



CHRONICLE

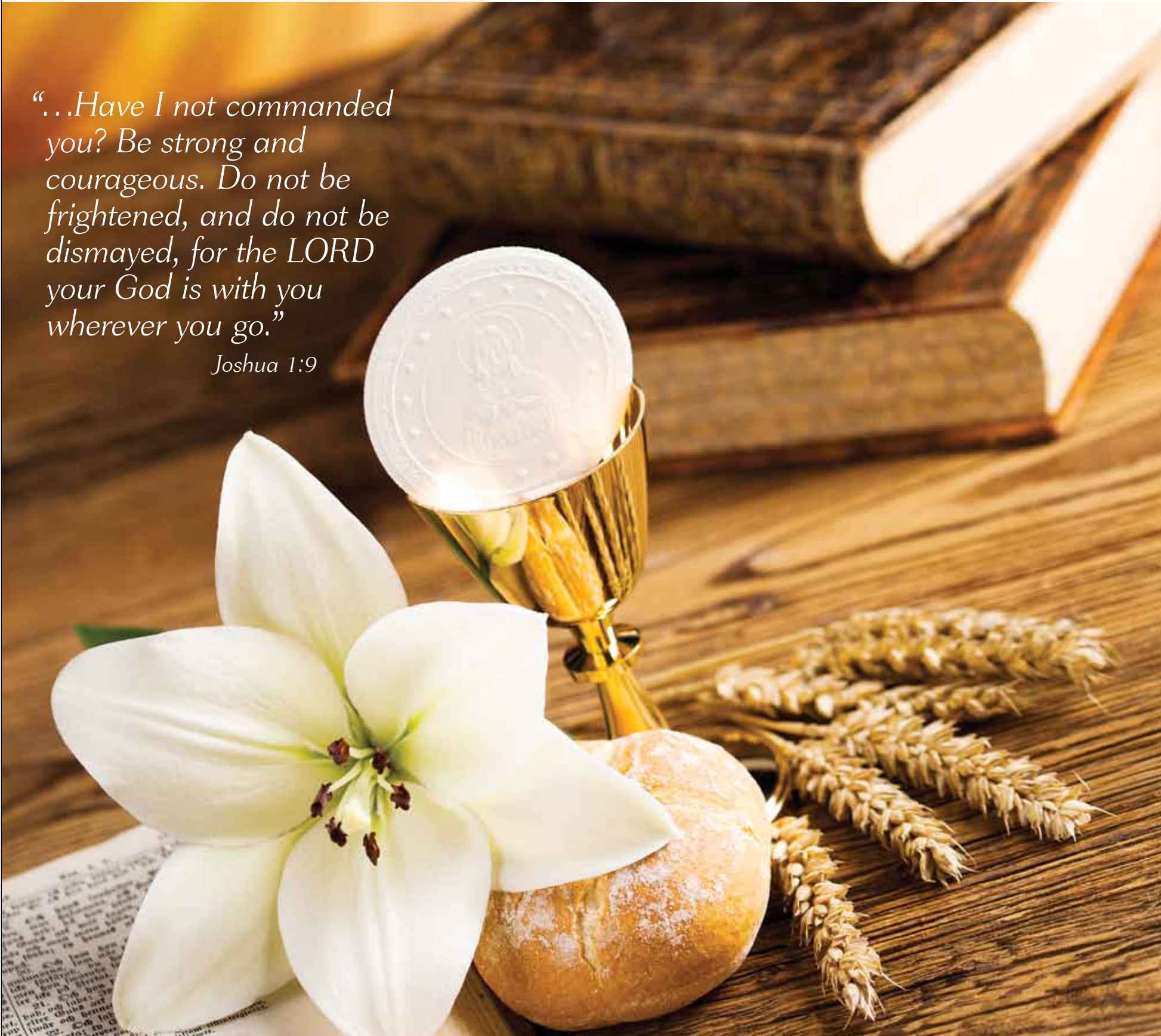
The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 3

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“...Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9



HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED



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UNIFORM OF THE DAY

- 4** Stand at ease
We read the headlines; skipped the stories
- 5** Mail call
Racism in the Ranks
- 6** Navajo Code Talkers
The bravery of four World War II chaplains
- 7** ER Experience Leads Army Medic to
Baldwin Wallace University
- 8** The Medal of Honor for Chaplain Charles J. Watters
- 10** According to the Department of Defense
- 12** Clevelanders at Gettysburg
- 13** Two Northeast Ohio Veterans Inducted Into
Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame
- 14** You Served Your Country in Uniform;
Today You Serve Your Community in Jeans
and Sweatshirts
- 15** The Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- 16** Coast Guardsman Dodged Disaster
- 18** Baldwin Wallace University Supports Student
Veterans with New Resource Center
- 19** Helicopter Pilot Survived Vietnam Tour,
Stateside Crash

In service to veterans ... and employers

One of the many pleasures of publishing DD214Chronicle is going from editor to delivery guy.

When the pallet of newspapers arrives from our Chicago printer, it's off to the races we go. Delivery to more than 160 locations across northern Ohio takes five days. Of course we go to VFWs and Legion posts, the Veteran Service Commissions in every county, the VA headquarters, hospitals, and satellite offices.

Right from the get-go, we wanted our delivery to go beyond the VA and veteran organizations. Our thinking was this: Not all veterans belong to veteran organizations or use veteran benefits. But almost all of us know a vet, or love one, or are related to one.

For that reason, we added more than 60 libraries to the delivery list. We tacked on colleges and universities with veteran programs, city halls, bars and restaurants, paid subscribers, recruiting offices, and one cigar shop.

It is a small, dedicated, talented, and determined group that puts out the newspaper: an editor, printer, art director, writers, account executives, copy editors, web and Facebook page editors, and delivery drivers. I think of our team as spokes in a wheel; each is vital and the loss of one can unbalance the whole cart.

DD214 Chronicle is in its seventh year of publishing.



