 9-year old third graders.*

### **TV crew is robbed at gunpoint on camera**

*...three previous robbery attempts on camera were reenacted because they were not considered authentic enough.*

### **Gorilla Glue sales skyrocket after woman's hair ordeal**

*...apparently, even bad, stupid, pathetic, moronic publicity is still good publicity.*

### **One-third of US military members are declining COVID-19 vaccinations**

*...the same one-third were shot for disobeying orders.*

### **Instagram model slammed for posing nude atop endangered elephant**

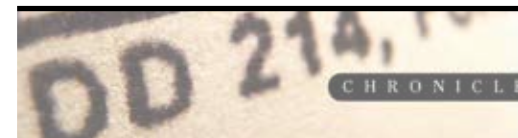
*...same amount of people slammed the elephant for sexual harassment.*

### **Columbia professor: I do heroin regularly for 'work-life balance'**

*...same professor also admitted he consumes Egg McMuffin for 'eat-breakfast balance.'*

### **Woman attacked by bear while sitting on outhouse toilet**

*...woman admits that doing 8th level Sudoku puzzles while pooping was probably a bad idea.*



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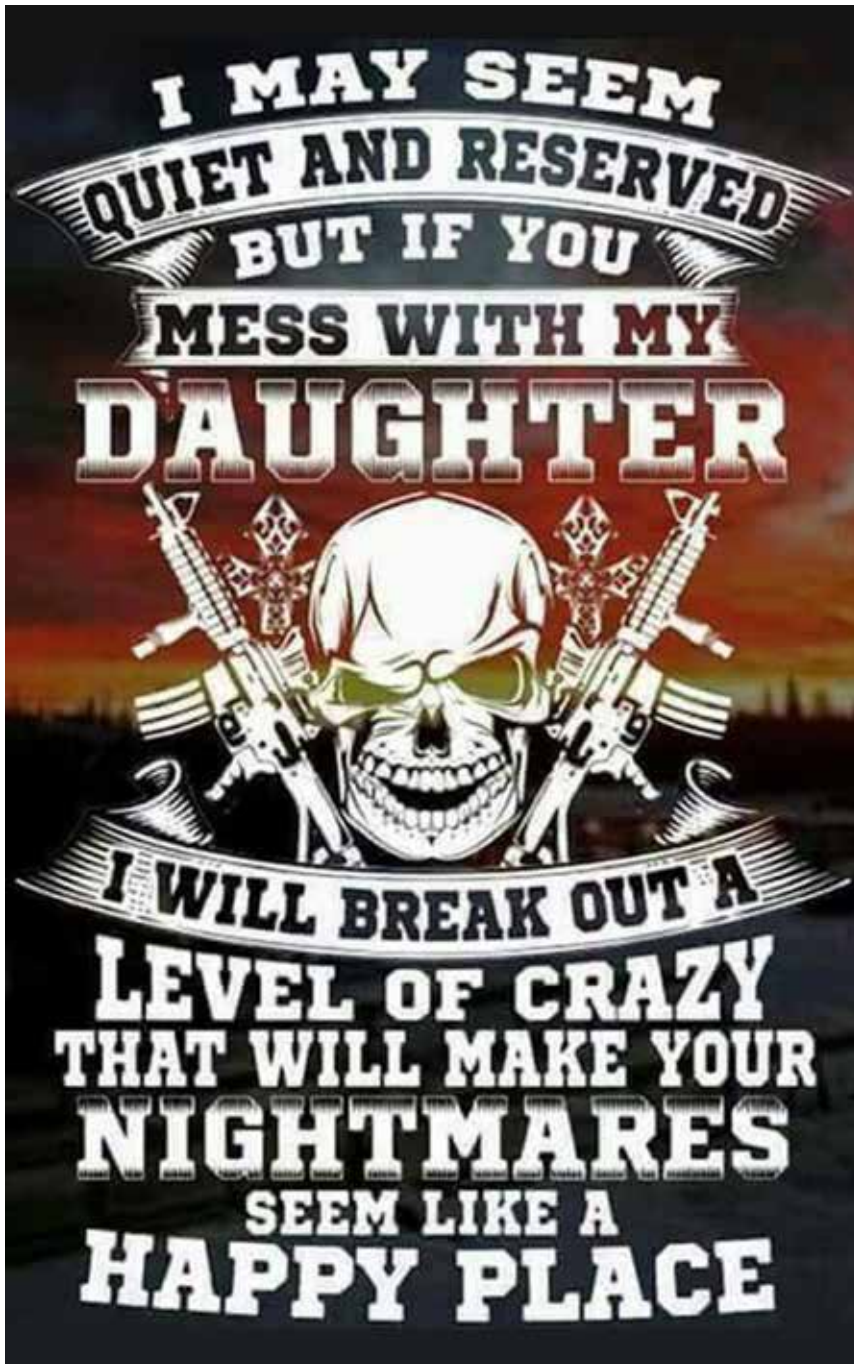
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#### **Editorial Statement**

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

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## MAIL CALL

### Veterans Memorial Needs Financial Assistance

I retired from the Carlisle Township Fire Department in 1996, after 38 years, 25 of which I served as Fire Chief. I have taken on a new challenge to build a Veterans Memorial, which will be located next to my "second home," the old Carlisle Township Fire Station at 11969 LaGrange Rd. A Committee was formed, and we were granted 501(c)(3) nonprofit status to help with fundraising. Needless to say, the pandemic has put a serious damper on our money-raising efforts. However, one of our ongoing fundraisers is selling memorial bricks, honoring our veterans.

You can honor a loved one who served in the Armed Forces by purchasing a memorial brick which will be engraved with your sentiments. For further information, please visit us on Facebook or our website,

[carlisletownshipveteransmemorial.org](http://carlisletownshipveteransmemorial.org) or contact me directly by phone at (440)458-5814.

