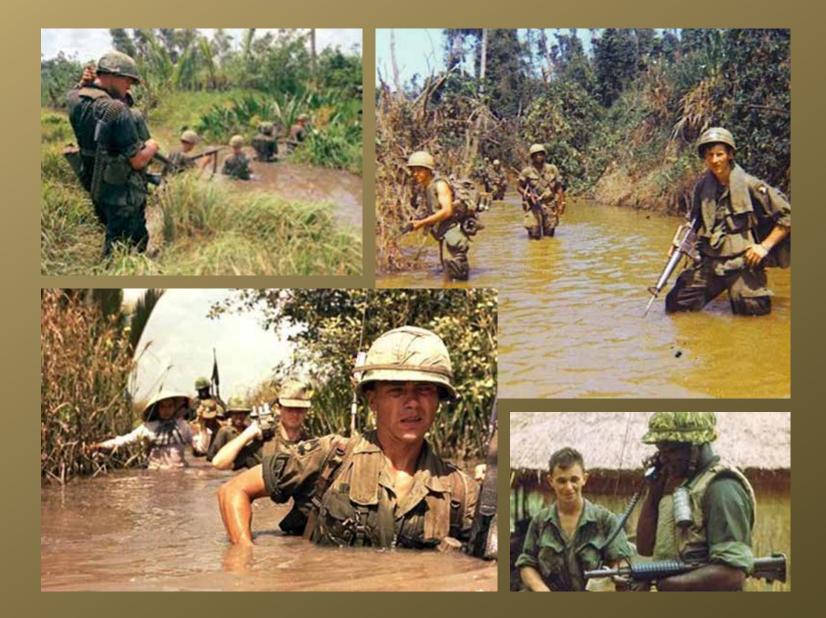


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STAND AT EASE By John H. Tidyman, Editor

"What did the Vietnam War cost?" "Depends. You want it in dollars, bodies, broken hearts, or blood?"

By John H. Tidyman, editor

S ome researchers put the cost of the Vietnam War at \$2 trillion in today's dollars.

Any way you look at it, that's a lot of money to spend on ammo, lies, C-rats, ineffective leadership, Agent Orange, and body bags. I rarely think of the dollar amount. I often think about the dust-offs, medics, and dead troops, green uniforms splashed with their blood.

What did their families think and feel when they saw two officers approach the house? The indescribable body blow when grief and confusion washed over

them? It was the first sudden onslaught of pain ... that would never leave.

In one corner were those who believed the mission was worthwhile. In the other corner stood those who believed the war was a horrible mistake. Hovering above both sides were politicians and war profiteers.



In war, "Truth is the first casualty." The first American soldier killed in the Vietnam War was Air Force T-Sgt. Richard B. Fitzgibbon Jr. He is listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having a casualty date of June 8, 1956. Charles McMahon (May 10, 1953 –

April 29, 1975) and Darwin Lee Judge (February 16, 1956 – April 29, 1975) were the last two United States servicemen killed in Vietnam during the Vietnam War. The two men, both U.S. Marines, were killed in a rocket attack one day before the Fall of Saigon.

God Bless Us All on this day to commemorate all our young troops, whether they flew home to the open arms of their families, or in body bags, their chests no longer rising and falling with breath, or wounded so badly, their lives would always bear scars.

The Advice is Ancient; Its Application is Current

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

All students or readers of the Bible have favorite verses. This is mine:

"Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be brave." 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT)

Four simple sentences, yet the verse tells me everything I need to know in order to live a life worthy of God's love. It does more than that. The verse inspires me to delve into each admonition.

Be on guard. It could have added the potential for sin is often disguised. A longtime friend of mine once told me about some of the many opportunities.

"Twice I've gone to seminars. Two days for the first one, then a couple years later, three days for the second one. Both in New York.

"The first thought I had when travel orders came was 'I'll tell my wife the first one is three days, not two. That way I'll have an all-expense paid free day and night in Manhattan. And the same with the later one: I'd lie and say the three-day seminar was a four-day.""

He said he was surprised at the thoughts. "Where



the hell did I get those ideas? I wasn't looking for a night on town. Alone. With expense account money and no responsibility."

Where did the ideas come from? Excellent question. "The ideas could come only from me. But a part of me that I rarely see."