Our editorial scope is wide. History, to us, is as valuable and readable as current events. We write about the men and women who took the battle to foreign shores, whether to the Middle East, Vietnam, Korea, or the WWII battles fought all around the world. Other subjects concern veterans who have come back to us; the poisoning of water at Camp Lejeune; VA programs and services; education for veterans; non-fiction books about our men and women in uniform, and plenty more.

One of the most valuable lessons is the value of education and teamwork. Military skills, almost all applicable to civilian jobs, run the gamut, whether jet engine maintenance, scuba diving, nursing, construction, teaching, navigation, heavy equipment, cooking, weather forecasting, and plenty more.

Veterans make it easier for employers. Veterans know how to learn. They see the big picture and the parts they play for successful operations. They are disciplined and centered. They value their health. Obstacles, to veterans, are opportunities to go over, around, under or through.

What employer wouldn't want to describe his work force in such terms?

Military service is not a one-and-done deal. We take with us the values and knowledge we learned under less-than-ideal conditions.

Little wonder we're proud of ourselves and eager to continue our service to America.

We read the headlines; skipped the stories



- **Burglar wants \$10M after cops shot him in the butt**
Maybe mooning the cops wasn't such a good idea after all.
- **Lena Dunham has a restaurant's sign tattooed on her butt**
Early Bird Special?
- **Your annoying habits are actually good for your health**
Until you get sucker punched.
- **Humans could be doomed to turn to cannibalism**
Which will make it more difficult to get kids to enjoy liver.
- **The MetroSpiritual: Why finding your true soulmate is so hard**
That would be because your true soulmate doesn't want to found.
By you.
- **Here's why you should never, ever visit the surface of Venus**
McDonald's is the only fast food joint?



*The Newspaper for
Veterans and
All Who Love Them.*

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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: More than 60 libraries, colleges and universities that welcome veteran students, VFW and American Legion posts, city halls, Veteran Administration offices and health care facilities, organizations in support of veterans, advertisers, political offices, and Veteran Service Commissions. DD214 Chronicle also maintains dd214chronicle.com and DD214 Chronicle/Facebook.

The Chronicle would not exist without its advertisers. Make the effort to patronize them.

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MAIL CALL

OBAMA STAINED HIS LEGACY BY ACCEPTING UNDESERVED NOBEL PRIZE FOR PEACE

As Obamaphiles continue to wallow in a morass of teary-eyed sorrow and depression over the former president's absence from the White House, perhaps they should remove their rose-colored glasses, dab their eyes and read the Nobel Peace Prize speech he should have given in 2009:

"I appreciate being chosen for this prestigious, distinguished prize, but I do not deserve it and therefore refuse to accept it. The reasons are obvious. I am continuing to wage President George W. Bush's war in Iraq and will do so until the end of 2011 when I will be legally obligated to withdraw combat troops from that country, due to an agreement President Bush made with the Iraqi government in 2008.

"Another reason I refuse to accept the peace prize is that a little over a week ago I announced plans to escalate the war in Afghanistan, ordering the deployment of 30,000 more troops into that venue.

"Further, unlike President Bush's soldiers who peacefully captured Saddam Hussein, if we ever locate Osama bin Laden our military will be authorized to kill him outright, even if he is unarmed, offers no resistance and is in the presence of his family.

"Also, I will hold weekly meetings and personally select which members of al-Qaeda I will order to be killed. My kill list will be a dramatic expansion of such a list initiated by President George W. Bush. Also, I will support killing suspected terrorists, even though murdering terrorist suspects in the United States without due process obviously would be patently illegal.

"I will also authorize a dramatic increase in Preda-

tor drone strikes compared to those approved by President Bush, despite the fact such strikes likely will kill hundreds of civilian men, women and children in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen--collateral damage: I call it--the 'fog of war.'

"If terrorists become active in other countries, such as Syria, Yemen, Somalia or again in Iraq, I will authorize or otherwise support air strikes against terrorist locations even though the attacks likely will also kill many innocent civilians. Again, collateral damage--the fog of war.

"Although I am a Christian, I will continue to ignore the commandment 'Thou shalt not kill.' Finally, I will pay no heed to one of the many Beatitudes Jesus Christ presented prior to his Sermon on the Mount, to wit, 'Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God'. Obviously, that Beatitude does not apply to me.

"By now it should be clear everything I have done and plan to do militarily is antithetical to the concept of peace. I appreciate your offer, but there are millions of people in the world who wholeheartedly embrace diplomacy, the principles of peaceful conflict resolution and consider resorting to lethal violence to settle international conflicts as anathema and counter-productive in the long run. Such folks are eminently more deserving and qualified than I to receive the award. Therefore you ought to have no trouble finding a worthy Nobel Peace Prize recipient. Thank you, anyway, for your consideration."

Louis H. Pumphrey

A drafted U.S. Army Vietnam veteran (First Infantry Division, 1967-68), Pumphrey is a member of Chapter 39 of Veterans for Peace, based at a Cleveland Heights church. He lives in Shaker Heights.

Racism in the Ranks

THE SENSELESS AND SICKENING MURDER OF A BLACK TROOPER

I interviewed Clarence Sindy on March 16, 2004. He served in the U.S. Army with the 66th Signal Battalion. They landed in France in December of 1944 and Clarence and another soldier hitched a ride to Fecamp, France.

"They had what they called the Red Ball Express, and some of the trucks were hauling gravel from the shore because they were trying to make a place where the aircraft could land. And we jumped on this truck to go into Fecamp and I was with a fellow from the 101st, a little guy from Texas, and when we got off the truck, he yells out to the colored driver. He says, 'Thank you, boy.' And the colored driver, a big, big kid, sticks his head out of the door and he says, 'Hey, I'm not a boy. I'm a man just like the rest of you guys.' And the kid from Texas takes out his .45 and shoots him right between the eyes. I'll never forget that in my life. And when I hear somebody say something about prejudice that always comes back to my mind. Horrible. It really gets to you when something like that happens. You know, it burns a place in your mind."

*From the radio series LEGACIES: Stories from the Second World War
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Navajo Code Talkers

THE UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION OF NATIVE AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II

By Darlene Johnson-Cargill

America's fabric is woven together by people of various hues and cultures and religions and dialects. Many who make up the fabric have died protecting our values and our lives.