You can make a donation to help build the Memorial through credit card or PayPal on our website or Facebook. Because the Memorial is a nonprofit, your donation is tax deductible within the limits of the tax laws. When completed, this Veterans Memorial will be an asset to Lorain County and a tribute to all our brave men and women who served our country.

*Ray Hildebrandt  
Retired Fire Chief  
Carlisle Township*

Liked your recent article in *DD214 Chronicle*. It made more sense than I've heard in a long time. No one comments on how Vietnam war started. Slowly by JFK and incompetently by LBJ and McNamara at a cost of over 59,000 lives. Your description of Congress is spot on. Three years ago I walked through that beautiful building and thought these people are in love with themselves and think they are the greatest. Marble floors gold drinking fountains. Thanks for a good read...

*Mark H.  
USAF 1966-70*



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# G.I. Battled Red Tape to Win War Bride

by Jerri Donohue

On a cold October afternoon in October 1946, Sgt. Francis Stoltz moped in the Red Cross canteen in Passau, Germany. He had spent the day futilely inquiring at displaced persons camps for Sonya Dynowska, his Polish sweetheart. His buddy had persuaded Stoltz to stop for coffee before they headed back to their quarters in Landshut.

The G.I.'s mood lightened a moment later.

"I looked out the window and there goes Sonya walking down the other side of the street!" he said.

Stoltz had met the pretty Pole at a carnival soon after he arrived in Passau in the spring of 1946.

"She was medium height, blonde and had a knock-out figure," Stoltz said.

Fortunately for Stoltz, Sonya could understand him. She was learning English in the displaced persons camp where she and her family had lived for almost a year.

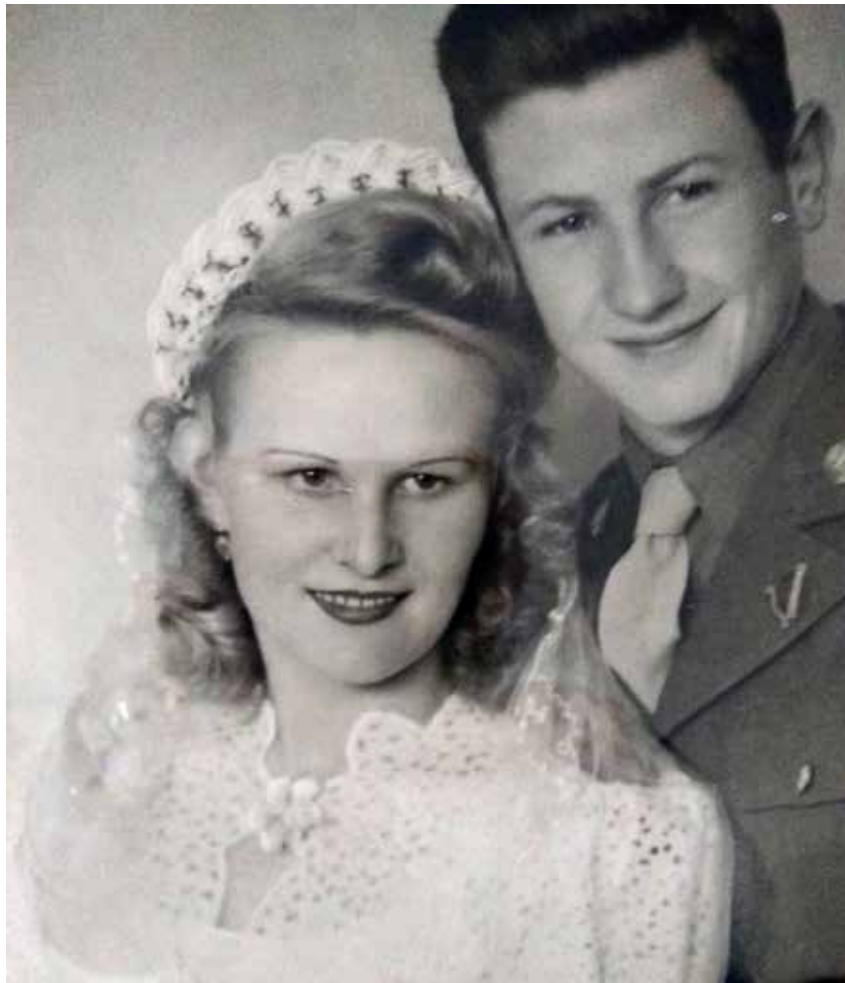
Stoltz spent every free minute with her.

"We just hit it off," he said. "There wasn't a phony bone in her body. She was blunt and outspoken."

Because he wasn't allowed inside the camp, Stoltz bribed Sonya's little sister with candy to fetch her while he waited at the gate. The couple often strolled beside the Danube River, discussing their beliefs and goals, and Sonya gradually shared her story.

Following the invasion of Poland, the Germans had trucked Sonya, her mother and younger siblings to Germany with other forced laborers. Mrs. Dynowska and 12-year old Sonya cleared rubble after Allied bombings. The Nazis later transported them to Czechoslovakia where mother and daughter labored 12 hours a day in a munitions factory.

In spring 1945, a German soldier appeared at the farm where the family billeted and urged them to flee the approaching Red Army. Heeding the kind stranger's advice, Sonya's family joined the exodus of frantic civilians and walked three days to American lines. They then



landed in the DP camp.

Despite her growing affection for Stoltz, Sonya declined his marriage proposal. She wanted to stay with her family and transferred to a different camp to await repatriation to Poland. Stoltz, who oversaw a mobile PX for troops at border outposts, also moved elsewhere.

Months later a G.I. reported that he had encountered Sonya in Passau; she was looking for Stoltz.

