



**CHRONICLE**

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

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 3

MARCH/APRIL 2018



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VEAP is a one-stop shop for the educational, career and re-entry support needs of veterans and their families. For more information on how VEAP can assist in establishing a career pathway or helping with your educational success, visit [www.tri-c.edu/veap](http://www.tri-c.edu/veap) or call 216-987-4938.

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workforce/transportation-center or call 216-987-3226.

Finally, DD214 salutes Tri-C Veterans Initiative Executive Director Rick DeChant on his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in November 2017. A retired commander, DeChant served in the U.S. Coast Guard, including tours in the Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has also been recognized for his work with the TSA, receiving the Department of Homeland Security Heroism Award in addition to the Cleveland Police Depart-

ment 2006 Citizen Heroism Award for helping to subdue an armed gunman at Cleveland Hopkins Airport.

DeChant is co-chair of the Northeast Ohio Veterans Community Task Force, which focuses on leveraging VA resources, and is active in the Greater Cleveland Fisher House and NEOVETS. He also helped to co-author Ohio House Bill 488, which requires all state colleges to establish veteran service offices and review military training for college credit. Job well done!

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## Combat veterans suffering from same brain disease as concussion victims

CTE, the brain disease that has been found in 110 of 111 deceased NFL players, has been found in 65 percent of studied combat vets.

They did not lose limbs, but many veterans exposed to blasts in combat will eventually lose their minds. Just like athletes who endured repeated blows to the head, veterans are suffering from the same degenerative brain disease. Sharyn Alfonsi reports on chronic traumatic encephalopathy and its impact on combat veterans.

"Nobody ever said he could lose his mind." As America's enemies continue to make roadside bombs or improvised explosive devices a central battlefield tactic, more combat veterans are expected to come home like Sgt. Kevin Ash. "His whole personality changed... he had just become hardened... He was having blackouts... it frightened him," says Ash's mother, Joy Kieffer. Ash had been exposed to 12 combat blasts, many of them roadside bombs, over three deployments in the Army Reserves.

Despite medication and therapy, he slowly lost his ability to talk, walk and

feed himself. "The thing I didn't know was that his brain was continuing to die," she says. Kieffer notes the irony of her son's situation, who had warned her he might come home missing limbs, or be blind or die on the battlefield. "Nobody ever said he could lose his mind," she says.

Boston University has been studying CTE for many years, running a leading edge program that recently found the disease in 110 of 111 brains of deceased NFL players. The Boston VA has teamed up with BU in a program focusing on vets. Ash directed that his brain be donated to the VA-Boston University-Concussion Legacy Brain Bank for study. The program's neuropathologist Dr. Ann McKee found CTE, which so far can only be confirmed by brain autopsies, in the brains of 65 percent of the brains she has seen of deceased veterans exposed to combat blasts.

Dr. McKee explains how a blast wave can damage the brain the same as a physical blow. "This blast injury creates a tremendous... ricochet or whiplash injury to the brain inside the skull." The

effects on the brain are not readily seen on images, she says, "This has been what everyone calls an invisible injury."

Dr. Sam Gandy, of Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, is hoping to change that. He is using new technology to find the markers of CTE in the living in order to inform those who may have the disease and help find a way to stop its deadly progress. These images will be crucial in his work with drug companies to find a treatment. "That's step one," he tells Alfonsi, "Just to stop it dead in its tracks. And then we can worry about making people feel better."

Veteran Tom Bates, an Army Sergeant exposed to four blasts in Afghanistan and Iraq is experiencing symptoms similar to Ash's. Working with Dr. Gandy, he has learned his brain has the markers for CTE. He hopes Gandy and others can eventually help prevent his symptoms from getting worse. Right now, he realizes the war on CTE has just begun. "My hope is that this study becomes more prominent... so that we can actually get a reflection of what population actually has this."

## SOME HEADLINES, SOME COMMENTS

### FBI supervisor wakes to find handgun, Rolex swiped by 'exotic dancer' Rolex?

How much are those whose mongers making?

### Half of American adults are health-care illiterate

And half of those are plain illiterate.

### Retirement planning: Top 6 things no one tells you about

No. 7: Not many people are going to attend your funeral.

### 83-year-old psychologist accused of sexually assaulting patient

Said he was just practicing 'tough love.'

### CBS sued by widow of employee who died during auto-erotic asphyxiation

Film at 11 (mature content.)

### How Walmart plans to woo fashion lovers

At gunpoint.

### Why are so many Ohioans in prison? The state is trying to find out

Uh, might that be because you put them there?

**I went to jail for leaving my baby outside a restaurant**  
"Hey, they said Members Only!"

**Drunk cop left Walmart with \$830 in unpaid groceries**  
Greeter alarmed when asked to help with seven shopping carts.

### In deer hunting news: Hunter charged with shooting truck he mistook for deer

Ram Charger to change hood ornament.

### Kindergartner bags massive deer under new hunting age law

Kid needs help for Show and Tell.

### 1,800 Gallons of Vodka Stolen From Distillery in Downtown Los Angeles

Tonic sales dramatically rise.

### Mining exec convicted in deadly explosion is mulling a Senate run

Felt that being a convicted felon before becoming a senator would be a refreshing change.

### Dr. Samadi: 7 reasons why men experience pain during intercourse

8. Because she's yawning.

### Alcohol vs. marijuana: Which one is safer?

Yes.

### Brawl over birthday cake leads to deadly stabbing

Somebody got his birthday wish.

### Convicted killer: Cutting my dreadlocks violates my rights

Hearing scheduled right after his execution.

### Heart attacks and sex are a lethal combination for men

Research shows 91 per cent of men would enjoy leaving that way.

### Budweiser wants to brew up 'micro-gravity' beer on Mars

Great companion brew for their micro-flavored beer here on earth.

### Heidi Fleiss Says Ex-Boyfriend Tom Sizemore 'Should Be Castrated'

Fleiss to start precision knife company.

### ISIS Beheads 15 of Its Own Fighters in Afghanistan

See? If everyone is wearing a black hood, you make identity mistakes.

### Ex-PTA treasurer in Maryland pleads guilty to embezzlement

Claimed he was going to use the money to pay for lottery tickets, which ultimately supports education.

### 'My sons love hunting, I don't': Trump's soft spot for elephants

According to Trump, "Elephants are the greatest things some of those shithole countries have."

### Taxing college sports is one good thing about Republicans' tax plan:

Bloomberg View Legion baseball is next.

### Vatican investigating sex abuse claims against teen altar boy turned priest

Keeping it all in the family.

### Man accidentally shoots himself and his wife at a church, shortly after a discussion on shootings

Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition.

### Steve Bannon Is On A Juice Cleanse And Avoiding Doritos To Prepare For 'Battles,' Book Says

Hmmm. Pentagon baffled by wars won by Doritos and juice cleanse.

### Ohio State University accuses 83 students of using app to cheat

83 cheating OSU students use new app to get reinstated.