Many years ago, Native Americans who inhabited this land, were run off the land and many were killed by white settlers. Later, some tribes were called upon to make a contribution to America that many will never forget. They were the "Code Talkers."

Code Talkers are associated with bilingual Navajo speakers. They used their knowledge of Native American languages as a basis to transmit coded messages during wartime. The Navajo could encode, transmit and decode a three-line English message in 20 seconds, versus the 30 minutes required by machines at that time.

In 1942, Philip Johnston, a civil engineer for Los Angeles, proposed the use of the Navajo to the Marine Corps at the beginning of World War II. Johnston, a World War I veteran, was raised on a Navajo reservation, the son of a missionary to the Navajo. He was one of the few non-Navajo who spoke the language fluently.

The Marines recruited 200 Navajo. The first 29 recruits went to boot camp in 1942 and created the Navajo code at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California.

The codebook, for classroom purposes only, was developed to teach the many relevant words and concepts to new initiates. The code talkers memorized all the variations and practiced their rapid use under stressful conditions dur-



Philip Johnston

ing training.

The Navajo speakers who weren't trained would have no idea what the code talkers messages meant; they would hear disjointed strings of individual, unrelated nouns and verbs.

However, Code talking was pioneered by Cherokee and Choctaw Indians during World War I.

Adolph Hitler knew about the successful use of code talkers during the war and sent a team of 30 anthropologist to the United States to learn the Native American language before the outbreak of War War II.

It proved too difficult for them to learn the many languages and dialects that existed. Because of Nazi Germany anthropologist efforts to learn the language, the US Army did not implement a language scale code talkers program in Europe.

Even so, 14 Comanche Code Talkers took part in Normandy and continued to serve in the 4th Infantry Division during additional European Operations.

Commander of the 4th Signal Company compiled a vocabulary of over 100 code terms using words or phrases in their own language. Using

a substitution method similar to the Navajo, the Comanche Code word for tank was "turtle;" a bomber was "pregnant airplane;" machine gun was "sewing machine," and Adolph Hitler was referred to as "crazy white man."

At one time, there were 400 to 500 Native Americans in the United States Marine Corps. Their primary job was the transmission of secret tactical messages. Code talkers transmitted these messages over military telephone or radio communications nets using formal or informally developed codes built upon their native languages.

Their service improved the speed of encryption of communications at both ends in front line operations during World War II.

Last year, The Navajo Times reported there are fewer than 20 surviving code talkers. Joe Hosteen Kellwood, a name you may not recognize, born in Steamboat Canyon, Arizona, passed away last year at the age of 95.

At the age of 10, he was sent to school at an Apache reservation run by the US Military. He couldn't speak English and was punished when he spoke in his native tongue. He worked as a Navajo Code Talker until the war ended in 1945.

According to his obituary, Kellwood served with distinction in the 1st Marine Division as a Navajo Code Talker, ultimately helping the allied forces to victory in World War II.

Each thread in the woven fabric of America's history tells a story. If one thread is left out, the entire piece may just unravel.

The bravery of four World War II chaplains

THE AMERICAN LEGION

On Feb. 3, 1943, the United States Army Transport Dorchester – a converted luxury liner – was crossing the North Atlantic, transporting more than 900 troops to an American base in Greenland.

Aboard the ship were four chaplains of different faiths: Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic).

Around 12:55 a.m., a German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck Dorchester's starboard side, below the water line and near the engine room. The explosion instantly killed 100 men and knocked out power and radio communication with Dorchester's three escort ships. Within 20 minutes, the transport sank and more than 670 men died.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, the four chaplains spread out, comforting the wounded and directing others to safety. One survivor, Private William Bednar, later said, "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying. I could also hear the chaplains' preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

Another survivor, John Ladd, watched the chaplains' distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven," he recalled.

As Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart, and in 1948, Congress declared Feb. 3 to be Four Chaplains Day. The four chaplains were also honored with a U.S. postage stamp that year.

Every year, American Legion posts nationwide remember Four Chaplains Day with memorial services. This year, Four Chaplains Sunday is on Feb. 5 and Legion family members are encouraged to share on www.legiontown.org how they honored the chaplains.

To request information on how to conduct a Four Chaplains Memorial Service, email the Americanism Division at americanism@legion.org.

Learn more about the four chaplains by visiting *The Immortal Chaplains Foundation* at www.immortalchaplains.org and *The Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation* at www.fourchaplains.org.

ER Experience Leads

ARMY MEDIC TO BALDWIN WALLACE UNIVERSITY

By Jerri Donohue

In the emergency room of Brook Army Medical Center (BAMC), a Level I trauma center in San Antonio, Texas, Army medic Sean Strefas worked on civilians who been shot, stabbed or seriously injured in car accidents. He also discovered a future in emergency medicine.

Today Strefas is a full-time paramedic and a part time emergency medical services instructor who also carries a course load of 16 credit hours at Baldwin Wallace University.

Strefas admits he wasn't always so focused. When he graduated from Parma High School in 2004 without any goals, his close friend and classmate, Sean Hoehn, encouraged him to consider military service. They enlisted in the Army together, and at Hoehn's suggestion, both trained as medics. To his surprise,

Strefas loved his job. Today he credits Hoehn for his career path.

"He sort of put that fire under me," he said.

Strefas spent four years on active duty and another two in the reserves. As a field medic in Texas, he treated soldiers who, while training, suffered from extreme heat or cold, or who sustained sprains, fractures or other injuries.

It was in the ER, however, that Strefas gained invaluable experience.

"The first day, we had a guy who was crushed by a tractor," Strefas said. "It was the first time I had done CPR on somebody."

Josh Michael, a paramedic who had completed two tours in Iraq, assured him he could do it, and stood by Strefas as he performed CPR on the accident victim. Strefas did not

revive the man, who had been declared dead at the scene, but the incident solidified his interest in emergency medicine.

Strefas and Josh Michael became close friends and remained so until Michael was killed in 2012 in a parade in Midland, Texas. He was riding on a Wounded Warriors float when it was stranded on a railroad crossing, unable to move forward because the float ahead had stopped. Michael jumped clear but part of the flatbed struck him when the train plowed into it.