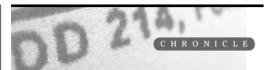
That's the potential for sin—sin waits confidently, silently, and deliberately. It knows an opportunity is on the horizon. It knows because there always is. My friend was shaken at the time and

decided to take his wife with him to New York. They had a lovely time.

My friend was on guard.

His story is the best example of that wonderful Bible verse. Because his Christian education and morals guided him, the other values fell into place: He stood firm in his faith. He was courageous. He was brave.

He said he didn't need any pats on the back. "I fell back on what I learned, what I was taught, and the values instilled in me. I did what, as a follower of Christ, I was supposed to do."



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

The Chronicle would not exist without its advertisers. Make the effort to patronize them. John H. Tidyman, editor 198th Light Infantry Brigade Americal Division (216) 789-3502 forgedironstidyman@gmail

Deployment in Afghanistan Changes Marine's Perspective

hen his platoon commander was shot in an ambush in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on November 2, 2010, Marine Corporal Ryan Throne realized evacuation was impossible.

"No one could expose themselves long enough to provide suppressive fire for the medical helicopter to land," the Massillon resident said.

He moved to another vulnerable spot, shifting the insurgents' focus to himself. Two squad members joined him, subjecting themselves to enemy fire but enabling the rest of the squad to reach a better position.

The Americans had thought they were mitigating an ambush; instead the insurgents had lured the patrol into a 360-degree ambush.

"They are a lot smarter and more tactical than people think they are," Throne said.

The platoon commander eventually was evacuated, but later died of his wounds. The fighting continued until armored vehicles arrived, chasing the insurgents away.

Currently a student at Stark State College pursuing a double major in communications and business, Throne had deployed to Afghanistan with 2nd Battalion, Sixth Marine

Regiment. His unit occupied a compound taken from the Taliban in the city of Marjah. "It was strategic to place a

force of Marines in a hot zone," Throne said. "Every day we

went out and we knew that we would get into a lengthy firefight. It was quite literally an everyday battle, to hold the line."

The Marines prevented the passage of explosives and drugs through the area, as well as contraband that the enemy sold to fund its operations.

In the beginning, local people avoided contact with Americans, fearing reprisal from the



MAIL CALL

"We're talking about men that act like monsters," Throne said. "Violent religious extremists, not afraid to kill anyone they considered an infidel . . .It was not uncommon for them to take the lives of family members that were supporting us." Attitudes

insurgents.

changed when the Marines returned to rightful owners

land the Taliban had seized. By the time Throne left Afghanistan, civilians were inviting him to their homes to drink tea.

"I went over there with a completely different impression from what I would find," Throne said. "Not everybody hates you."

The Marine didn't return to the States unscathed. He suffered traumatic brain injuries from proximity

in the Caxton Building in down-

to explosions.

"They are very good at boobytrapping," he said of the enemy, who hid explosive devices everywhere - in trash, in walls and behind paintings, detonating them with cellphones or garage door openers when Americans approached.

Throne underwent rehabilitation upon his return to the States. Before leaving the Marine Corps in 2012, he instructed non-infantry personnel preparing to deploy, bringing them up to speed on required proficiencies.

Now married with a 5-year old son, Throne plans a career as a health and life coach. He chose Stark State College because it had the programs he wanted, and its Military Services Office streamlined his enrollment and course registration.

"They have a really good group of people who work with veterans," Throne said. "I've never posed a question or presented a problem they couldn't find an answer or solution for."

The January/February edition of DD214 has an ad on page 5 sponsored by seven companies honoring our veterans who "have served America" and a headline on the following page that reads "It Shouldn't Be This Hard to Serve Your Country."

Further, whenever people see me in my U.S. Army gear--either my 1966 field jacket or 1968 Class A dress uniform--some will say to me, "thank you for serving our country," I say "you're welcome," but I cringe inside, thinking to myself, "I did not serve my country. I served deceitful, lying, fear mongering, war mongering politicians and their war-profiteering bed partners."

I put a little spin on that response a few years ago when Maia Belay, a reporter for Fox 8 news, interviewed me at the annual Rally for Troops in downtown Cleveland, organized for years by attorney John :"Kiks" Kikol.