Several times, Stoltz caught rides on Army trucks to Passau but failed to find Sonya because she wasn't living in a DP camp. After hearing horrific stories of Russian brutality, she had balked at returning to Poland to live under their occupation. Her mother encouraged Sonya to escape. Using cigarettes her mother gave her, the 18-year old bribed a guard to release her, and then traveled by train back to Passau where a German widow took her in.

reception for us. It was held in a big, long hall. It was a surprise. A wedding cake, food, everything."

A band played as Sonya walked down the aisle in a borrowed wedding gown.

"She was gorgeous," Stoltz said.

The newly-weds remained in Landshut until 1948 when Stoltz received orders to go home. The couple sailed to the States on a ship with more than 400 war brides.

"When we came into New York harbor, it was dusk," Stoltz said. "We could see the Statue of Liberty through a haze. These girls from Europe were all out on the bow, watching."

Once discharged, Stoltz took his bride to his hometown in Pennsylvania where they lived with his parents for a year, a difficult time for Sonya.

"Picture yourself a person from a foreign country, coming here not knowing anything about it, leaving your family, leaving your culture," the 92-year old veteran said.

As an immigrant, Sonya experienced small town prejudice, even from her parents-in-law.

Life improved when Stoltz accepted a job with Ford Motor Company as an electronic technician and moved the family to Akron.

Sonya became a US citizen in 1957. She joined the League of Women Voters after the youngest of their four children entered high school, and she worked in upscale department stores.

Meanwhile, she located her family in Poland but didn't visit them until 1972, fearful that the Communists wouldn't let her leave. By then, her mother already had died.

Sonya Stoltz succumbed unexpectedly to an aneurysm last September. Stoltz struggles with her absence.

"Any marriage has its moments and its disputes," he said.

"But overall, we had a good marriage. Seventy-three years! I often told her, 'The best thing that ever happened to me was meeting you over there.'"

Stoltz's commanding officer gave him permission to marry when the couple reunited. But other obstacles loomed. Stoltz's parents had to provide a written promise to support Sonya if he died or became incapacitated. And Sonya was not 21, the legal age to marry in Germany without parental consent. The International Red Cross couldn't locate Mrs. Dynowska, and so the German widow legally adopted her and then signed permission.

The mayor of Passau performed the required German civil ceremony. Stoltz delivered their marriage certificate to his new commander, only to learn it was invalid - an American official had to witness the wedding.

Fortunately, an Army chaplain agreed to officiate at the couple's second wedding.

"We had a wonderful ceremony," Stoltz said. "I didn't know that the men in my outfit were planning a



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# League Park's legacy thrives at Baseball Heritage Museum

By Barry Goodrich

**O**n Aug. 11, 1929, Jake Geiser was waiting to catch a bus outside the outfield wall of Cleveland's League Park. Inside the park, Babe Ruth took his place in the batter's box and swatted a pitch that soared over the wall and eventually landed at Geiser's feet on Lexington Avenue.

As an overflow crowd of 25,000 roared, Ruth circled the bases to record his 500th career homer. Legend has it that the Sultan of Swat told League Park's security chief H. Clay Folger he was going to hit number 500 that day and he would need the ball returned to him.

"That's a testament to the intimacy of League Park and the way it was built," said Ricardo Rodriguez, director of the Baseball Heritage Museum that is housed in the original ticket office of the park. "The park bordered the street in the middle of a neighborhood. Baseball in the early 1900's was far different from what it is today."

Ruth's historic home run was just one of several iconic moments at

**"The museum captures the unifying quality of baseball, whether it be age, race or gender. This is where Babe Ruth hit and Bob Feller pitched."**

*Ricardo Rodriguez, director of the Baseball Heritage Museum*

League Park, which opened May 1, 1891 with Cy Young on the mound for the home team Cleveland Spiders. The park at E. 66th and Lexington hosted the 1920 World Series between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Cleveland Indians with the Tribe winning its first world championship. Cleveland's victory was highlighted by Indians' second baseman Bill Wambsgans turning the first and only unassisted triple play in World Series history.

Another dramatic moment occurred at League Park on July 16, 1941 when Yankee legend, Joe DiMaggio, extended his hitting

streak to 56 games. The streak would end the next night at Cleveland's Municipal Stadium, where the Indians played their night and weekend games.

League Park's original 9,000 wooden seats were replaced with a steel and concrete structure in 1910. The park would go on to host the Cleveland Buckeyes of the Negro American League and the Western Reserve University college football team. The Cleveland Browns once used the park as a practice field.

But it is baseball that is the DNA of League Park, which was renovated and rededicated Aug. 23, 2014

with the Baseball Heritage Museum located in the original ticket office area. The museum preserves and presents the game's diversity and multicultural heritage with exhibits, programming, neighborhood outreach and youth education programs.

"The museum captures the unifying quality of baseball, whether it be age, race or gender," says Rodriguez. "This is where Babe Ruth hit and Bob Feller pitched. You can't help but be immersed in the history of baseball here."

Until last year's COVID-19 outbreak, League Park played host to college and high school games and in 2019 the park hosted the Commissioner's Cup, which brought in teams from across the globe. The museum reopened in February and is now open to the public from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Friday through Sunday.

"We have kids come in with their parents and parents come with their parents," says Rodriguez. "We're stewards of baseball and we take that very seriously."



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When you come into the Medina County Veterans Service Office you will be assisted by one of our knowledgeable associates. Everyone here has a compassionate understanding of the problems which confront veterans, widows, widowers, and their families.



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**WASHINGTON** — American taxpayers have spent \$6.4 trillion on post-9/11 wars and military action in the Middle East and Asia, according to a new study.

That total is \$2 trillion more than the entire federal government spending during the recently completed 2019 fiscal year. The U.S. government spent \$4.4 trillion during the fiscal year that ended

Sept. 30, according to the Treasury Department.