"It was ironic because the very first call I worked on with him was [also] a traumatic arrest," Strefas said. He attended Michael's funeral in Texas.

Back in civilian life, Strefas went to paramedic school and firefighter school for necessary certifications. Sean Hoehn recommended Bald-

win Wallace University, and Strefas again followed his friend's advice. He will graduate in the fall of 2017 with a bachelor degree in biology and a minor in psychology.

He hopes to enter Baldwin Wallace's Physician Assistant Program next.

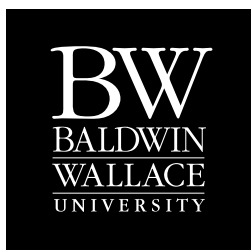
"It's one of the best programs around," Strefas said.

His ultimate goal is to work in a hospital emergency room.

"In the ER, you have no idea what you are going to get – a stubbed toe, a stroke, a cardiac arrest, a baby with a fever," he said.

Strefas has now worked in emergency medicine for 12 years and acknowledges that it is stressful and fast-paced. But he loves it.

"It sounds kind of corny, but it's the ability to give people a second chance," Strefas said.



VETERAN + STUDENT



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The Medal of Honor for Chaplain Charles J. Watters

ON HILL 875 HE SAVED AND COMFORTED

It was in the Vietnam War that Chaplain (MAJ) Charles J. Watters saved many of the lives of his own flock and sacrificed his own life for the greater good.

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, on January 17, 1927, Watters was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1953 and served in parishes in Jersey City, Rutherford, Cranford, and Paramus. In 1962, he became a chaplain in the New Jersey Air National Guard. In 1964, Watters entered the Army as a chaplain at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

In July 1966, Chaplain Watters was assigned to the Republic of Vietnam and served with Company A, 173d Support Battalion, 173d Airborne Brigade. Although he was officially assigned to the 173d Support Battalion, Watters often accompanied the brigade line units into the field. In July 1967, after completing his twelve-month tour, he voluntarily extended his tour by another six months.

In November 1967, Chaplain Watters was with 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry, in the bloody fighting for Hill 875 around Dak To. For Watters, the culmination of the battle came on 19 November. During that day, an intense fire fight broke out with the enemy forces. Without thinking of his own safety, Watters began to rush out on the battle field to help collect the dying and wounded and bring them to safety. Completely exposed, Chaplain Watters administered the Sacrament of Last Rites to his dying men. Every time his unit began to charge the front line, Watters was ahead picking up the wounded and administering the sacraments to those who had fallen.

After hours of fighting and the perimeter of the battlefield in



Chaplain Watters

a state of constant confusion, Chaplain Watters continued to maintain his composure. For hours after the initial fighting, he kept venturing out between friendly and enemy lines picking up the wounded, providing the exhausted soldiers with food and water, administering the sacraments, and

helping the medics give aid to the wounded. There were even efforts to try to restrain Chaplain Watters from his heroic and courageous deeds because of his vulnerability to enemy and friendly fire. Sadly, Watters became a victim of the battle raging on Hill 875 and did not survive the day.

He helped to save many men from death and comforted those who were dying. For his own courage

and bravery, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on 4 November 1969, "... for his conspicuous gallantry ... unyielding perseverance and selfless devotion to his comrades."

Chaplain Charles Watters was the first Army chaplain to receive the Medal of Honor since the Civil War. Only five Army chaplains have ever received America's highest military decoration. In the years following Watters' death, the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School renamed its building Watters Hall. In addition, P.S. 24, a public school in Jersey City, Watters' hometown, was renamed Chaplain Charles J. Watters School in 1988.

Chaplain Charles Watters is one of the best examples of how the U.S. Army chaplains serve their men and their country with gallantry and conspicuous courage. Chaplain Watters will always be remembered by those he saved in a severe time of crisis.



We provide two basic services:

1. Temporary emergency financial aid and assistance to eligible veterans and family members who have demonstrated a need as set forth by the Commission.
2. Assist veterans, family members and survivors when applying to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for benefits.

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- Financial Assistance:
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 - Utilities: Gas, Electric and Water
 - Food and personal Hygiene items
 - Certain Medical
- Transportation to and from VA Medical Centers in Cleveland (Louis Stokes Medical Center), Parma CBOC and Akron CBOC, Ohio
- Grave markers and flags
- Free Notary for Veterans & Families

Service Assistance (Residency not required):

- Preparations of forms and paperwork
- Documentation of claims and pertinent data
- Proper submission of claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs thru a service organization
- Submission for awards decorations and medals
- Notary Public & DD 214 Certification



Our services are **FREE** of charge!



THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, In a one-bedroom house made of plaster and stone. I had come down the chimney with presents to give, and to see just who in this home did live. I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots covered with sand, on the wall-hung pictures of far distant lands. With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sober thought came through my mind. For this house was different, In was dark and dreary. I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home. The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder, not how I pictured a United States soldier. Was this the hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight. Soon round the world, the children would play, and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, because of the soldiers, like the one laying here. I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry. The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice. I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life, my God, and my country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep. I kept watch for hours, so silent and still, and we both shivered from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark night, this guardian of honor so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over with a voice soft and pure. whispered, 'Carry on Santa, It's Christmas day, all is secure.'

One look at my watch and I knew he was right, Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night.



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LEGACIES: Stories from the Second World War

Interviewed George Hanna in 2003. He served in the Army Signal Corps. When he shipped out in 1944, he had no idea where they were headed.

"We stopped at Khorramshahr, Iran, and I thought what are we doing here? This is not supposed to be a noncombatant deal. So here we find out that they had truck and

plane assembly plants there and they were putting them together and shipping them to Russia. By the end of the war, over four-and-a-half-million tons of supplies were shipped. If it hadn't been for us - I'm not kidding you - they would have lost their fanny."

While he was in Khorramshahr, George became very close with a

young Iranian boy.