Shortly before Maia began the interview she said to me, "Thank you for serving our country" and I said, "I didn't serve my country. I served corporations." She was taken aback by my unexpected response.

Those truly serving our country are the medics, nurses, doctors and mental health professionals who work very very hard to mend, as best they can, the psyches and bodies of those ravaged and savaged by war. They are the true war heroes. Not those who kill and destroy. That's not heroic. It's barbaric."

Louis H. Pumphrey (First Infantry Division, Vietnam, 7/67-7/68) Veterans for Peace Shaker Heights, Ohio

n the spring of 1966 I was an assistant editor for an Industrial Publishing Co. (IPC) magazine town Cleveland. I had recently "graduated" from the Rowley family of newspapers in Ashtabula and Lake Counties, having been a reporter first for *The Free Press* in Geneva, then *The Star Beacon* in Ashtabula and finally, *The Telegraph* in Painesville. The name of the IPC magazine was a steamy, bodice-ripping potboiler with the rather prurient, suggestive title *Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Business*—a title that would make *Fear of Flying* author Erica Jong blush.

One day, out of the blue, I received a letter that began "Greetings from the President." Of course it was my draft notice from President Lyndon B. Johnson. I was shocked to receive it since I had graduated two years earlier from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and figured I was safe—too old to be drafted. Au contraire.

The next step was to notify my

boss, Jim McCallum, editor of the potboiler, er, trade journal. Since my home was in Painesville, several days after my "greetings" letter, I boarded a bus at the Painesville Post Office which took a number of draftees to the Standard Building in Cleveland for our army physical, including two other guys from my Harvey High School class of 1960.

Of course, despite my "advanced age" (23), I passed my physical. I was philosophical about being drafted, however, essentially saying to myself, "Well, I'm lucky to have been born in the U.S. I guess it's not too much to give up two years of my life in the army." The thought never crossed my mind, however, that one of those years would be spent in Vietnam.

At the time I could be described as a sort of "baby hawk," reluctantly supporting the war in Vietnam. My reasoning went like this: "South *Continued on page 16*

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Army Vet Perks Up Project for Special Needs Students

by Jerri Donohue



n Roasted, his Olmsted township coffee shop, Army veteran Todd Phillips proudly displays a plaque he received from special needs students at Olmsted Falls Intermediate School.

Against a backdrop of children's thumbprints sits a large mug emblazoned with a punny message: "Words cannot expresso how much you bean to us."

Todd and Lauren Phillips opened Roasted in October 2018. Within months, a teacher who frequents the shop told the couple about the



TOBOR: Bomb Disposal Robots

By Sterling Haynes

hat do American troops do when faced with deadly landmines? Bomb disposal robots have saved countless lives by diffusing deadly landmines.

Bomb disposal became a specialized practice in World War I. The mass production of artillery shells meant there would be "duds," and the battlefield would be littered with unexploded, but still lethal, shells.

Britain dedicated a section of Ordinance Examiners from the Royal Army Ordinance Corps known as RAOC. Its responsibilities included removing unexploded artillery shells.

In 1972, the RAOC battled with the Irish Republican Army (IRA). To end British rule in Northern Ireland, the IRA launched an aggressive bombing campaign.

Lacking the equipment to remove bombs from a safe distance, cost the lives of several officers. In response, Lieutenant-Colonel Peter invented a bomb disposal robot, the "wheelbarrow."

It was an electrically operated wheelbarrow equipped with hooks and water jets designed to disable explosives.

Protected by Kevlar suits, EODs operate bomb disposal robots with virtual reality helmets, radio, and LED remote controls.

Once the EOD technicians determine the type of bomb, they develop a procedure to disarm it.

One technique is trepanation and involves drilling into the sidewall of a bomb and disarming it.

Rapid tactical missions include deployment into booby trapped buildings.

Multiple operators control its three arms and video feed is gathered from the robot. Monarch Room Coffee Crew. Every Thursday morning, students with disabilities wheel a cart from classroom to classroom, delivering hot beverages to teachers. Hearing this, Phillips offered to brew and donate the coffee, and he gave the crew uniform smocks with the Roasted logo.

"The big thing for the kids is the interaction," Phillips said. "Instead of being in a classroom all day, they are doing a job. They like having the responsibility."