The report, from the Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs at Brown University, also finds that more than 801,000 people have died as a direct result of fighting. Of those, more than 335,000 have been civilians. Another 21 million people have been displaced due to violence.



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Lealer Powell standing before a disabled helicopter in Iraq, 2015



Lealer Powell waits in a Chinook to fly to a remote Honduran village.

## Army Nurse Treated Soldiers, Civilians in Iraq, Honduras

by Jerri Donohue

**A**fter a bomb exploded at a soccer game, Lealer Powell extracted shrapnel from the flesh of injured Iraqi children.

She routinely treated civilians and coalition soldiers for serious gunshot wounds and blast injuries.

But the cases that haunt Cpt. Powell most were Iraqi women who had been lit afire as punishment for various offenses. Each time, the woman was burned over 90% of her body.

"Even in the United States, we wouldn't be able to save them," Powell said. "Sometimes it would take them three days to pass away. It was awful to watch them suffer, with tears rolling down their faces."

An emergency room nurse in Akron, Powell fulfilled a life long dream when she joined the Army reserves in 2013. She deployed with the 948th Forward Surgical Team in October 2015, first to Kuwait for intensive training, and then to al-Asad airbase in Iraq.

In Iraq, she initially slept in a tent, and then in a "containerized housing unit," a large metal

**"You're hot and you're tired but you're not in it alone. You look to your right and to your left and you know they're experiencing the same things. [And] they're missing their family, their kids."**

box. She once went for two weeks without a shower. Water scarcity presented ongoing miseries.

"They shipped it in and put it in a giant container and it would run out," Powell said.

The only trauma nurse at one point, Powell spent up to 60 hours on duty — without sleep and in challenging circumstances.

"Every two or three days we took mortars," she said. "Our base got infiltrated three times. You'd hear it, blasting and booming!"

To calm herself during these episodes, the nurse sang the national anthem in her head. Today tears spring to her eyes whenever she hears the "Star Spangled Banner".

Generators sometimes failed during attacks. Medical staff in the emergency room or operating bay resorted to flashlights or headlamps to carry on. Powell's coworkers included Danes, Latvians and Australians. They supported one another.

"You're hot and you're tired but you're not in it alone," Powell said. "You look to your right and to your left and you know they're experiencing the same things. [And] they're missing their family, their kids."

Powell felt sorry for civilians who came for help.

"We were flipping them, poking and prodding them," she said.

If the hospital's lone interpreter was unavailable, Powell used a translation app on her cell phone to explain procedures, hoping to quell their fears. Sometimes her patients nodded to signal understanding. Other times, Powell wasn't sure they could read.

She occasionally coped with the relentless stress by watching planes depart. She knew eventually she'd leave on one of them.

"I would remind myself that this is not my life," she recalled. "And that I was going to go home."

Powell arrived back in the States on September 11, 2016, to resume working in an emergency room with more help, more equipment and no blown-out windows or mortar holes in the ceiling.

In July 2019, she deployed with the 352nd Combat Support Hospital to Soto Cano Air Base, Palmerola, Honduras. Living conditions were comfortable.

"We had a PX and a club on base, a pool, a movie theater," Powell said.

She took care of Americans

*Continued on page 15*



# Documentary Spotlights Local Female Veterans

by Jerri Donohue

An Army nurse discusses the physical and emotional hardships of deployment. A female soldier describes being ignored while civilians thank her husband for his military service. A brigadier general recounts her career path.

Producer Ron Ponder focuses on these and other female veterans in his documentary, *They Served Too*, part of his series, *Veterans of America: Our Heroes in Uniform*.

"I'm always trying to be inclusive in whatever I do," the Canton resident said. "And I realized society doesn't appreciate the role that women have played."

Skipping through history, *They Served Too* illustrates the dangers women willingly confronted during war, beginning with Deborah Sampson, who disguised herself as a man to fight in the Continental Army. Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) ferried military aircraft during World War II, and Lt. Sharon Lane's story highlights the risks nurses have faced. The Canton South High School graduate was killed in Vietnam.

Ponder also interviewed local female vets about the personal sacrifices they made because of military service. Their candor didn't

surprise him.

"They know I'm there to help them tell their story," the documentary maker said. "I'm not going to lay traps for them."

Ponder's company, PonderSystems Media and Consulting, also produced two documentaries on difficult subjects important to former servicemen and women: homelessness among veterans, and traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress syndrome.

Ponder's interest in veterans comes naturally. His father became gravely ill in Korea during that war, and eventually underwent multiple surgeries. After a stay at Crile General Hospital, Ponder's Dad settled the family in Akron.

Ron Ponder, too, served in the Army Reserves for six years in the 1980s, but he sought Vietnam veteran Jay Musson's input on the documentaries. Musson is active in veterans affairs and his foundation supports veteran-related projects.

"When I do military stuff, I need him," Ponder said. "He oversees it and makes sure it's accurate. He may suggest something in production we hadn't thought of."

Post commanders, such as Bruce

Kilian of Harry Donovan, Fairlawn VFW Post 349 were invaluable resources.

Ponder, who hosted a radio show for nine years, produced a weekly ESPN TV show in addition to the documentaries.

"I've been working with WNEO for a long time," he said of the veterans series. "If I can find underwriting support for a particular show, I go to PBS and ask if it's something they'd be interested in."

Usually other stations in Ohio also broadcast his work.

Western Reserve Public Media, Channels 45/49 WNEO/WEO first aired "They Served Too" in November 2020. It currently is available on demand at: [video.westernreservepublicmedia.org/show/veterans-americaour-heroes-uniform](https://www.westernreservepublicmedia.org/show/veterans-americaour-heroes-uniform)

Ponder hopes viewers will come away with a better understanding of women in military service.

"I want people to know that females have the brains and ability to do whatever men can do," Ponder said. "They should be respected for that and appreciated for that."