### Upstate church encouraging worshippers to bring guns

Ammo to be sold at next bake sale.

### Journalist alleges gay sex in Vatican youth seminary

Journalist said he allegedly had sex with an alleged young seminarian who allegedly wanted to remain anonymous, allegedly.

### Escort says she shot client because he was bad at oral sex

But he doesn't testify.

### Fast food worker who put body fluids on burger sentenced

That's not special sauce and he ain't working in the prison kitchen.

### If your child asks if you smoked pot, the best answer is the truth

But don't tell them a dime bag costs only ten bucks.

### Strangers caught in a sex act on Delta flight could face felony charges, authorities say

Woman says, "Not fair, I faked the orgasm."



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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## Chairwoman and New Members Appointed to VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

WASHINGTON — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the appointment of a new chairwoman and four new members to the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, an expert panel that advises the VA Secretary on issues and programs of importance to women Veterans, their families and caregivers.

"As VA continues to work toward modernization, the committee's guidance will assist the department in meeting the important and evolving needs of women Veterans," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "The new chairwoman and new appointees' deep and broad perspectives are invaluable in anticipating these needs."

Established in 1983, the committee provides policy and legislative recommendations to the Secretary.

Current member Octavia Harris, a retired U.S. Navy command master chief petty officer from San Antonio, Texas, is appointed as the new chairwoman of the committee. The following are new members of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans:

- Moses McIntosh, of Hephzibah, Georgia, is a retired U.S. Army chief warrant officer and immediate past national commander of the Disabled American Veterans, where he served as the official spokesman and provided leadership to the National Executive Committee.
- Yareli Mendoza, of Iowa City,

Iowa, is a U.S. Air Force Veteran. She is pursuing a doctorate of philosophy degree in higher education and student affairs, with a specialization in higher education administration and policy.

- Keronica Richardson, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, is a U.S. Army Veteran with deployments in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. She serves as the assistant director for Women and Minority Veterans Outreach at the American Legion.
- Wanda Wright, of Tempe,

Arizona, is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, currently serving as the director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, where she is a state cabinet member, providing leadership and direction for administering benefits and services to Veterans and their dependents. In addition, committee members Dr. Kailyn Bobb, a U.S. Air Force Veteran, from Plumas Lake, California, and Commander Janet West, of the U.S. Navy, are reappointed for an additional term.

For information about VA's benefits and services for women Veterans, visit [www.va.gov/womenvetor](http://www.va.gov/womenvetor) contact the Women Veterans Call Center at 855-829-6636. The call center is available to address concerns of women Veterans, their families and caregivers from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (EST), and Saturday, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. (EST).



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### MAIL CALL

Editor,

I very much appreciate the review and sending me the DD214 Chronicle. I am always pleased when Tony's sacrifice is acknowledged (Last to Die in World War II, Jan/Feb 2018). My family and I thank you very much for caring. God bless you.

Theresa Marchione Sell, Pottstown, PA.

# All American in the Korean War

By Lawrence Forbes

So on a crisp, cool, but not-uncomfortable day, we set up a baseball diamond as best we could in a vacant field that was fairly level for Korea.

A chaplain was found to act as umpire, we chose up sides, and we were all ready to play a nice, normal game. From then on, nothing in the game was normal.

A jeep drove up stacked high with cases of canned beer. We were told to unload them at every base. The captain, his officers and sergeants must have used their entire weekly beer ration.

In the rear we were allowed to buy weekly cases of beer at cost, which worked out to ten cents a can.

I don't know how Capt. King came up with this new twist on baseball, but the way that game went was this: If a batter got on base, he had to chug a beer at first before he could proceed to second base, and another going to third base, and another before he could score.

In those days the pitcher hit,

so he took big swings and got his chance for beer. The batters who didn't get hits had a better chance as the game progressed, because the pitching and fielding became more erratic.

Two managers sat on the sidelines, drinking whiskey and cheering their teams.

The game seemed to last forever, with frequent substitutions on both sides so everyone got a chance to play.

It didn't take long before guys were running into each other, falling down, and laughing like crazy.

It was like a three-ring circus, with several different acts going on at the same time.

At one point I found myself pitching and the batter smashed one to left. The runner on first tripped on a beer can rounding second and was



thrown out. The hitter bitterly complained that he should have another beer because he would have been on second. But the umpire/chaplain thumbed him back to the

bench amid howls of laughter.

We were all having so much fun nobody really cared about the score, least of all the two managers, who were getting well-oiled themselves, along with the officers and sergeants on the sidelines.

Even the umpire/chaplain was taking a few nips between innings.

By today's standards, I guess it wasn't the 'politically correct' standards, but the idea behind the whole thing was likely psychological.

The game got us relaxed so we could forget for a while the war going on around us. It drowned

out the frequent booms and whumps of incoming and outgoing artillery in the cheers and laughter of men at play. For many of us, it worked.

There were an awful lot of happy guys staggering after the game. The next day, as the hangovers wore off, I started to feel a little bit better mentally, a little more at ease with myself.

I couldn't tell you today who got the big hits or who passed out from successive beers gulped too quickly, or even how the game ended. I don't know which team finally won the game and I don't really care. After fifty years, my memory, especially for names, is getting pretty sketchy.

I also know that for a short, peaceful time that day, playing a wild and carefree game from our old neighborhoods, with the added delight of letting go with a few beers, I lost the mingled feelings of fear and horror we had to live with every day.

And I know I was a more stable person afterward, when we had to go back again into the line.

# The Soldier's Greatest Battle

By Eli Beachy

It was too bad about Captain Nickerson, at least the lads had thought that hot afternoon of July 3rd, 1863. At their moment of glory, as the 8th Ohio rose up out of a swale and crushed the left wing of what would be known as Pickett's Charge, the captain had taken a Confederate mini ball through both lungs.

As they carried him off the field in a blanket, the boys knew it was the end of Captain Azor Nickerson; nobody survived a wound like that.

But he did and that was not his greatest battle.

Neither was it his greatest battle when he returned to service and finished out the war.

From there it was off to the western frontier, fighting the tribes in the Manifest Destiny. He was on the Rosebud before Custer. He fought Apaches before Geronimo.

The battles Nickerson fought had few would survive; he did, but that was not his greatest battle.

Nor was it when Nickerson realized officers can be political hacks and still be in the military.

Friendships with guys named Hayes and Garfield paid off. Ambition and luck conspired to get Nickerson the position of Assistant Adjutant General of the Army while just a major, complete with all the Washington politics that makes today look tame.

Even that wouldn't be his greatest fight. It was a woman.

After all, Washington was a lively place and he was a handsome fellow. The wife had to have the right outfits and there was this dressmaker. Young, good looking dressmaker. Very good looking dressmaker. They married.

So good-looking that Major Nickerson proceeded to come up with a moronic plan to send the wife and daughter on vacation to Europe, sue the wife for desertion and then live happily ever after.

Azor Nickerson just didn't count on a few things getting in the way.