Lori Kallevig, who chairs the school district's speech therapy department, said the weekly chore benefits 10 fourth and fifth grade students.

"The response has been outstanding, from the ability to empower the students with disabilities, to the admiration of their typical peers," Kallevig said.

Noting that some of the students have significant delays, Kallevig sees the activity as a kind of early intervention.

"We are starting job skills earlier to give them additional opportunities to promote independence later on," she said.

In addition to operating Roasted, both Todd and Lauren Phillips are full-time firefighters for the city of Cleveland. Last year they managed, however, to visit the Monarch Room, and to invite the Coffee Crew—three or four at a time—to Roasted on field trips during regular business hours.

"We had them on the other side

of the counter, taking money," Phillips said. "We put coffee on a lower shelf so some of them could

fill orders." "This partnership is one of my favorite things about my job," Kallevig said. "I've loved to see the growth in the students that I work

skills." This year, the coffee shop expanded its effort to include the high school on Friday mornings.

with, the ability to practice real life

"Roasted now allows this program to access two buildings throughout the school district," Kallevig said.

Phillips buys all his coffee - brews like Dawn Patrol and Lock and Load Java - from Alpha, a veteran-owned business based in Utah. Recalling the instant coffee he drank while stationed in Korea back in 1992, Phillips happily supports Alpha's outreach - sending donations of coffee to deployed service personnel.

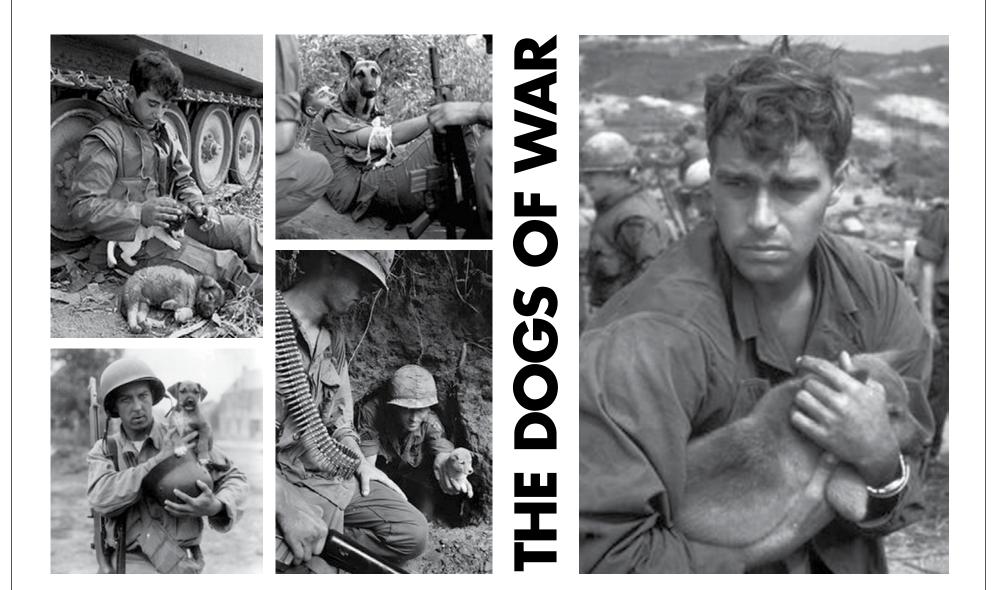
"A percentage of everything we buy is going to the troops," Phillips said.

Closer to home, he and Lauren provided CLE Veterans with "Mom's Cookies," a popular treat baked for Roasted by Lauren's mother, Sharon Marschall. Homebound vets received red, white and blue cookies in care packages distributed on Veterans Day.

The couple welcomed the chance to participate.

"We wanted to do something to be part of the community," hillips said.





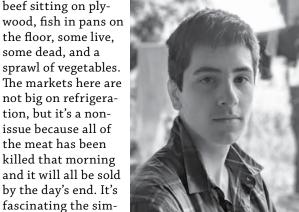
Dining in Nam

xploring the market near my hotel this morning and last I night reminded me that I owe my readership an entry dedicated to foodstuffs! What have I noticed in Vietnam?