[video.westernreservepublicmedia.org/show/veterans-americaour-heroes-uniform](https://www.westernreservepublicmedia.org/show/veterans-americaour-heroes-uniform)

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SERVICE COMMISSION**  
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Community Service Alliance serves northern Ohio veterans emerging from homelessness. These veterans need our support.

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Community Service Alliance

3387 Fulton Road  
Cleveland, OH 44109

216.351.0655

For more information  
or to donate online,  
you can visit

[comservealliance.org](http://comservealliance.org)

## CSA Shuffle Sunday, May 16, 2021

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Forest City Shuffleboard  
4506 Lorain Ave, Cleveland

Shuffleboard ... Food ... Drinks  
... Music ... Silent Auction

### 1st Annual CSA Shuffle Save the Date!

Save the date for an afternoon of Shuffleboard, food, drinks, and entertainment as CSA hosts the *1st Annual CSA Shuffle!*

Spend a relaxing, fun-filled afternoon at Forest City Shuffleboard, all in a beautifully restored – and socially-distanced – setting in the Ohio City neighborhood.

More details will follow, including how you can reserve your space at this private, exclusive event. Please mark your calendars now, and look for more information coming soon!

All proceeds from the event directly support the mission of CSA to provide housing, job assistance, and personal, behavioral and spiritual support to Veterans and other men transitioning from poverty and homelessness to independence and self-sufficiency.



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*ARMY NURSE continued from p 12*  
 injured in motor vehicle accidents or suffering from maladies such as appendicitis. She also treated female personnel who had been raped by other Americans.

Powell assisted civilians, too, as part of a mobile unit. Because of gang-generated crime, armed Honduran police or military escorted the medical van to villages. There the team pulled rotten teeth and treated conditions ranging from high blood pressure to athlete's foot. A helicopter flew them to remote areas. In addition, they also provided humanitarian aid in El Salvador and Guatemala for 2-week stretches.

Local folks everywhere welcomed them, traveling daunting

distances to receive medical assistance. One couple, aged 101 and 102 years, walked two miles to the temporary clinic. They told Powell their bones ached; they needed Tylenol.

Powell's deployment ended in May 2020. In Honduras, she'd met US Air Force Master Sergeant Nolan Jones. They stayed in touch after she returned home and a romance blossomed. The couple married in January.

Powell's career moved forward, too. She recently assumed command of the 366th Medical Corps Detachment (Surg 24 BD), continuing to fulfill her purpose for enlisting.

"I wanted to take care of people," she said. "I wanted to help."



Lealer Powell prepares questionnaires and pharmacy papers at a temporary clinic set up in a Honduran school.



Lealer Powell at al-Asad air base, Iraq

**18514 Detroit Avenue,  
 Lakewood, Ohio 44107  
 phone: 216.521.7684  
 fax: 216.521.9518**



## **WEST END TAVERN**

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 11 am - 2 pm

The Best "Gourmet" Brunch in town  
 Sunday 10 am - 2 pm

Featuring flower garnished "Mega" Mimosas  
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### **CURRENT COVID HOURS OF OPERATION:**

Tuesday - Wednesday 4:00 pm - 2:30 am

Thursday - Friday 12 Noon - 2:30 am

Saturday 11am - 2:30 am

Sunday Brunch 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday 2:00 pm - 2:30 am

Check us on [Westendtav.com](http://Westendtav.com) or Facebook

**Welcome back! We missed you!**

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A Veteran-owned Business Resource

Dick Clough, Idea Engineer

[cloughcleveland@gmail.com](mailto:cloughcleveland@gmail.com) / 216.226.9040

# Platoon Sergeant Jorge Otero-Barreto was the Most Decorated Soldier in The Vietnam War

**J**orge A Otero Barreto was the most decorated soldier in Vietnam, and during his service earned the nickname "Puerto Rican Rambo."

According to the American Legion, Otero-Barreto volunteered for five tours in Vietnam, during which he successfully completed 350 combat and aerial missions. He was wounded five times during the war, and came home with more than 40 military honors, including three Silver Stars, five Purple Hearts, five Bronze Stars, five Air Medals and four Army Commendation Medals.

Otero-Barreto's military service has been retold time and again, not just because of tremendous ferocity against the enemy, but for his

equally measured compassion for his platoon, and the willingness to sacrifice his own life for them.

During his five tours in Vietnam between 1961 and 1970, Otero-Barreto first as an advisor to Vietnamese troops, the Military Officers Association of America reports.

"He served in a variety of units over the course of his career, including the 101st Airborne Division, the 25th Infantry Division 'Tropic Lightning,' the 82nd Airborne Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, notes the documentary *Brave Lords*, which chronicles the Puerto Rican experience in Vietnam," the MOAA website details.



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[clevelandmacncheeseweek.com](http://clevelandmacncheeseweek.com)



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**216-241-5025**

[grumpys-cafe.com](http://grumpys-cafe.com) 2621 W 14th St, Cleveland OH 44113

Open for both dine-in and carryout. Carryout orders can be placed over the phone or with  **ChowNow**





# COMMUNITY WEST FOUNDATION

Today, we are excited to share with you our new logo as well as our new website which features a refreshed design and improved functionality. Our flame, the symbol of our mission, continues to mark our visual identity as an

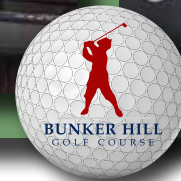
organization and represents our desire to illuminate hope throughout the community. We encourage you to visit our website to learn more about all that we do as a foundation. [communitywestfoundation.org](http://communitywestfoundation.org)

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  - Military Logo Items, All Branches
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1055 East 9th Street

CGX CLEVELAND FEDERAL BLDG [shopcgx.com](http://shopcgx.com)  
1240 East 9th Street