Small points like the wife coming home early and taking a dim view of the concept. About as dim as the military that had this thing about conduct unbecoming an officer.

Even the Pinkertons didn't seem to take to the notion, especially when they had to chase Nickerson all the way to Canada in an attempt to bring him back for civil trial.

Details, but at least they didn't slow down Major Azor Nickerson.

For twenty-plus years Nickerson lobbied for reinstatement to a retired officer status after all the smoke had cleared from his stupidity.

Just days before his death in 1910, Nickerson achieved his objective and, as a war hero should be, was buried in Arlington. At least the Army had a sense of humor about it all.

They made damn sure eight years later the wife was buried right beside him.

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# The Post: A History of Errors Built on Lies

By James Banks, Ph.D.

If one had to choose an alternative title for the movie, *The Post*, my choice would be *The Source*.

Daniel Ellsberg (played by Matthew Rhys,) has access to top secret documents. Equally important, his in-country experience, as part of the Pentagon's civilian assessment of "pacification" in Vietnam, qualifies him as the seldom-seen star of the film.

The film's narrative prompts questions and deeper study, but for the book-shy, *The Post* is a good primer.

The first few minutes of the film, set in 1966, establishes the context of this compelling drama: has the deployment of an additional 100,000 troops brought any progress in Vietnam?

Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara (played by Bruce Greenwood,) is heading back to Washington after a fact-finding trip to Vietnam when he calls Ellsberg to the back of the plane asking for his assessment.

Despite more US troops, things are "just about the same," Ellsberg replies. McNamara concludes things are actually "worse." When the plane lands, McNamara, facing the press assures them, "I'm glad to tell you we're showing great progress in every dimension of our effort."

This brief scene from the movie is nearly *verbatim* from Ellsberg's

book *Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers*.

One humorous omission from the movie is Ellsberg's realization he's going to need help copying the full history — 70,000 pages — of Vietnam since 1945. He enlists his 13-year old son Robert one week-end to help.

On a 1960's Xerox machine, it is one page at a time. The young teen had no idea he was aiding and abetting a violation of the federal statute on espionage.

The piercing green light of the scanner as it slowly swept the document, under the protective cover, to protect the operator from "radiation," was an adventure. When asked by his mother what he did over the weekend, "Just helping dad copy some papers," was his answer.

Other aspects of the film offer a quaint time-capsule for those of a certain age: pay phones, no internet, no tweets, just holding the paper's text from "hot type," seeing how news used to be produced, as the paper snakes it way through the press room and out to the delivery trucks.



I met Daniel Ellsberg in 2003 when he visited the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College. At a luncheon in his honor, he discussed his latest book, *Secrets*.

I had him sign the book, and we exchanged a few comments about current issues. He dismissed a scholar of diplomacy and friend, Walter LaFeber, of Cornell, as a palace historian. In spite of that, I found him engaging, very bright, and opinionated.

A Harvard Ph.D. at 27, from 1954-57 a Marine infantry officer, and then part of President Kennedy's "best and brightest" fraternity, placed him at the center of policy formation.

As a tireless research analyst at RAND, the non-profit think tank


relied on by Department of Defense, he had both the highest security clearance at the Pentagon and intellectual stamina to work a 70-hour week sifting and writing command and control procedures for nuclear weapons.

In 1962 he was assigned to John McNaughton working with Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. Colleague Henry Kissinger referred to him "as the most dangerous man in America." President Nixon ordered his psychiatrist's office robbed in hopes of finding damning evidence.



Now in his late eighties, one can speculate on Ellsberg's character. He remains the canary in the deep mine of nuclear weapons. When Ellsberg first offered the trove of documents to J. William Fulbright, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and staunch critic of the war, the senator seemed very interested, but ultimately Fulbright dismissed the papers, as "only history."

Yes, Senator Fulbright, but a history of error built on lies, costing more than 58,000 American lives and 3 million Vietnamese lives.

James Banks Ph.D. is History Professor Emeritus at Cuyahoga Community College and co-author of *Cleveland in World War II* with Brian Albrecht.



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## IN THE ARMY

By Barry Goodrich

Sixty years ago this month, Elvis Presley walked away from a phenomenally successful entertainment career to join the U.S. Army. For the next two years, Presley was the most famous enlisted man in the world, his already mythic reputation allowing him a military life unlike that of any of his fellow soldiers.

Presley, who by the end of 1956 had already had more Top 100 hits than any other performer, was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas and the Second Armored Division's "Hell on Wheels" unit, once led by General George Patton. After completing basic and advanced training, he was sent overseas to Germany and joined the 1st Medium Tank Battalion, 32nd Armor.

It was in Germany that Presley's life was forever changed in several ways - he would meet his future wife, a 14-year-old girl by the name of Priscilla Beaulieu, have his first exposure to both karate and drugs and fulfill his sense of duty to his country.

"Elvis was someone who was genuinely patriotic and he had great respect for the military," said Peter Guralnick, author of the 1999 best-seller *Careless Love: The Unmaking of Elvis Presley*, which includes Presley's years in the service. "It (Army) was not an insignificant experience by any means. He had a real sense of civic duty."

On the other hand, Presley was worried about leaving a career that had skyrocketed. "He felt utter despair that he wouldn't have anything to come back to," said Guralnick. "But Colonel Tom Parker was very canny and kept making deals for Elvis."

Presley may have been in the army but he lived the life of a well-heeled civilian, bringing his father, grandmother and friends to live with off-base in a rented home. Driving



a Jeep for his battalion and a sports car in his free time, the first and only time Presley was placed on guard duty, he was mobbed by fans.

"When his unit went out on maneuvers, Elvis went out on maneuvers," said Guralnick. "He had an acute sense of rejection. He wanted to be a regular guy."

Presley's infatuation with drugs also began in Germany. "Amphetamines were handed out at the PX and everybody was taking them," said Guralnick. "It turned out to have a big affect on his life."

Presley left active duty on Mar. 5, 1960 and was discharged from the Army Reserve on Mar. 23, 1964. In an interview with Armed Forces Radio and TV, he said, "People were expecting me to mess up, to goof up in one way or another... they thought I couldn't take it and I was determined to go to any limits to prove otherwise."

Guralnick added, "I don't think he thought it (service) was unfair. He participated in it with great enthusiasm."

As for Presley's career, his original concerns were unfounded. "As soon as he went home, Elvis went into the studio and recorded some of the greatest material he ever did," said Guralnick. "It was astonishing."

### Elvis: He left us his legacy

Elvis Presley was many things to many people. He understood his music and his audience as few artists did. The creator of rockabilly, as well as film star, singer of spirituals, husband and father, confidante to President Richard Nixon, U.S. Army soldier, and lots more.

To say he packed a lot of living into a brief life would be an understatement. Before his early and tragic death, his music would be the background for a generation, and the man would be the dream of millions of young women.

For hot and heavy making out, his was the background music. Here is an arbitrary list of his greatest songs as well as a list of movies and the characters he played.