First, freshness. Vietnam is still a country with a lot of small farming, which lends itself to locally sourced food more than the U.S. factory farming model. On two separate occasions, I have seen pigs butchered in the back of restaurants. undoubtedly preparing for the next meals. Can you imagine this back in the states, a restaurant killing its own animals? Additionally, most restaurants here source food from the prevalent local markets, which are also worth spending some time on.

Stepping under the ramshackle roof of a street market near my hotel this morning was like stepping back in time. The briny smell of fish, freshness of vegetables, and cooking food fill the air. There is an eager hum about the place. Here, the norm is whole slabs of pork and

by Chris Harris Hawken School



plicity of the system, but it seems to work so well. In Kon Tum, I described the Western way to my new friend Kan (you might remember he is the hotel worker that took me all over the place for awesome food), explaining that we like styrofoam, Saran-wrap, and those absorbent meat juice pads when we buy our meat. I was quick to point out that small butcher shops and green grocers do exist, but it's not the norm like it is in Vietnam.

beef sitting on ply-

the floor, some live,

sprawl of vegetables.

The markets here are

not big on refrigera-

tion, but it's a non-

issue because all of

the meat has been

killed that morning

and it will all be sold

by the day's end. It's

fascinating the sim-

some dead, and a

There is an acceptance and respect here, too, of the animal that America seems to have all but

sanitized away. Most dishes here do not shy away from bone in pieces. Butchers sell larger slabs of meat. Most importantly, the animal is honored by using all of it, especially in soup. Curdled blood is one example

of this, as are intestines. The meat here is redder in general, and the eggs are orange, always.

Restaurant culture here is different, too. As is the case with most stores, it is the front owner of the owner's private residence. Using the bathroom, in many cases, means walking through their house. Smoking is ok, too, in most establishments. I was taken aback the first time I saw locals throwing garbage on the floor - empty beer cans,

dirty napkins, cigarette butts, and food scraps, but that is the norm here, and it works out fine.

Finally, the coffee culture here is absolutely huge. People love to relax, watching their coffee brew out of a phin (individual coffee filter) on top of a pad of sweetened condensed milk, watching cigarette smoke waft as time passes. Ice is served on the side. Drink the coffee hot or add ice. Your choice. At every meal or coffee shop tea is served, which I think is quite a nice gesture. Eating in Vietnam is a gritty, laid-back, exciting part of the travel that is honestly impossible to capture with words or pictures. It's the whole experience: the cigarette smoke, the buzz of traffic and frequent horns, the small plastic stools, trash on the floor, laughter of other patrons having a good time (often assisted with copious amounts of beer), and the knowledge that this is just about the freshest food you could eat anywhere. It's awesome.

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Olympic Gold Medalist Earlier Received Combat Infantry Badge

by Jerri Donohue

n 1948, Clevelander Harrison Dillard won two gold medals at the Olympic Games in London. He won another two at the Olympic Games in Rome in 1952.

Less known is the Combat Infantry Badge Dillard earned in 1945.

A sharpshooter, he arrived in Livorno, Italy in October 1944.

"We lived in a camp with wire fences around," he told me in an interview for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project in March 2008. "The Italian people, who were the real war victims, would come to the fence where we were eating meals. . . And anything we did not eat, they begged us for it because they had absolutely nothing, due to the war."

Dillard joined the Army reserves while attending Baldwin Wallace College. He was called up in 1943, and the Army eventually put him on a train with other African-Americans to segregated Fort Huachuca in Arizona. At a stop somewhere in Texas, they walked to stretch their legs until the whistle summoned them. Locals heckled them as they jogged past.

"As we ran by, they gave us the ole 'You niggers better run,'" Dillard recalled.

After training in Arizona and Louisiana, Dillard sailed for Italy, a modern-day Buffalo soldier in the 370th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division.

"All of the senior officers, [and] commanding general in the Ninetysecond were Caucasians," Dillard said. "Only the junior officers,



second lieutenants, first lieutenants, and a major or two were African-American."

Italian partisans helped pinpoint German troops so the Americans could call artillery fire on them. Often, however, the G.I.s were on the receiving end as they fought their way north.

"There were numerous times when mortar fire and artillery fire were falling around us while we were attempting to advance," Dillard said.

Short reprieves occurred near Genoa that April.