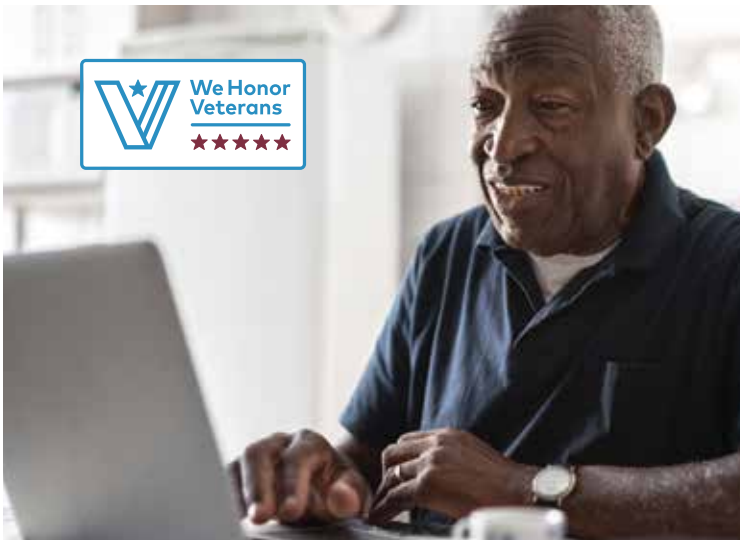


Credit: Susan Ladnier



# Donut Dollies

**T**hey were brave. They smiled broadly. Donut Dollies have long been the perfect example of the American woman: They saw a need where only they could help ... and off they went. Let us lift our glasses, "To our Donut Dollies: They comforted us."



## Join us for free Virtual Veterans' Cafés

Thursday, March 18, 2 p.m. • Thursday, April 15, 2 p.m.

Learn how volunteers are serving fellow veterans through our *Peaceful & Proud* program. Connect and share stories with other veterans via your cell phone, iPad or laptop. We'll get you connected.

**To register:** Email Nate Gradisher at [ngradisher@hospicewr.org](mailto:ngradisher@hospicewr.org) or visit [hospicewr.org/VetCafe](http://hospicewr.org/VetCafe) for upcoming dates

Your Family. Our Purpose. **Together.**



800.707.8922 | [hospicewr.org](http://hospicewr.org)

# Two Coast Guard Cutters Seize More Than \$150 Million in Drugs

By Rick Hurd

U.S. Coast Guard crews aboard two cutter boats intercepted three different ships earlier this year and seized more than 9,000 pounds of cocaine worth about \$156 million, the agency said Wednesday.

The drugs were seized between Jan. 26 and Feb. 1 in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, according to a statement from the agency. The crews were aboard the Coast Guard cutters Munro and Bertholf, both of which are based in Alameda.

Nine people were arrested during the seizures, all of them suspected of drug trafficking, the Coast Guard said. None were identified.

According to the Coast Guard, the Munro crew boarded a fishing boat on Jan. 26, and exercised a "bilateral agreement with a partner nation" to search the ship. Crews found 1,300 pounds of cocaine aboard that boat, the agency said.

The Coast Guard did not identify the partner nation.

Hours later, a patrol aircraft discovered another boat that appeared suspicious and directed the Munro to it. The Coast Guard said crews went aboard that ship and discovered 3,439 pounds of cocaine.



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## CLEVELAND CAN LEAD POLICE-COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### *A Message for the Community from The Cleveland Police Foundation*

Clevelanders should be aware and reassured that reform initiatives are well underway thanks to the efforts of The Cleveland Police Foundation (CPF) through its strong partnership with the Cleveland Division of Police and emerging relationships with business, community and philanthropic organizations.

Just over a decade old, the CPF is an independent alliance of business and civic leaders, law enforcement organizations and individuals committed to the ideal that an educated, well trained and modernly equipped law enforcement agency leads to a safer community. CPF works proactively to support and invest in programs, community policing initiatives and engagement, and events that foster stronger relationships between citizens and police officers as well as the Cleveland Police Charities.

With support from St. Luke's Foundation, the **Cultural Transformation Project** was launched in Cleveland's 4th Police District. A cultural diagnostic survey was developed to provide an honest assessment of the District's internal culture and as a catalyst and roadmap for innovation and institutional change. Program elements have improved internal relationships and operations. And the program is helping police officers to be more empathetic and culturally responsive to the communities and neighborhoods they serve. *Now the Foundation is seeking additional philanthropic support to implement this successful program in all of Cleveland's Police Districts.*

**The Public Safety Career Pipeline Program** engages high school students in underserved areas in leadership development activities and empowers them to build their social capital and equip them with the skills in preparation for a successful career in public safety. The goal is to close the gap between high school graduation and the eligibility age to apply for law enforcement and other public safety employment opportunities. We are literally creating a "pipeline" of qualified candidates.

CPF will soon introduce **Neighborhood Engagement Tools** for community organizations to help them gain access to resources and information about CPF Programs so they can effectively collaborate with us.

These programs and other initiatives developed by the CPF, Cleveland Division of Police and partner organizations are positioning Cleveland as a national leader in fostering change and improved community relations with law enforcement. It is a challenge the CPF has embraced and is passionately committed to.

For more information about The Cleveland Police Foundation and how you can support our work, please visit [www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org](http://www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org) and/or send inquiries to [info@clevelandpolicefoundation.org](mailto:info@clevelandpolicefoundation.org).

# Here are benefits you may not be aware of

## Legal

### **USERRA – Uniformed Services Employment & Re-employment Rights Act**

USERRA is a federal law intended to protect the employment rights of active military service members and service members of the Reserve and National Guard.

The law provides that service members:

- are not disadvantaged because of their service,
- are re-employed in their civilian jobs on return from duty, and,
- are not discriminated against based on military service.