- #1: THAT'S ALL RIGHT (recorded: July 5 or 6, 1954 / single released: mid-July 1954)
- #2: HOUND DOG (recorded: July 2, 1956 / single released: July 13, 1956)
- #3: HEARTBREAK HOTEL (recorded: Jan. 10, 1956 / single released: Jan. 27, 1956)
- #4: HOW GREAT THOU ART (recorded: May 25, 1966 / released on LP: February 1967)
- #5: IT'S NOW OR NEVER (recorded: April 3, 1960 / single released: July 5, 1960)
- #6: ALL SHOOK UP (recorded: Jan. 12, 1957 / single released: March 22, 1957)
- #7: GUITAR MAN (recorded: Sept. 10, 1967 / released on LP: October 1967)
- #8: RECONSIDER BABY (recorded: April 4, 1960 / released on LP: April 8, 1960)
- #9: GOOD LUCK CHARM (recorded: Oct. 15, 1961 / single released: Feb. 27, 1962)
- #10: JAILHOUSE ROCK (recorded: April 30, 1957 / single released: Sept. 24, 1957)
- #11: SUSPICIOUS MINDS (recorded: Jan. 22, 1969 / single released: Aug. 26, 1969)
- #12: I NEED YOUR LOVE TONIGHT (recorded: June 10, 1958 / single released: March 10, 1959)
- #13: CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE (recorded: March 23, 1961 / single released: Nov. 21, 1961)
- #14: DON'T BE CRUEL (recorded: July 2, 1956 / single released: July 13, 1956)
- #15: VIVA LAS VEGAS (recorded: July 10, 1963 / single released: April 28, 1964)
- #16: BURNING LOVE (recorded: Jan. 28, 1972 / single released: Aug. 1, 1972)
- #17: IF I CAN DREAM (recorded: June 23, 1968 / single released: Nov. 5, 1968)
- #18: LOVE ME TENDER (recorded: Aug. 24, 1956 / single released: Sept. 28, 1956)
- #19: CRYING IN THE CHAPEL (recorded: Oct. 31, 1960 / single released: April 6, 1965)
- #20: SUCH A NIGHT (recorded: April 4, 1960 / released on LP: April 8, 1960)

### MOVIES

1956 <b>Love Me Tender</b> Clint Reno	1962 <b>Girls! Girls! Girls!</b> Ross Carpenter	1966 <b>Paradise, Hawaiian Style</b> Rick Richards
1957 <b>Loving You</b> Jimmy Tompkins (Deke Rivers)	1963 <b>It Happened at the World's Fair</b> Mike Edwards	1966 <b>Spinout</b> Mike McCoy 1967 <b>Easy Come, Easy Go</b> Lt. (j.g.) Ted Jackson
1957 <b>Jailhouse Rock</b> Vince Everett	1963 <b>Fun in Acapulco</b> Mike Windgren	1967 <b>Double Trouble</b> Guy Lambert
1958 <b>King Creole</b> Danny Fisher	1964 <b>Kissin' Cousins</b> Josh Morgan / Jodie Tatum	1967 <b>Clambake</b> Scott Heyward
1960 <b>G.I. Blues</b> Tulsa McLean	1964 <b>Viva Las Vegas</b> Lucky Jackson	1968 <b>Stay Away, Joe</b> Joe Lightcloud
1960 <b>Flaming Star</b> Pacer Burton	1964 <b>Roustabout</b> Charlie Rogers	1968 <b>Speedway</b> Steve Grayson
1961 <b>Wild in the Country</b> Glenn Tyler	1965 <b>Girl Happy</b> Rusty Wells	1968 <b>Live a Little, Love a Little</b> Greg Nolan
1961 <b>Blue Hawaii</b> Chad Gates	1965 <b>Tickle Me</b> Lonnie Beale / Pan-handle Kid	1969 <b>Charro!</b> Jess Wade
1962 <b>Follow That Dream</b> Toby Kwimper	1965 <b>Harum Scarum</b> Johnny Tyronne	1969 <b>The Trouble with Girls</b> Walter Hale
1962 <b>Kid Galahad</b> Walter Gulick / Kid Galahad	1966 <b>Frankie and Johnny</b> Johnny	1969 <b>Change of Habit</b> Dr. John Carpenter

"Many of Elvis's biggest hits were technically 'cover' songs. In fact, at least 8 of the 20 songs on the following list were recorded by other acts before Elvis made them his own."



## A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS For the Greater Cleveland Fisher Houses!

The news as we begin the new year is that we are breaking ground for the **TWO** new Greater Cleveland Fisher Houses on **Friday, March 23, 2018!** The patience shown by all in this incredible journey has been greatly appreciated by all associated with this initiative. We cannot say **THANK YOU** enough for your continued support.

All eight parcels of the designated project site (East 105th Street and Orville - a block north of The Louis Stokes VA Medical Center) were assembled under one title for transfer to the Veterans Administration. That transfer officially took place on June 30, 2017.

As previously noted, the capital campaign hit its \$3 million goal. As part of a new design concept, the Greater Cleveland Fisher House will now actually be two homes with 16 suites and will accommodate up to 50 family members.

It is our intention to begin winding down the formal capital campaign early in 2018 and then transition from a capital campaign task force to The Friends of the Cleveland Fisher Houses committee. Funds donated going forward will be used to purchase deep-discounted airlines tickets for Fisher House families traveling to and from Cleveland (done through the Fisher House Hero Miles program). Funds will also be used to obtain "entertainment values" for the families in the community such as museum passes, Goodtime Cruise tickets, and tickets for family events being held at various venues in Northeast Ohio. Finally, funds will be used to assist Fisher House families with children who may have educational scholarship needs.

Again, to ALL who have supported us in this incredible journey... **THANK YOU!**

The Greater Cleveland Fisher Houses [www.greaterclevelandfisherhouse.org](http://www.greaterclevelandfisherhouse.org)



## Medina VFW Commander Multi-tasks as Business Owner, Full-time Mom

By Nancy Peacock

At the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5137 in Medina, Commander Nicole Mollohan is the first person to point out that times have changed.

"Most people think the VFW is a bar filled with men, drinking and smoking and telling war stories," she said. "That's not what it is. We have a canteen that is non-smoking, we have a dining room, we have a bar and canteen that's full of men and women. And it's not all war stories."

Mollohan speaks with the assurance of someone who upholds the military code of stepping into the breach for a fallen comrade. Shortly after Mollohan was elected senior vice commander last July, Commander Chuck Heller died unexpectedly. Mollohan immediately became the post commander.

Unlike previous commanders who served after they had retired from full-time jobs, Mollohan is in the thick of her dual role as a business owner and mother.

"I told the guys 'Look, I'll do this,'" she said. "But at six o'clock at night, you won't find me here, sitting at the bar. I'm at home, feeding my kids or I'm at the soccer game. I'm a mom to a 12 and 13-year-old. I'm doing other duties and I still work 40 hours a week."