"We would see these Red Tail planes flying north on strafing missions," Dillard recalled. "We knew then it was perfectly safe to come up out of the holes because there would be no artillery fire or mortar fire.. .the Germans naturally didn't want to expose their positions to the planes." When the war ended, he witnessed the surrender of several companies of enemy soldiers.

"Usually when you captured prisoners, they'd be disheveled," Dillard said. "But these guys - they didn't have parade uniforms, of course - but they had cleaned themselves up as best they could. They marched in to surrender."

"They were tough, they were good soldiers," he said. "We, fortunately, were better. Not just because of our training, but just as much that we had all the equipment."

Dillard waited his turn to go home after V-E Day.

"Probably to keep soldiers out of trouble, they formed all kind of athletic teams," he recalled.

Cpl. Roscoe Lee Browne, a future award-winning actor, recruited Dillard for their division's track and field team - which later represented the Mediterranean theater at the 1945 G.I. Olympics in Frankfurt, Germany.

"I won maybe four Gold Medals, I guess it was," Dillard said.

General Mark Clark presented the medals. The ever profane General George Patton praised Dillard, telling a Stars and Stripes reporter that he was "the best goddamn athlete I've ever seen."

Back in Italy, Dillard appreciated the friendliness of the Italians who called all Americans "Joe." A group of middle-aged women once stopped him and two other African-American G.I.s.

"They said, 'Che bello! Che bello!' [how beautiful]," Dillard said. "They just wanted to touch our skin, which we allowed them to do. It was almost amusing. We understood that they had never seen a black person before."

Discharged in January 1946, Dillard completed his education and built a life.

He and fellow Buffalo soldier, William Perry, were introduced to the crowd at an awards ceremony for Spike Lee in Columbus, Ohio, shortly before the release of Lee's 2008 movie, "Miracle at St. Anna". The movie follows four members of the 92nd Infantry Division fighting in Italy.

"I was never more proud than when we were in Columbus," Dillard said. "These mostly young people, most of them Caucasian, came up and said, 'Thank you for your service to our country.' That was really moving."

Harrison Dillard died November 15, 2019 at the age of 96.



We are in this together, no matter how far apart.

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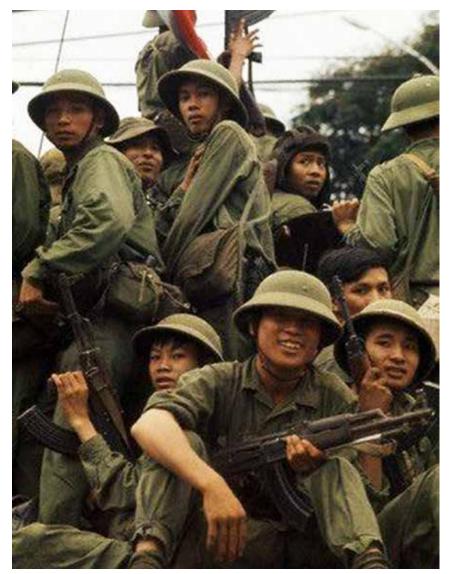


Vietnam: The War that Tore Us Apart









NVA and VC: A Determined Enemy







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Announcing Community West Foundation's New President and Chief Executive Officer: Martin J. Uhle

Artin J. Uhle is no stranger to the Community West Foundation or to the west side of Cleveland. Marty, as everyone knows him, has been on the Foundation's Board of Directors since 2009 serving in many capacities. It has been through his service that he was identified as the optimal candidate to assume the position as the next President & CEO of the Foundation.

"The last several years that I have dedicated to non-profit work have inspired me," says Marty. "I left the for-profit world in 2011, immersed myself in service to the community, and consider this an amazing opportunity to lead such a well-respected and successful organization."

Most recently Marty served as the Superintendent and CEO of the Cleveland Lutheran High School Association from 2016-2019. Under his guidance, both Lutheran East and Lutheran West High Schools reached record enrollment in their 70+ year history and installed the next generation of leaders for the schools. In addition, he was Messiah Lutheran's Pierstorf Memorial Fund Executive Director since 2012 which entailed granting interest-free loans to Lutheran students to help them go to college. The number of student loans granted has tripled under Marty's leadership.