#### **Location in the United State Code:**

Title 38 Chapter 43

#### **Contact:**

United States Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service Ohio Office

614-466-2768

website: [www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra](http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra)

### **Federal Trade Commission**

#### **Fighting Back Against Identity Theft**

[www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft)

#### **Free Credit Report**

[www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0155-free-credit-reports](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0155-free-credit-reports)

### **Ohio Legal Help**

Ohio Legal Help seeks to improve justice and fairness for all Ohioans by removing barriers to the law so that they can understand their legal options, make informed decisions and connect to local legal and community resources.

Ohio Legal Help is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 2018 to help Ohioans access the civil justice system. The organization provides plain language legal help information, interactive self-help tools, and connections to local legal and community resources that can help people resolve legal issues.

Ohio Legal Help is supported in part by three noteworthy state-based organizations: The Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio State Bar

Foundation and the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation.

#### **Contact:**

866-791-8362

website: [www.ohiolegalhelp.org](http://www.ohiolegalhelp.org)

### **Patriot Program**

**Legal Assistance:** This pro bono program provides volunteer lawyers to assist military personnel and their families. Legal assistance is available for wills, powers of attorney, living wills and durable powers of attorney for healthcare.

**Consumer Protection:** This section provides information to enable active duty personnel and Veterans to protect themselves from scams and to assist those who have fallen victim.

**Civil Rights:** Ohio law prohibits discrimination for military status in employment, housing and public accommodations, to include against a disabled active duty person or Veteran who needs a service animal. Ohio law also prohibits discrimination for race, sex, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry and disability, protecting Veterans in those protected classes.

**Identity Theft:** This section helps identity theft victims by working with credit report agencies, creditors, collectors, etc.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Active duty, Reserve & National Guard and their families.
- Veterans (except for Legal Assistance).

#### **Contact:**

Ohio Attorney General's Office

800-282-0515

website: [www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/ServicesforVeterans.aspx](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/ServicesforVeterans.aspx)

## Injury Compensation

### **Ohio's Veterans' Courts**

Courts throughout Ohio are implementing special Veterans' Courts, where the emphasis is on treatment and diversion rather than punishment. The Ohio Department of Veterans Services has established effective working relationships with these courts in order to provide guidance and assistance on issues like

sustainable funding and obtaining certification from the Ohio Supreme Court.

#### **Contact:**

website: [www.ohiovets.gov/main/ohio-veterans-courts.html](http://www.ohiovets.gov/main/ohio-veterans-courts.html)

## License Plates

### **Driver's License**

- 100 percent service-connected disabled Veterans are eligible for a free driver's license.
- Upon renewal of a driver's license, all Ohio Veterans with a valid DD-214 can receive a free "Armed Forces" stamp on their license, which can qualify them for retail discounts.

### **Military License Plates**

Ohio has over 40 varieties of military license plates including:

- Active duty plates
- Reservists plates
- Ohio National Guard plates
- Combat plates
- Gold Star Family plates
- Women Veteran plates

These special plates cost the same as a regular plate and normal vehicle registration fees apply. Personalized or reserved license plates will require additional fees.

#### **Eligibility:**

Veterans must present their DD-214 at the BMV to obtain a special military/Veteran plate. The DD-214 must confirm the plate type requested (i.e., if you request a Purple Heart plate, your DD-214 must show you received a Purple Heart).

### **Free License Plates**

License plates are available at no charge to:

- 100 percent service-connected disabled Veterans.
- Medal of Honor recipients.
- Former Prisoners of War (POWs).
- Purple Heart recipients.

#### **Contact:**

800-589-8247 (8am - 5pm)

website: [www.Oplates.com](http://www.Oplates.com)

*Continued on next page*

Continued from previous page

Deputy Registrar license agency locations:

[bmv.ohio.gov/locations.aspx](http://bmv.ohio.gov/locations.aspx)

Disability plates can be reviewed at:

[bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-disability.aspx](http://bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-disability.aspx)

Military plates can be reviewed at:

[bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-military.aspx](http://bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-military.aspx)

A portion of the POW-MIA Awareness license plate fee supports the Ohio Military Injury Relief Fund.

## Military Burials

### Burial and Memorial Benefits

Burial in a national cemetery is available to Veterans of active federal military service, their spouses and dependent minor children. Provided at no cost to the family, a national cemetery burial includes:

- The gravesite and grave-liner.
- Opening and closing of the grave.
- A headstone or marker.
- Perpetual care as part of a national shrine.

If a Veteran is buried in a private cemetery anywhere in the world, the VA will provide a headstone or marker.

In addition, a burial flag is available to drape the Veteran's casket or urn during the funeral. Presidential Memorial Certificates honoring the Veteran may be requested. Military funeral honors for the Veteran include burial flag folding and presentation of "Taps" played on a bugle or by recording. Funeral directors usually can arrange for these specific services on request.

### Burial and Memorial Benefits

#### Eligibility:

Family members must have a DD-214 as proof of a Veteran's active federal military service. Some Veterans may be eligible for a limited burial allowance. Family members should contact their local County Veterans Service Office. Contact: Your County Veterans Service Officer can explain the requirements for burial and memorial benefits and provide assistance to properly complete all applications for the benefits.

#### Contact:

877-OHIO-VET (877-644-6838) or visiting:  
[www.ohiovets.gov](http://www.ohiovets.gov)

webiste: [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)

## Military Injury Relief

### Military Injury Relief Fund

The fund grants a one-time, tax-exempt monetary payment to military service members injured in active service as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces while serving after October 7, 2001 and to individuals diagnosed with post-traumatic stress while serving after October 7, 2001.