How is she able to juggle all that responsibility?

"Everybody helps and does their jobs and makes the post run," she said. "If I

didn't have everybody, we would have problems. But it's our veterans and their families and the members who volunteer and spend their time and help us grow."

Taking on a challenge is nothing new to Mollohan, who enlisted in the Air Force after high school in 1989. "I wanted to be someone in my family who did something," she said. "Get out of town and see the world."

Senior Airman Mollohan's first overseas assignment was Rhein-Main Air Base in Frankfurt, Germany. She was a supply specialist and worked with the civil engineering squadron.

"I did supply for the squadron and I also did all the snow removal, heavy equipment operating, all the fun stuff, all the guy stuff," she said. "I learned a lot in those two years."

Adjusting to life overseas started out rocky, turning 21 without close friends in a foreign land. Her commanding officer told her that if she still hated it in six months, he would let her go home. Then it all changed.

"I got on the softball team at the base, started traveling Europe, seeing the world," she said. "Where else can you go to Paris for \$39 for the



Nicole Mollohan

weekend?"

After skiing in the Black Forest, going to Oktoberfest in Munich, traveling to the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland and Lichtenstein, Mollohan's worldview had changed.

"The world is big and everybody needs to see it," she said.

Two years in Germany was followed by two years at McConnell Air Force Base

in Wichita, Kansas, another overseas six-month tour in Saudi Arabia, and the last three years at Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In 1997, after almost eight years, Mollohan left the Air Force.

"My job was gone," she said. "I was going to have to cross train into something else because supply was being taken over by civilians and contracted out. I just decided it was time to come home."

She joined the VFW in 2009 but didn't become active until 2013. She noticed that her fellow veterans from the Iraq, Afghanistan, and Desert Storm era were still at home, raising their children, instead of joining the VFW.

"I see them every year at Veterans Day, so I know they exist in Medina County," she said. "I just need to find them and teach them who we are and how we need their help, too."

Whether it is playing bingo with the veterans at the VA Wade Park or providing the 21-gun salute honor guards at the Western Reserve National Cemetery, Post 5137 is committed to supporting veterans.

"Any veteran who comes and knocks on our door, we help them," Molloran said. "It doesn't matter. If they can show us that they're a veteran and they're in need, then we help them."

Junior Vice Commander Scott Kopfstein is a retiree and a former admission spent seven days a week on the job. He describes Molloran as "a good kid, very smart. She's come up with a lot of great ideas just in the past couple months."

On July 21, the VFW will host its first Medina Community Days with an open house. There will be free food, games and representatives from the Civil Air Patrol and the Sea Cadets. Mollohan said she wants to open the doors and educate the community about the role of the VFW in the community.

"Our World War II and our Vietnam veterans are passing away," she said. "It is up to us and if we don't support the VFW, if we don't help it grow, it won't be here for our kids. And we won't be there to help the community."

For more information, contact Mollohan at [nicolemollohan@gmail.com](mailto:nicolemollohan@gmail.com) or visit the website at [medinafvw.org](http://medinafvw.org)

## Injured Medic Has No Regrets

By Jerri Donohue



Stephanie Stavrenos

Despite injury and a medical discharge, Stephanie Stavrenos harbors no regrets about her military service.

"It gave me an opportunity to do something selfless," the former medic said.

At Ft. Sam Houston, she completed EMT and "whiskey training" in battlefield trauma and limited primary care. Because she wanted to qualify for airborne training, she did numerous push-ups and sit-ups in her off hours.

"I didn't want to be riding on the minimum," Stavrenos said.

She scored high on the subsequent physical fitness test, becoming one of only 12 medics chosen for airborne training.

Just one week into the program at Ft. Benning, Georgia, however, Stavrenos was sidelined in the middle of a run. She had been ignoring pain in her hip, but it forced her to slow down. An observant sergeant sent her for medical help.

When doctors identified her problem as stress fractures, Stavrenos spent a month in a wheelchair and another six months on crutches. The Army promised that she could

complete airborne training once she healed, and transferred Stavrenos to Fort Hood.

Still on crutches, she helped with sick call and women's health exams. She assisted doctors with procedures such as ingrown toenail removal, a common ailment for soldiers.

Meanwhile, she witnessed other medics deploy, and longed to go with them.

In time, she realized the value of her work in medical readiness, keeping men and women healthy and checking out those who returned from deployment.

A few times, she helped thwart suicide.

"I sat with soldiers who had dark thoughts until someone from their command came to take them for specialized care," she said.

After several months, doctors discovered an injury to Stavrenos's bones, and they also found a tear in her hip that required surgery. She learned she would be medically discharged.

Although Stavrenos was disappointed, she now realizes she probably would have sustained a worse injury had she proceeded with airborne training.

"I feel like I had a guardian angel making sure I didn't jump," she said.

After her discharge in 2014, Stavrenos enrolled in St. Xavier University in Chicago where she eventually became president of its chapter of Student Veterans of America. In 2016, the organization chose her to be one of its representatives at the White House ceremony in which President Obama honored the NBA Champion Cleveland Cavaliers. ESPN posted a photo of Stavrenos, a longtime Cavs fan, with the team and First Lady Michelle Obama.

Stavrenos stayed in Chicago where she now teaches seventh graders.

In addition to finishing her education on the G.I. Bill, she benefited from military service in unexpected ways.

In June she will marry a former Marine she met at the campus's veterans center.

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## Local organization helping homeless women veterans

By Barry Goodrich

The plight of homeless women veterans is rarely addressed in the general discussion of homeless veterans. Dealing with military sexual trauma, joblessness and addiction, women vets often describe themselves as "invisible" as they deal with their own unique challenges.

Cleveland's Sheila Locatelli is trying to change that. As founder of Women of Hope Inc., Locatelli has mentored, coached and facilitated self-development classes for women of all ages, backgrounds and economic levels (many of them incarcerated). But connecting with homeless women veterans is never an easy process.

"Our challenge is to find them," said Locatelli. "It's an invisible population; a lot of women are staying with friends or couch surfing. Our goal this year is a community outreach to find women veterans who need our services."

Ten percent of the nation's 21 million veterans are women from every

service branch. They are the fastest growing demographic of the homeless veterans' population. Female veterans are 3-4 times more likely to become homeless than female non-veterans and many of them are plagued with unemployment, low self-esteem, substance abuse and sexual trauma.

"Lots of these women have been home for some time and even though their issues have been continuing, they think they're okay," said Locatelli, a certified Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant. "Eighty-five percent of them have experienced military sexual trauma and the majority of that happened in boot camp. Some of them are traumatized even before they go in to the service."

Locatelli, a graduate of Central



Sheila Locatelli

State University in Xenia, worked for an engineering firm in Atlanta before returning to her hometown in 1998. Her passion for helping women in transition has its roots in her church work for the Community Bible Fellowship in Cleveland Heights, where she helped single mothers and incarcerated women.