Marty holds a Masters of Business Administration from Baldwin Wallace University and a Bachelors of Arts in Business from Wittenberg University. He continues to be an active servant of his undergraduate alma mater where



his dad, brother and sons also graduated. As a member of their Board since 2009, he has been involved in many major university milestones including hiring a new president in 2017 and a \$52 million-dollar capital campaign to build an indoor health, wellness, and athletic complex that opened this past fall.

In addition to his board involvement at Community West Foundation and Wittenberg University, Marty also served seven years on the board for the Urban Community School located on the near west side of Cleveland.

Prior to his non-profit work, Marty had a successful career in the for-profit business world. He's held senior leadership positions for the majority of his career including President and CEO of Vantage Financial Group from 2005-2010; President and COO of Heartland Payment Systems from 1997-2004; and Senior Vice President, Payment Services with KeyBank from 1985-1997. Efforts in these roles allowed him the flexibility to choose how to spend the rest of his working career.

A Cleveland native, Marty grew up in West Park and then later in Fairview Park. His father, Reverend John F. Uhle, served as a Lutheran minister for 56 years on the west side before passing in late 2015. Marty's mother, Jean, continues to live in Rocky River.

Marty has been married to his high school sweetheart, Laura, for 34 years. They are members of Messiah Lutheran Church located in Fairview Park and reside in Rocky River. The couple have two adult sons: Ryan & Steven.

Marty's business acumen coupled with his passion for philanthropic engagement make him an ideal leader to carry out the mission of Community West Foundation which is to advance the health and well being of our community. In 2019 alone \$4,143,842 in grants were awarded to 56 community agencies that serve the poor by providing food, shelter or other basic necessities; and supported fundraising efforts at Fairview and Lutheran Hospitals. An additional \$2,101,531 was given to other nonprofits through Donor Advised and Agency Funds.

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In Their Words–World War II Vets on Their Enemies

by Jerri Donohue

S ince 2006, more than 200 World War II veterans shared their wartime recollections with me in interviews for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. Seated at Formica kitchen tables in the comfort of their homes, many related episodes - both funny and sad - from their distant past. Men and women from around the country also recorded their experiences at reunions, where being with other vets often brought memories to the surface.

Here is what some said about the enemy:

The Germans captured Army draftee **David Atha** in Tunisia in February 1943. A private in the 168th Regiment, 34th Division, he was returning on foot to company headquarters after delivering a message that no German tanks were in the area. Unfortunately, the message was inaccurate; Atha soon spotted enemy tanks approaching. He took apart and buried his weapon in anticipation of capture and then hid behind scrubby cactus.

"Arabs came out on horseback which nobody believes - and they took my ring, my watch, my shoes, one legging. They let me go. The next day I was walking along and I thought I heard something, and so I hid behind a little sand dune. And all at once a machine gun was shooting over my head. And somebody hollered, 'Come out with your hands up,' in English."

His German captors treated Atha decently, giving him some of their rations and water.

"They asked me what happened to my shoes and I told them. An Arab happened to go by about then, and they [Germans] took shoes away from him. They weren't my shoes. There was a hole in them, where a GI had got a bullet hole, and so I knew they weren't mine. They didn't fit exactly, but they were better than nothing."

The Germans transferred Atha to Italy. Later, they moved him to Germany, at first on a passenger train and finally in a boxcar. During the initial stage of this journey, an Italian soldier took pity on the American, sharing his bread and getting Atha's address in the States. "This Italian guard wrote my folks a letter, telling them about me and that he felt sorry for us prisoners. I still have that letter. It's in Italian."

When Atha volunteered for farm work to get out of a POW camp, he was sent to a site in eastern Germany. There a guard singled him out for mistreatment.

"The interpreter asked him why he picked on me all the time. And he said, 'Cuz he's a Jew. His name is David.' I won't tell you the rest, how I had to prove I wasn't."

Interviewed August 25, 2006 at the Ohio State Convention of Ex-Prisoners of War, Fremont, Ohio



Army nurse **Katherine Flynn Nolan** worked in field hospitals in France, Belgium and Holland as the Allies advanced through Europe. She cared for wounded Americans and enemy soldiers, too.

"At first when they came in, they were kind of uncooperative, but when they saw they were getting exactly the same treatment as the GIs, they changed their attitude, most of them."

An exception was a German officer who needed a penicillin shot.