"He cleaned our barracks for us, Hamid, a nice kid. And one day I was looking through a Good Housekeeping magazine and he sat on the bunk with me, and he said, 'May I see this magazine, Sergeant?' I said, 'Yes, you can.' So we sat down there and we leafed through it, and he said, 'Is it really that clean in America?' He

said, 'All the houses, the streets are so clean.' And I said, 'Yes, because we make a fetish of being clean.' He says, 'I would love to go to America someday.' And I often wondered whether he ever made it, you know. He was a nice kid."

From the radio series, LEGACIES: Stories from the Second World War ©2017 Tom Swope



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According to the Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense is the principal defense policy advisor to the President. Under the direction of the President, the Secretary exercises authority, direction, and control over the Department of Defense. The Deputy Secretary, the second-highest ranking official in the DoD, is delegated full power and authority to act for the Secretary and to exercise the powers of the Secretary on any and all matters for which the Secretary is authorized to act.

The Department of Defense is America's oldest and largest government agency. With our military tracing its roots back to pre-Revolutionary times, the Department of Defense has grown and evolved with our nation.

Today, the Department is not only in charge of the military, but it also employs a civilian force of thousands. With over 1.3 million

men and women on active duty, and 742,000 civilian personnel, we are the nation's largest employer. Another 826 thousand serve in the National Guard and Reserve forces. More than 2 million military retirees and their family members receive benefits.

Headquarters of the Department of Defense, the Pentagon is one of the world's largest office buildings. It is twice the size of the Merchandise Mart in Chicago, and has three times the floor space of the Empire State Building in New York. Built during the early years of World War II, it is still thought of as one of the most effi-



cient office buildings in the world. Despite 17.5 miles of corridors it takes only seven minutes to walk between any two points in the building.

The national security depends on our defense installations and facilities being in the right place, at the right time, with the right qualities and capacities to protect our national resources. Those resources have never been more important as America fights terrorists who plan and carry out attacks on our facilities and our people. Our military servicemembers and civilians operate in every time zone and in every climate. More than 450,000

employees are overseas, both afloat and ashore.

The Defense Department manages an inventory of installations and facilities to keep Americans safe. The Department's physical plant is huge by any standard, consisting of more than several hundred thousand individual buildings and structures located at more than 5,000 different locations or sites. When all sites are added together, the Department of Defense utilizes over 30 million acres of land.

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THANK YOU
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Clevelanders at Gettysburg

By JC Sullivan

James K. O'Reilly was returning from Sunday Mass in Cleveland, Ohio when news posters announced the assault on Ft. Sumter, South Carolina.

America's Civil War began on that April day.

With two of his buddies, James Butler and Thomas Francis Galwey, they were eager to join Union forces before the fight was over. They hurried to the armory of the Hibernian Guards and enlisted for three months, officially becoming Co. B, 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

By June, 1863, Confederate General Robert E. Lee's rag-tag forces had moved into the farmlands of Pennsylvania, rich in the much-needed resources of food, material, and horses.

The march to Gettysburg was brutally hot. Unlike modern armies, neither side at Gettysburg had winter and summer uniforms - only ones made of heavy wool. Some were lucky to have shoes. O'Reilly suffered sunstroke, was lifted into a horse-drawn ambulance, hospitalized, going by horse-drawn ambulance. Former Cuyahoga County Judge Kenneth R. Callahan is a direct descendent of Captain O'Reilly, his maternal great-grandfather. "When he found out the 8th was positioned outside the Emmitsburg Road," said Callahan, "he left the hospital and ran out and joined the company there."

He arrived at Gettysburg after the first day of battle. Colonel Samuel Springs Carroll ordered the Hibernians immediately into a cornfield



between the Union lines on Cemetery Ridge and Confederate lines on Seminary Ridge, with orders to push back rebel sharpshooters.

With this advanced picket line established, O'Reilly's Hibernians spent the night. Confederate sharpshooters reminded them of their close proximity.

The following morning General Lee, believing the center of the Union line to be weakened, opened up his attack with a two-hour artillery barrage. "Nothing more terrific than this story of artillery can be imagined," said Colonel Franklyn Sawyer. "The missiles of both armies passed over our heads. The roar of the guns was deafening, the air was soon clouded with smoke, and the shrieks and the startling crack of the exploding shells above, a round and in our midst; the blowing up of our caissons in our rear; the driving through the air of the fence rails, posts and limbs of trees; the groans of dying men, the neighing of frantic and wounded horses, created a scene of absolute horror."

General Lee sent fifteen thousand

troops into the fray. The 150 - 180 men of the 8th Ohio poured rifle fire into the left flank of James J. Pettigrew's division. "They moved up splendidly," Sawyer wrote, "deploying into column as they crossed the long, sloping interval between us and their base. The surprised Southerners broke and retreated.

"...the first sign of faltering came from Colonel J.M. Brockenbrough's brigade of Virginians who, under Pettigrew, were stationed in the extreme left of the advance, that is, directly in front of the 8th Ohio," Callahan related.

With Sawyer admitting their 'blood was up,' he turned his men 90 degrees and fired into the flank of Joseph Davis' brigade. When Union commanders saw this development, they sent reinforcements down to turn the attack. The 8th advanced, cutting off three regiments, capturing their colors and many soldiers.

Afterwards, an attempt was made to discharge Colonel Sawyer from the service for it was believed he was drunk...they thought no commander in his right mind would attempt such

a maneuver with such a small force.

In August, 1865, at the war's end, O'Reilly returned to New York City and married Susan O'Brien at St. Stephen's Parish Church. The couple came to Cleveland and resided at 189 Quincy Ave., where they raised seven children.

Part of the time he worked for Thomas Jones & Sons Monument Co., which was located at E. 28th & Prospect Ave. Because of his disability from his Gettysburg sunstroke, however, he was never able to work for long periods of time.

He tried to get a pension the rest of his life in a protracted struggle with the War Department, not unlike modern American veterans of more recent conflicts. His widow Susan was finally awarded one in 1930, thirty years after his death. In 1900, after a funeral Mass at St. Edward's Church, O'Reilly was laid to rest in St. John's cemetery, next to the church. His stone, erected by his daughter, says simply, "Captain J.K. O'Reilly." Callahan met Captain O'Reilly's daughter, Isabelle, in 1952. She blamed her father for the fact that she never married.