Women of Hope Inc.'s goal is to provide safe housing and supportive services to women veterans in order to empower them toward a healthy lifestyle and self-sufficiency. The organization's "Strengthening the Inner Me," an eight-week program for women residing at the Veterans Administration Domiciliary, is now in its third year. And Women of Hope's "Ariya's House" is the only supportive home for homeless women veterans in Cuyahoga County. Thanks to an

affiliation with the city's Land Bank, a second home is in the works.

"Not everyone needs a home but they all need support," said Locatelli. "I'm also a believer in communities, living in an area where you have five, six or seven families like yours. We want to develop a community like that for military families."

Locatelli hopes for an increased awareness of the issues faced by women veterans, who have lived in the shadows for years. "The military is now attempting to understand the challenges these women face. It's a process."

"The public thinks these veterans are well taken care of and they get checks every month," Locatelli said. "Those with physical disabilities get checks. Emotional disabilities are harder to prove; it takes years."

(Those interested in the program's services are urged to visit [www.womenofhopeoh.org](http://www.womenofhopeoh.org).)

# Father Peter Whelan, A Chaplain of the Confederacy

By J.C. Sullivan

To describe the life and times of one immigrant to the American South could also be aptly titled "Holy Men in Modern Times." One chapter would describe Wexford-born Peter Whelan.

Oh, he was human, to be sure, but his devotion to God and his fellow man is evident in the way he chose to live his life. He was also a Confederate Chaplain to Irish-Americans in the Montgomery Guards, part of the 1st Georgia Volunteers.

Peter Whelan was born in 1802 in County Wexford, Ireland. He attended Birchfield College in Kilkenny for two years, where he received classical and mathematical education.

He may have been influenced by the desperate appeal of John England, the bishop of the new diocese of Charleston, South Carolina.

Priests were sorely needed, particularly in the South. He was ordained a priest of the Benedictine Order in Charleston on November 21, 1830.

He offered his first Mass in the state of Georgia in 1835 in the home of Robert Semmes. In 1854 a yellow fever epidemic claimed the life of Savannah's first Bishop, Frances Gartland. Father Whelan was summoned to Savannah and was stationed there for the remainder of his life.

In September 1861 Bishop Augustine Verot was named the third Bishop of the Savannah Diocese, which was formed in 1850. Arriving at his new post from Florida, he was asked to send a chaplain to Fort Pulaski.

The Fort, on the Savannah River, guarded the approaches to the city. It was thought to be impregnable as no artillery shells could be directed at it from any nearby land.

Part of the garrison there were Catholic troops, in particular the Montgomery Guards, mostly Irish from Savannah. The militia unit was organized on August 20, 1861. Not having their own banner, Captain Lawrence J. Guilmarin contacted the Sisters of Mercy in Savannah.

Private Bernard O'Neill was appointed standard-bearer and Major John Foley presented it to him.

Father Whelan was present on April 10, 1862 when Federal forces began an artillery bombardment of the Fort. Using new 'rifled' artillery, the rounds were able to reach the outer walls from Tybee Island, more than a mile away.

Thirty hours later, with one wall breached by the shot, it was determined that the entire ammunition magazine was in danger of exploding, if that happened the entire garrison would be killed.

Colonel Charles H. Olmstead agreed to surrender. Now prisoners-of-war, Father Whelan and the Montgomery Guards were transported to Governor's Island, New York. Bernard O'Neill hid the banner on his person. After Mass on Saint Patrick's Day, 1862, a presentation ceremony was held.



Wartime conditions persisted for prisoners and Father Whelan, through the office of Father William Quinn, pastor of St. Peter's Church, Barclay St., New York, applied for the position of Prison Chaplain so he could offer daily Mass at Castle William.

Through Father Quinn he was discharged and put on parole. Father Whelan could have left but he chose to remain with his men and minister to them.

He eventually returned to Savannah where the Vicar General assigned him the task of overseeing the spiritual needs of the confederate military posts in Georgia.

On one occasion another Confederate chaplain, the Reverend James Sheeran of the 14th Louisiana, on leave from Virginia, visited him. In his diary he observed, "He stands nearly six feet with drab hair, coarse ill shaped countenance, round or swinging shoulders, long arms, short body and long legs, with feet of more than ordinary size. One day he met a brother priest, to whom nature was no more liberal than to himself. "Well," said he, "Your mother and mine must have been women of great virtue because they did not drown us when they first saw us. None but mothers of great patience would have raised such ugly specimens of humanity."

During May of the same year Fr. William Hamilton, pastor of Assump-

tion Church in Macon, accidentally came upon Andersonville Prison and stopped to learn how many Catholics were there. His experience led him to petition the Vicar, suggesting a priest be provided; Father Whelan was asked.

He arrived at Andersonville on June 16, 1864. Even though other priests and the Bishop visited briefly, Whelan remained for four months. Although he never penned his feelings, a pastor from Macon did. "I found the stockade extremely filthy; the men all huddled together and covered with vermin. They had nothing under them but the ground."

At the fall of the Confederacy, Father Whelan returned to Savannah and served there until 1868. Now aged sixty-nine and in failing health from his wartime tribulations, he administered his last baptism in 1871 and died in February of the same year.

The funeral procession was reported in the Savannah Evening News as the longest ever seen in the city. After a 10:00 a.m. Mass a procession of eighty-six carriages and buggies of civilians, religious societies and Irish organizations escorted his mortal remains through Savannah's crowd-lined streets.

Colonel Olmstead led Confederate Army and Navy veterans. An officer who knew Father Whelan said, "I followed this good old man to his grave with a sense of exultation as I thought of the welcome that awaited him from the Master whose spirit he had caught and made the rule of his life."

# Churchill's Darkest Hour is Illuminating

By Nancy Peacock

History often seems predictable – in retrospect. And never is that more true than in *Darkest Hour: How Churchill Brought England Back from the Brink*, a novel (HarperCollins) and a movie that has already won several film awards, and is nominated for six Oscars.

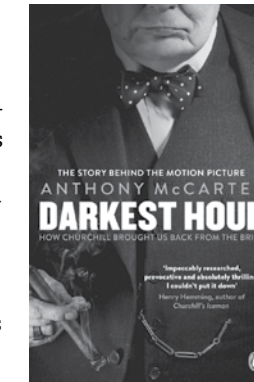
Although there were many heart-stopping moments during the rise and fall of Nazi Germany, a particularly pivotal 25 days in May of 1940 helped to decide the fate of Great Britain and ultimately, the free world. The German war machine rolled over Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and France in rapid succession, leaving the British people staring at the face of Nazi domination.

The leadership fell to Winston Churchill, a British politician with a bad track record for military blunders, whose own government lacked confidence in his leadership abilities. Novelist and screenwriter Anthony McCarten vividly describes those terrifying 25 days, and Churchill's ascendancy to power.