#### Eligibility:

- Documentation of the awarding of the Purple Heart in accordance with Title 10, Ch.57 of the U.S. Code, Ch.32 of the Code of Federal Regulations and other applicable federal laws.
- Documentation of the combat-related injury and documentation showing that this injury resulted in awarding of a Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB), Combat Action Ribbon (CAR) or Combat Action Badge (CAB) or its equivalent.
- Documentation of a combat-related injury not covered above, primarily including but not limited to traumatic brain injury, injury caused by detonation of an improvised explosive device (IED) or post-traumatic stress (PTS). Documentation of PTS must include medical diagnosis.

#### Location in Ohio Law: Ohio Revised Code 5902.05

#### Contact:

Applications are available on  
[www.ohiovets.gov/main/mirf.html](http://www.ohiovets.gov/main/mirf.html)

or at each of the 88 County Veterans Service Offices. Call 877-OHIO-VET (877-644-6838), select option 3

## Military Records

Veterans with questions about military records should contact their County Veterans Service Office. They have expertise to help with applications and interact with government agencies.

### Nat'l Personnel Records Center — St. Louis, MO

#### Contact:

314-801-0800 (fees may apply)

website: [www.archives.gov/veterans](http://www.archives.gov/veterans)

### Nat'l Archives & Rcds Admin. — College Park, MD

#### Contact:

866-272-6272 (fees may apply)

website: [www.archives.gov/veterans](http://www.archives.gov/veterans)

### Military Awards & Decorations

Requests for issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations and awards should be directed to the Veteran's specific branch of the military. However, for Air Force, Army Air Corps and Army, the National Personnel Records Center will verify the awards and forward the request with the verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of medals.

#### Contact:

website: [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records)

### Ohio National Guard Library/ Military Records

Contact: 614-336-7038

### Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services (ODVS) — Records Office

Veterans can request military records at their County Veterans Service Office (see listing beginning on page 5). ODVS also has discharge records from the early 1900s to date for Veterans who enlisted from Ohio, and wartime bonus records prior to 1993 as well as records for the Ohio Veterans Bonus enacted in 2009. County Recorders in each county also maintain records of discharges, and usually offer duplication services. Veterans are encouraged to record their discharges (DD-214s) at their County Recorder's office. This provides a duplicate should a certified copy be needed as verification for benefits.

#### Contact:

A request form must be completed and sent to:

Ohio Department of Veterans Services,  
77 S. High St., 7th Fl., Columbus, OH 43215,  
or fax 614-728-9498.

Forms are available on our website at:  
[www.ohiovets.gov/main/request-for-records.html](http://www.ohiovets.gov/main/request-for-records.html)

or call our office at 877-644-6838, or your local County Veterans Service Office.



***Because I said I would*** is focusing its charitable programs on supporting people directly and indirectly affected by COVID-19.

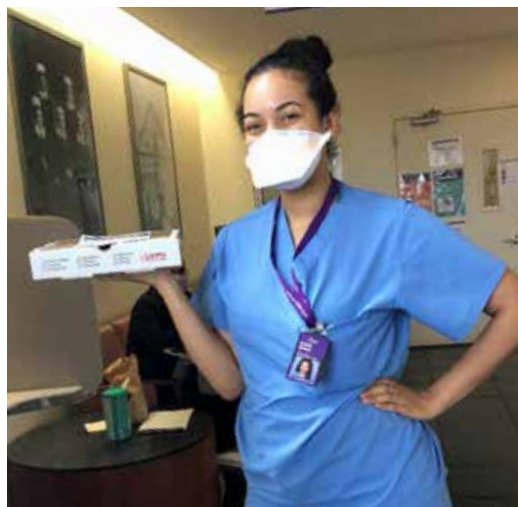
**Unemployment Transition Program for COVID-19 Job Loss**

Because I said I would is offering an eight week Unemployment Transition Program designed to improve mental health outcomes and update job skills. The program inspires participants, building the mental stamina and resiliency to find life-sustaining employment. To date we have offered over 300 scholarships to people unemployed due to COVID-19.



**Masks for Healthcare Facilities**

When frontline workers needed masks and PPE was scarce, because I said I would enlisted one of the largest organized volunteer efforts in the state of Ohio to sew over 20,000 masks.



**Public Service Announcements**

We are creating PSAs with educational content in an effort to stop behaviors that are spreading COVID-19 and endangering lives. Our recent videos have been seen by millions nationwide.

**Bereavement Support**

Losing a loved one due to COVID-19 is especially hard. With many families unable to hold proper funerals or memorial services, they are struggling even more in the bereavement process. Because I said I would is organizing volunteer service projects to help bereaved families find comfort and closure in this difficult time.

**Endurance Meals for Frontline Healthcare Workers**

Because I said I would is sending free lunches to frontline healthcare workers in regions hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic so they have one less thing to worry about.

For more information, visit [becauseisaidiwould.org/covid19](https://becauseisaidiwould.org/covid19)

because  
I said  
I would.

**Because I said I would** is a social movement and nonprofit dedicated to the betterment of humanity through promises made and kept.

Find out more at [becauseisaidiwould.org](https://becauseisaidiwould.org)

**Donations**

Donations can be made online at [becauseisaidiwould.org/dd214](https://becauseisaidiwould.org/dd214) or mail a check to:

because I said I would.  
20525 Center Ridge Rd. Suite 365  
Rocky River, OH 44116



Dominion Energy has been named  
America's best managed electric  
and gas company.

**It helps when 1 in 5  
new hires is a veteran.**

---

This year's "Management Top 250," published by *The Wall Street Journal*, ranks the best run U.S. companies based on customer satisfaction, employee engagement and development, innovation, social responsibility and financial strength. Dominion Energy was **ranked as the top electric and gas utility**. And military publication *G.I. Jobs* ranks Dominion Energy top in our industry and 5th among all U.S. companies. It marks the 10th consecutive year Dominion Energy has been recognized as a military-friendly company. So to each and every one of our 16,000+ dedicated employees, THANK YOU for your commitment to excellence, your dedication to community and most of all for the energy you bring to this company each and every day.

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