She claimed every time somebody came over to see her he pulled them into the parlor and kept them up until midnight telling stories about the Civil War.

Galwey kept a diary throughout the war. His family later published it as *The Valiant Hours*. Narrative of Captain Brevet, an Irish-American in the Army of the Potomac. It can still be found on the Internet.



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Two Northeast Ohio Veterans Inducted Into Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame

By Jerri Donohue

Fairlawn resident William Miller and Cleveland resident John Sazpansky were inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in Columbus.

Although nominees must have served their country honorably, their selection for the Veterans Hall of Fame is based on later contributions within their communities. Miller, Sazpansky and 17 other men and women were chosen from 100 nominees this year.

William Miller enlisted in the Army six months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and spent the following 40 years on active duty or in the reserves. He fought through the hedgerows of Normandy, survived the Battle of the Bulge, and eventually barreled across Germany with a unit that captured one town after another.

In post-war years, Miller helped found the Fairlawn Chamber of Commerce, served multiple terms on his church board and became president

of the local Optimist Club. Most significantly, he has been involved in the Boy Scouts for 82 years, including 33 as a Scout Master. Several of the 175 Eagle Scouts Miller mentored attended Veterans Hall of Fame induction events to celebrate his inclusion. At the banquet, Miller told inductees and guests that he worries about the decline in family, faith and patriotism in America, ideals important to the Scouts.

A member of American Legion Post 19 in Akron and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 349 in Fairlawn, the 94-year old has addressed school children and veterans groups about his experience liberating a satellite camp of the infamous Buchenwald concentration



Miller



Sazpansky

camp. Guards had machine-gunned numerous prisoners shortly before the GIs arrived.

Last May, Miller related this story, which he calls his most last-

ing memory of the war, at the Governor's 36th Annual Holocaust Commemoration.

John Sazpansky enlisted in the Army a month after his high school graduation and spent most of 1948 to 1950 working as a clerk at Fort Eustis, Virginia, which he and other soldiers dubbed, "Fort Useless." While there, he also played trombone in a dance band at officer and enlisted men clubs.

Despite Sazpansky's relatively short military service, fellow veterans have benefitted from his volunteerism for the last 50 years. At first, he volun-

teered at the Veterans Administration facility in Broadview Heights. Usually accompanied by his wife, he played pool and made popcorn for non-contagious tuberculosis patients.

When the VA later transferred residents to newer buildings in Brecksville, Sazpansky and his small children visited on Saturdays. On Sunday mornings, he returned to transport veterans in wheelchairs to religious services. He held several leadership positions in American Legion Teddy Roosevelt Post 469 and participated in its monthly bingo parties for the VA patients. He continues to volunteer at the Louis Stokes Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Sazpansky helped veterans or their widows obtain medals due to them and displayed them in shadow boxes. A collector of military insignia, he is a past president of the Ohio Society of Military History.

For more information on the Veterans Hall of Fame, visit www.ovhoff.com

LORAIN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Temporary financial assistance may be available to Veterans or their widow who show a need and meet eligibility requirements. Assistance is based on household income and may be given for rent or mortgage, property tax, utilities, car payment, car/home/life/medical insurances, and food or personal items. The commission considers household income, living expenses, available assets, medical expenses, and the special needs of each applicant when determining eligibility. The Veteran must have been discharged under honorable conditions and must have served on active duty for purposes other than training. Applicant must be a resident of Lorain County for 90 days prior to application.

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Moving from military to civilian life is sometimes unsettling. No more reveilles, no more mess halls, and no more inspections. Gen X and Gen Y veterans are sometimes slowed by the transition.

Veterans bring to the marketplace valuable skills. Talent and experience learned at military schools, where failure is not an option.

Whether mechanics, medics, chaplains, club managers, transportation specialists, jet pilots, sailors, nuclear power technicians, teachers and instructors, nurses, heavy equipment operators, file clerks, firefighters and police, musicians, skilled construction workers, members of rescue teams, or members of the combat arms: Infantry, Artillery, Cavalry.

These young veterans didn't learn marketable skills by joining fraternities, playing intramural sports, or insisting controversial speakers be banned from campuses.

For Gen X and Gen Y veterans, military service was the most influential part of their lives. How could it not be? It was a unique education and experience. In addition to the skills learned, they learned the real definitions of service to community, support of other veterans, teamwork, leadership, and pride in America.

In civilian clothes, they are hard to spot. Unless you notice the confident stride, the eyes looking ahead, and the appreciation for, "Mission completed."

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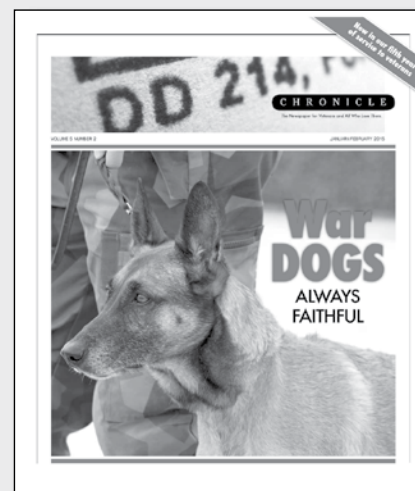
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The Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The Memorial Wall was designed by American architect Maya Lin. In 2007, it was ranked tenth on the "List of America's Favorite Architec-