Where the book and the movie both excel is in portraying the

uncertainty and fear that hung over the British people. The movie is beautifully photographed and true to its title, shot in the shadows of underground military bunkers, gloomy interiors of Churchill's country estate in Kent, and the Prime Minister's residence at 10 Downing Street. The film exudes a genteel shabbiness that feels authentic of its time.

For those who enjoy history meted out chronologically, the book offers a better context with which to view those first 25 days of Churchill's leadership. It takes us back to World War I, when as First Lord of the Admiralty, Churchill's disastrous decisions in the Gallipoli campaign resulted in the needless sacrifice of 73,000 British and Irish casualties. Churchill lost his job and spent many years as a political outcast, trying to work his way back into a position of leadership. The book details these setbacks in an entertaining way that makes Churchill's eventual rise to



Prime Minister seem all the more improbable.

The film does not have the book's advantage of laying out the entire historical backdrop, or fleshing out Churchill's political foes Neville Chamberlain and Lord Halifax. Instead, the film offers a superlative performance from Gary Oldham, who portrays Churchill conducting business in his pajamas while still in bed; sipping scotch and smoking a cigar while eating eggs from his breakfast tray -- even dictating speeches and letters in the bathtub or on the toilet.

Where the movie oversells itself is in the need to portray Churchill as a man of the common people. The real Churchill reveled in his own aristocracy – he was born in Blenheim Palace, the grandson of John Spencer-Churchill, 7th Duke of Marlborough – and embraced his blue blood as the natural order of things. The film unnecessarily invents a scene that shows the Prime Minister riding the subway, chatting with working class folks, and

gauging their responses to a German invasion.

One of the defining events in the 25 days was the rescue of 300,000 British soldiers who were stranded on the French beaches at Dunkirk, trapped by a harbor blocked with burning British ships and threatened by advancing German forces. In a war cabinet meeting, Churchill suggested that "the admiralty should assemble a large number of small (civilian) vessels" to rescue those troops. McCarten gives full credit to Churchill as "the father of this colossally risky idea." More than 800 small, privately owned boats answered the call and ferried the British Expeditionary Force across the English Channel, saving it from annihilation.

McCarten quotes Franklin Delano Roosevelt on Churchill's political decisions:

"He has a hundred ideas a day. Four are good, the other 96 downright dangerous." Luckily for the British people, and the world, Churchill marshaled his best ideas to lead the British people through some of its darkest hours.

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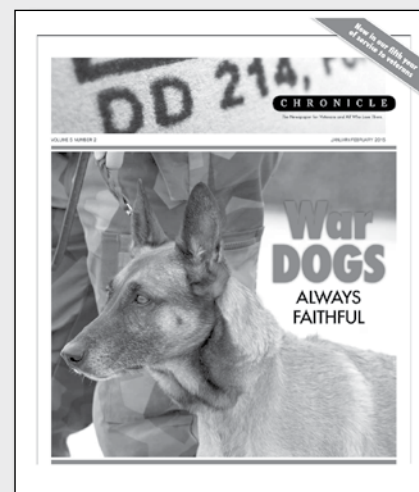
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# Vietnam Experience Influences

Director of LCCC Veterans Service Commission

By Jerri Donohue

Even though he adopted a Vietnamese child, translated Vietnamese poetry and traveled to Vietnam several times since the war ended, Bruce Weigl couldn't watch Ken Burns' recent series on the Vietnam War.

"I wanted to," Weigl said. "[But] I have to stay away from that kind of thing. There are too many things that I would see that would be a trigger for me."

The Vietnam veteran speaks candidly about his PTSD. His background enables him to empathize with the men and women he serves as director of Lorain County Community College's Veterans Service Center.

"I know that a lot of them are experiencing things that are going to change their lives forever," Weigl said. "Things that are going to haunt them forever. The least I can do is help them achieve their academic goals."

Weigl enlisted in the Army in 1967, right out of high school.

"I was just a boy," he said. "I was from the working class. I was doing what we were supposed to do."

His arrival in Vietnam jolted him into life-altering situations.

"The first thing I thought was, 'What the hell am I doing here?'" Weigl recalled. "It was kind of other-worldly."

After a year working in forward communications and intelligence, he returned home with a Bronze Star, PTSD and hearing loss caused by his proximity to an exploding 122 mm rocket.

Weigl endured negative encounters with other Americans because he served in Vietnam.

"That was a very unpopular war,



**"I know that a lot of them are experiencing things that are going to change their lives forever."**

Bruce Weigl

and there was a lot of emotion surrounding it," he said. "We [vets] learned very quickly not to talk about it."

He enrolled in classes at Lorain County Community College.

"I came out here to school and was immediately welcomed by the people here," he said. "Although there wasn't much of an organization in terms of veterans' services, they did help me obtain my benefits from the G.I. Bill and were there for me at every turn."

Weigl completed his bachelor's degree at Oberlin College and then earned a master's degree at the University of New Hampshire and a PhD in British and American literature at the University of Utah. During his academic career, he taught at

the University of Arkansas and Old Dominion University and spent many years as an English professor at Pennsylvania State University.

When his mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2000, Weigl returned to Ohio to help his elderly father care for her. He also began teaching at LCCC.

Meanwhile, the veteran was addressing his wartime experiences in award-winning poetry, and he still meets regularly with other Vietnam vets who write. Weigl and his wife adopted Hahn, an 8-year old Vietnamese girl, after one of his trips to Vietnam. He relates their story in his memoir, *The Circle of Hahn*.

He is enjoying his current position at LCCC.

"I love working with veterans," Weigl said. "I think too easily and too often they are forgotten once their duty is done. And so it's a great opportunity to help them find their way after the military."

Warm, dry socks are a true

gift for someone struggling to survive outdoors. Community West Foundation launched the SocksPlus Initiative

to help collect Socks PLUS other essential items needed by the homeless. And, for thousands of Cleveland's homeless men, women and children, socks are a gift that's never taken for granted. In fact, they are the item most requested by anyone living outside and in shelters. The items collected are distributed immediately to the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless.

The SocksPlus initiative is a source of great encouragement and it is remarkable to witness the generosity of this wonderful community. Over 150 "Tribes" of individuals, churches, clubs, schools and businesses have joined this movement which has raised over a half million dollars in monetary and in kind donations for our homeless neighbors.

Community West Foundation places the health and well being of our community above all else and we hope you will join in the efforts to help the least fortunate among us. The need is urgent and ongoing in our community. The winter months are the most extreme, both in terms of the weather conditions and the growing needs. Every dollar you give through the SocksPlus initiative can also bring hats, gloves and more to the homeless.



## HELP THE HOMELESS

Did you know that:

\$10 will supply 10 pairs of Socks.

\$30 will supply 10 pairs of Socks, gloves and a hat.

\$40 will supply 10 pairs of Socks, gloves, a hat and shoes.

\$60 will supply 10 pairs of Socks, gloves, a hat, shoes, and heavy-duty winter boots.

\$100 will supply a backpack filled with 10 pairs of Socks plus gloves, a hat, shoes and heavy-duty winter boots.

We encourage you to contribute in your own way by sharing your time, support, ideas, and SOCKS. Visit [communitywestfoundation.org](http://communitywestfoundation.org) or call 440-360-7370 to make your donation today!

# ATTENTION

## VETERANS & DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS

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## It's Your Future. Get Started Now!

### Veterans Service Center

at Lorain County Community College

The Student Veterans and Military Members Center at LCCC assists all veterans, guardsmen, reservists and their dependents transitioning to a successful educational career. You've done your duty, now let us help you prepare for your future.

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

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

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

**or visit [www.lorainccc.edu/veterans](http://www.lorainccc.edu/veterans)**

**or email our office at [veterans@lorainccc.edu](mailto:veterans@lorainccc.edu).**



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

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

**Lorain County Community College**

# WW II Airman Praises “Remarkable” B-29 Bomber

By Jerri Donohue

**A**drian Keefe is honest about his reason for joining the Army Air Corps right out of high school.

“I did not want to be a foot soldier in Germany,” the 92-year old said. “If you got drafted, you were going to Germany. You’re going to be out in the

snow, out in the rain. Who wanted that?”

Keefe had been following the progress of the war through newsreels at Euclid’s Shore Theater.

“We didn’t have TV then,” he said. “You would go to the movies to see what the hell was going on.”

Not quite 18 years old, Keefe knew nothing about airplanes but scored well on qualifying tests. He then trained at Sheppard Field in Wichita Falls, Texas and Lowry Field in Denver. Because he flew exclusively on B29s, Keefe’s only experience with “thin air” was his hike up Pike’s Peak when he was stationed in Colorado. Unlike airmen on other bombers, he never had to don an oxygen mask.

“The B-29 was a remarkable ship,” Keefe said. “It could go way higher than any other plane. It had supercharged engines. We could go up to 30,000 feet. We were pressurized.”

The Army made Keefe a fire control gunner. “They sent us to a school where you learn electronics,” Keefe said. “I loved that! It was all brand new.”

Keefe was assigned to a crew at Davis-Monthan Field in Tucson, Arizona. As part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 30<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, 19<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, they ended up on Guam. Their missions included bombing factories and power plants throughout Japan. Keefe said the goal was “to put them out of business, whether they were making planes or ships.”

It was late in the war and the Japanese had limited resources. “They had no fuel,” Keefe said. “We never saw an enemy plane.”



Adrian Keefe

Because he always had good meals and a decent night’s sleep, Keefe avoided hardships experienced by infantrymen. On the other hand, every mission meant flying over vast expanses of water with no discernable landmarks to help chart a course. The crew depended on the navigator to get them to their target and then back to base.

“The navigator was the most important person on the plane,” Keefe said.

On one occasion, Keefe was selected with the officers (minus bombardier) and a couple of crewmates to ferry a general to a meeting on Tinian. Keefe didn’t mind serving as orderly.

Keefe’s crew flew no further raids after the bombing of Nagasaki, and he returned to Euclid not long after Japan surrendered. He immediately enrolled in Fenn College (now Cleveland State University) on the G.I. Bill and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Keefe proudly considers himself an Air Force veteran, even though it didn’t become a separate branch of service until 1947. He thinks it should have become independent of the Army even before World War II ended.

“That war was won by planes,” he said.

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# Landscaper Salutes Veterans at Home and Garden Show

By Jerri Donohue

**T**he middle-aged man’s cap identified him as a former Marine. He paused on the walkway winding through the “God Bless the U.S.A.” garden and smiled broadly at a wall studded with medallions of the military branches.

Brian Williams, owner of Williams Landscaping and Pavers in Grafton, said veterans responded with surprise and appreciation to his exhibit at the 2018 Great Big Home and Garden Show in the IX Center February 2 – 11. This year’s theme was songs.

“I did Lee Greenwood’s ‘God Bless the U.S.A.’ because of my military background,” Williams said. “I designed it to honor the members of all branches of the military.”

A “bubbler rock” or pillar of water flowed above each of the plaques. Williams planted red, white and blue tulips and hyacinths to form a floral flag. The landscaper used the same color scheme in lighting throughout the



garden and around the patio. In the wooden pergola built by Buncher Construction, he included a food preparation area with red lighting on the counter top. In addition to traditional path lights, the exhibit featured glass pavers Williams Landscaping produces with RGB LED light bulbs. The company also makes the controllers and transformers. Although Williams stuck with the colors of the flag for his exhibit, the lights’ colors can be changed.

Williams was studying criminology at Cuyahoga Community College when he joined the Ohio Army National Guard in 2000

because he wanted experience as a military policeman. Right after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, he was sent to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

“At that time, everything was questionable,” Williams said. “We helped make the base more secure.”

A neck injury prevented him from serving in a combat zone, and his unit eventually deployed to Iraq without him. Two soldiers from his company, Sgt. Todd Bates and Staff Sgt. Aaron Reese, died there.

Williams went to Italy with a group assigned to provide security for a small U.S. Air Force base. In the meantime, he switched his major to business. He had a part-time job with a landscaping company and realized he preferred to work outdoors. He launched his own business in 2002.

When Williams helped another contractor with an

exhibit at the 2010 Home and Garden Show, a show manager noticed his work and invited him to do an exhibit for the 2012 show. Williams has continued ever since.

One year the theme was celebrations. Williams promptly chose Mother’s Day, appropriate since he and his wife, Brandy Williams, have eight children and will soon welcome a ninth.

This year’s exhibit was special, too. “Everybody in my family has helped me build my business,” Williams said.

Like Williams, who left the National Guard in 2006, most of his helpful relatives are veterans. Guy Sliter, Williams’s father-in-law and Columbia Station’s “Lawn Guy,” is a former Ranger. Williams’s brothers served in the Air Force and Army National Guard.

Williams enjoyed creating this year’s exhibit.

“I like doing things that are meaningful and close to us,” he said.

## Ides of March

Here is where we were and what we were doing (along with celebrating St. Patrick’s Day)

**1904** - King C. Gillette patents the Gillette razor blade

**1969** - An estimated 2 million people take part in the Vietnam War Moratorium demonstration across the United States

**1992** - Richard Petty drove in the final race of his 35-year career.

**1993** - A judge in Mineola, NY, sentenced Joey Buttafuoco to six months in jail for the statutory rape of Amy Fisher. Fisher was serving a prison sentence for shooting and wounding Buttafuoco’s wife, Mary Jo.

**1995** - Texaco agreed to pay \$176 million to settle a race-discrimination lawsuit.

**1999** - Representatives from China and the United States signed a major trade agreement that involved China’s membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

**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.

**Our assistance includes but is not limited to:**

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

**Service Assistance:**

- 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 Pledge**  
When you come into the County Veterans Service Office you will be assisted by one of our knowledgeable associates. The people that work in the Medina County Veterans Service Office have a compassionate understanding of the problems which confront veterans, widows, widowers, and their families.

Sincerely,  
Veterans Service Staff

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