ture" by the American Institute of Architects. As a National Memorial, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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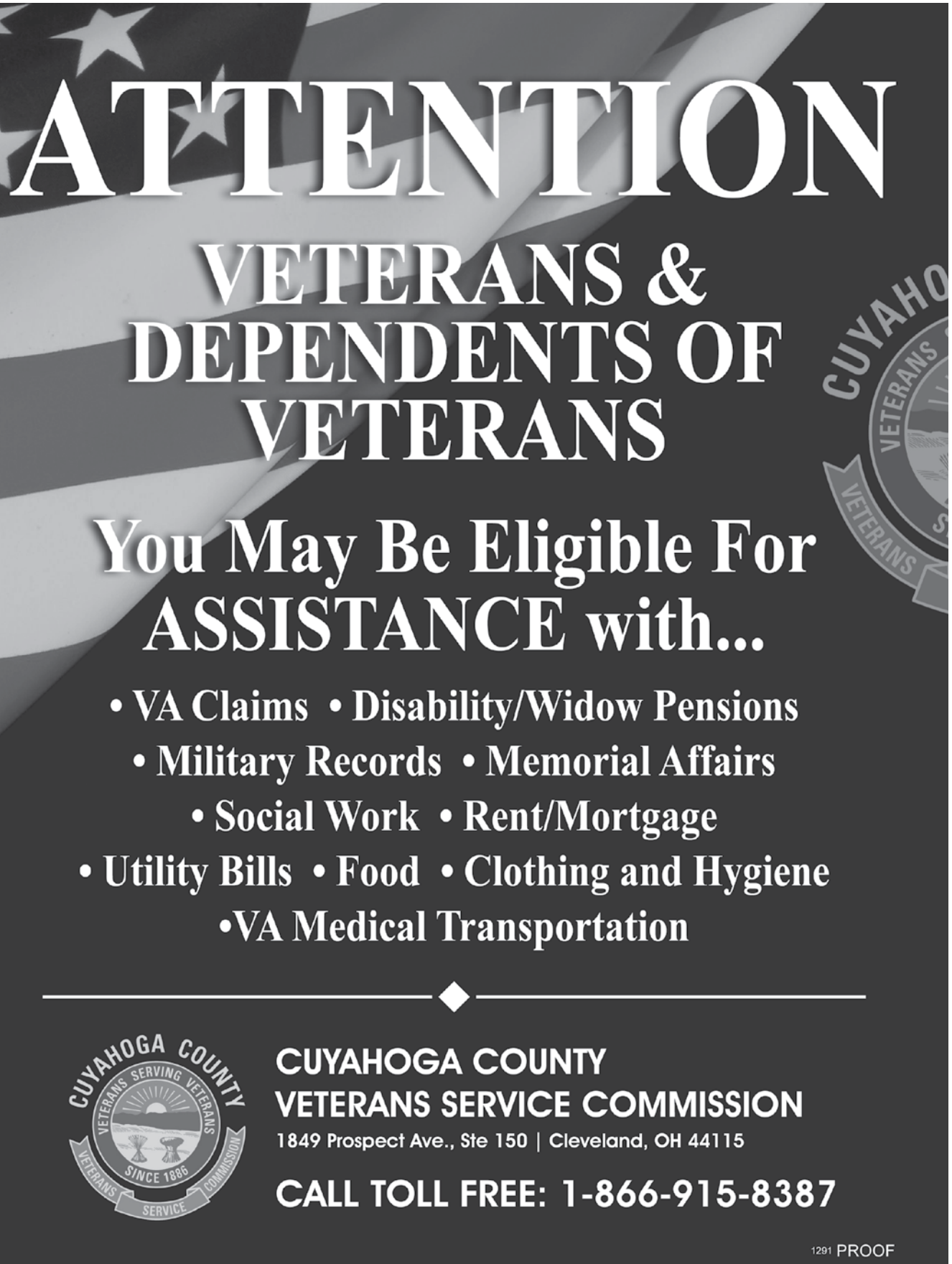
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a 2-acre national memorial in Washington, DC. It honors U.S. service members of the U.S. armed forces who fought in the Vietnam War, service members who died in service in Vietnam/South East Asia, and those service members who were unaccounted for (Missing In Action) during the War.

Its construction and related issues have been the source of controversies, some of which have resulted in additions to the memorial complex. The memorial currently consists of three separate parts: the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, completed first and the best-known part of the memorial; the Three Servicemen Memorial, and the Vietnam Women's Memorial.

The main part of the memorial, which was completed in 1982, is in Constitution Gardens adjacent to the National Mall, just northeast of the Lincoln Memorial. The memorial is maintained by the U.S. National Park Service, and receives around 3 million visitors each year.

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1291 PROOF

Coast Guardsman Dodged Disaster

By Jerri Donohue

Coast Guardsman Joe Geiger dodged a collision in the fog - but the near miss occurred in the air, not on water.

Assigned to an oceanographic unit in 1972, Geiger spent two weeks each month tracking icebergs. He flew out of Newfoundland or Prince Edward Island, part of a joint ice patrol operated by the Canada and United States Coast Guards.

That day, an ensign was flying the team into an airport in Canada; the senior pilot sat behind him.

"All of a sudden, the senior pilot very sternly said, 'Pull up!'" Geiger recalled.

A civilian plane was doing instrument touch-and-go practicing, but air traffic control had not alerted the Coast Guard's C-130 of its presence

Geiger routinely charted ice-

bergs on eight or nine hour-flights over the North Atlantic. After calculating the icebergs' drift, the Coast Guard would warn mariners traveling in those sea-lanes.

The young ensign usually flew out of an anti-submarine base on Prince Edward Island. Before taking off, he and the pilots checked with the weather station to avoid storms or foggy stretches that would prevent them from spotting icebergs.

Fog occasionally appeared anyway. So they could see, the pilot would fly lower and lower until the commander decided it was unsafe to continue.

On two occasions, the plane made it back to the airfield despite mechanical failures.

"That would not have been good, if we had gone down," Geiger said. "The life expectancy [in the water] in that area of the world is mea-

sured in minutes, and not double digit minutes."

Geiger enjoyed the eerie winter beauty of Prince Edward Island. Its red sand sometimes blew onto the frozen surface of the ocean, creating the illusion of red waves.

Geiger appreciated his assignment because he spent the other half of each month on Governors Island on the tip of Manhattan. At the end of the workday, he walked to his quarters, changed clothes and caught the ferry to Manhattan. He then took the subway to Times Square where the USO distributed free tickets to shows in the theater district.

The Coast Guard eventually sent Geiger to explosive loading school.

"The war was going on in Vietnam; ammo was being produced in the United States," Geiger explained. "How do you load that

ammunition -- bombs, bullets and mortars and chemicals-- safely in a cargo ship and get it over there?"

Safety remained a specialty for Geiger. Later, in Cincinnati, his section replaced damaged navigation aids on a 200-mile stretch of the Ohio River shoreline. In winter, ice destroyed day markers, and year round, people took pot shots at shore lights and solar panels.

Geiger ended his career as a commander in the reserves in 1991. He praised the Coast Guard for the opportunities it affords members for early advancement. In addition, much of the Coast Guard's work is especially rewarding- such as search and rescue, and the prevention of pollution and drug smuggling.

Geiger has only one disappointment with his career.

"I very much wanted to go to sea," he said.

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

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



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

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

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Anna Lupson, Navy veteran and LCCC psychology student who is using her veterans benefits to attend school. She plans to continue her education through LCCC's University Partnership program.



**Lorain County
Community College**

Baldwin Wallace University Supports Student Veterans with New Resource Center

By Jerri Donohue

Opened shortly before Veterans Day, Baldwin Wallace University's new Veterans Resource Center boasts a spacious student lounge with a television and comfy furniture, a quiet study section equipped with two computers, and a convenient, private spot to meet with BW Veteran Student Services Coordinator, Randy Stevenson, for counseling on their VA benefits and other matters.

Nancy Jirousek, Director of Adult, Transfer and Military Services, said the Center is roomy enough to accommodate meetings and social events. Veterans recently held a get-together in the Center; previously they had to socialize at American

Legion and VFW posts and in local restaurants. Jirousek also noticed a slight increase in participants at the Vets Community Hour on Tuesdays during lunchtime.

"Everyone who has seen the space just loves it," Jirousek said.

From year to year, the veteran population at BWU fluctuates between 80 to 100 students, with a current enrollment of 85 former servicemen and women in undergraduate and graduate programs.

Jirousek said another 27 students of traditional college student age are using their parents' post 9-11 GI Bill or other GI education benefits that can now be transferred to a dependent or spouse.

"We've always wanted to have a Veterans Resource Center on campus," Jirousek said.

When the university asked students to submit their ideas to enrich campus life, several suggested a center tailored to veterans' needs. The leadership council approved converting a space in the Student Activities Center for this purpose, as a capitol budget line item.

"That paid for the renovations," Jirousek said.

The university's buildings and grounds staff undertook the renovation, which began in late August and finished in early November.

"We also learned about the Home Depot Foundation grant, which was through Student Veterans of America."

Student veterans helped prepare the winning grant proposal, covering furniture, appliances and lighting. Veterans spent days unpacking and assembling furniture that

arrived in boxes from Home Depot. They participated in the Center's dedication ceremony and showed visitors around during an Open House.

The Center is manned weekdays from 8:30 to 5 p.m. by work-study students. Current veteran students have swipe access to the Center from 8 a.m. until midnight everyday.

Outfitted with a coffee maker, refrigerator, microwave and toaster, the Veterans Resource Center welcomes vets to bring their lunch or snacks between classes, relax and hang out with other veterans.

"Having an established meeting place where we can rebuild the camaraderie we had in the service provides an amazing opportunity for students to reconnect and continue to find a greater purpose in life," said Michael Brown, Student Veterans Organization president. "It is one of many bricks in the foundation of student veteran success at Baldwin Wallace."

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Helicopter Pilot Survived Vietnam Tour, Stateside Crash

By Jerri Donohue



Little chopper and the big hearts that flew and fought.

The recklessness of a fellow helicopter pilot caused Bruce Kilian's most terrifying moments in Vietnam. The men were heading for "home" after re-supplying a firebase on a mountain.

"The aircraft commander said, 'Hey, let's have some fun!'" Kilian recalled. "He starts low-leveling in the river, just for kicks."

Enemy fire struck the helicopter almost immediately, pocking it with bullet holes. When it reached base, maintenance personnel discovered a bullet had pierced the tail rotor drive shaft. The foolhardy pilot was temporarily grounded for endangering the 4-man crew.

At that point in 1972, Kilian hadn't acquired the necessary flight hours in Vietnam to pilot the helicopter. Although older and more experienced than the aircraft commander, he flew as co-pilot that day.

Kilian landed in Saigon in the spring of 1972. Earlier, he had volunteered for aviation training while in the Army ROTC at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, and then agreed to three additional years of service after flight school.

In Vietnam, Kilian was assigned to the 57th Assault Helicopter Company in Pleiku. The war was winding down and about 25,000 Americans remained in Vietnam.

Once he achieved pilot status, Kilian continued moving people, material and ammo, some days returning with dead or wounded South Vietnamese soldiers. Other times, he circled around problem spots so bigwigs could assess the situation on the ground. A husband and father, he never took unnecessary risks.

Kilian dreaded "single ship" trips over mountains and jungle. He had a survival vest but can-

not recall being equipped with a survival radio.

"One of my biggest fears was not necessarily getting shot down by the bad guys, but engine failure," the pilot said.

He knew aircraft sometimes disappeared without ever being found.

Kilian returned to the States in March 1973, and became a flight instructor at Fort Rucker, Alabama. On July 9, 1974, his Huey crashed in a cornfield, killing Kilian's student. The farmer, who witnessed the accident, was poor, but he refused compensation for the loss of his crop.

The man was unwilling to profit from the tragedy.

A subsequent investigation cleared Kilian of pilot error.

"I had a transmission seizure at 800 feet," Kilian said. "In layman's terms, without that blade turning effectively, a helicopter is

not aerodynamic."

Fortunately, the aircraft still had forward airspeed.

"Luckily, we didn't fall to the ground like a rock," Kilian said. "We hit the ground with 100 times the force of gravity."

It took rescuers 20 minutes to extricate Kilian from the wreckage. He suffered from a collapsed lung, a broken back and internal injuries that required the removal of his spleen. He still wears braces because his ankles were shattered.

Several operations and months of rehabilitation followed the crash, and the Army eventually medically retired Kilian.

The pilot sees his survival as miraculous, partly because the downed aircraft didn't catch fire.

"There was gas everywhere and the engine was cooking," Kilian said. "If there was a fire, I would have been immolated."

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