"He was a second lieutenant. He was very arrogant. When I went to give him the shot, he said, 'Nein! Nein!' Until he saw me giving it to the GIs. Then he starts giving me orders. He spoke very good English. He wanted me to take care of him first. Well, he took his turn, believe me! He was so obnoxious that even his own troops would just look at us and shake their heads. They were embarrassed because he was acting like that."

Interviewed September 12, 2008 at the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge reunion, Columbus, Ohio

William E. Snidow commanded a 5-man tank in the European theater.

"Right after the Bulge, you saw German bodies ... When the snow melted, you saw a German shoe, or a German hand, or something sticking out of the snow, but it was frozen."

A lieutenant ordered the men to "dig in," but they couldn't break the frozen earth. Instead, Snidow's group searched for abandoned German dugouts. In one, they came upon an enemy corpse propped upright.

"He'd been shot right between the eyes. Bald. He didn't have any hair. But some other GI had gone by and stuck a hairbrush in one hand and a mirror in the other."

Interviewed September 20, 2008 at the 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion reunion, Solon, Ohio

In the waning days of the war in Europe, Private **Stanley Wozniak** and a lieutenant ended up in a deserted German town after dark. The two exhausted men indulged in the rare luxury of sleeping indoors. They chose a house, went to the attic and wrapped themselves in eiderdown quilts. In the morning Wozniak woke to voices coming from the first floor. He grabbed his gun, tip-toed down the stairs and peeked into the kitchen.

"There were six German soldiers having breakfast! I thought, 'Oh, shit! Here we go again.'"

Wozniak speculated that the Germans had slept on the ground floor without first searching the house. They readily surrendered. Decades later Wozniak had one regret.

"I should have let them finish breakfast."

Interviewed August 22, 2008 at the 62nd reunion of the Fifth Armored Division, Louisville, Kentucky

James McNeill was the USS *West Virginia's* storekeeper when the Japanese bombed it at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. After extensive repairs on the west coast, the ship returned to the Pacific theater and participated in multiple engagements. McNeill described the Battle of Surigao Strait in the Philippines in October 1944.

"The Japs had a force of two battleships, two cruisers and four or five destroyers coming up this little narrow strait. . .We [battleships] formed a semi-circle across the mouth of the strait. This is at two o'clock in the morning, coal black. As they came up, we opened fire."

The encounter was a sound victory for the Americans who sank or damaged several enemy vessels. Japanese sailors who survived the battle spent the night bobbing in the sea.

"The next morning, PT boats were running up and down through the strait, machine-gunning the hell out of them," McNeill said.

Interviewed October 14, 2008 in his home in Barberton, Ohio

When English-speaking Germans captured **Robert J. Steckler** in Luxembourg in late 1944, they fed him a hot meal of horse meat.

"I spent most of the [next] five months marching along the North Sea in the coldest winter in history," Steckler said. "[But] I had good German guards."

Steckler recalled one elderly guard in particular and wondered if the man had inspired a TV character.

"Hogan's Heroes? Schultzie? We called him Schultzie! He looked like Schultzie. He walked around in a trench coat. He talked like him, acted exactly like him. I swear if I didn't know better, I'd say it was the same guy! Schultzie was too old to fight. He was an old-time soldier, and he was not an SS soldier. Old Schultzie took care of me. He hit another German soldier with the butt of his rifle because that soldier was trying to take my four-buckle overshoes. Being a farm boy, I knew I needed those four-buckle overshoes. I would have lost my feet."

Interviewed August 17, 2007 at the 61st reunion of the Fifth Armored Division, Canton, Ohio

Marine interpreter, **Noel L. Leathers** interrogated captured Japanese soldiers.

Continued on next page

DD 214 Chronicle March/April 2020

IN THEIR WORDS Continued

"You'd find somebody and they were wounded. One of the first things we always did was say, 'This guy has been shot here or there' and get a corpsman. And give him water. They all needed water no matter where we were because they were on short rations. So we took care of them and gave them a Chesterfield or a Lucky Strike or a Camel. When they got an American cigarette, they thought that was really something. We'd give them some kind of 'pogie bait' - like a candy bar, a D-ration, and let them know that we weren't going to torture or kill them, which they'd been told, and that the war was over as far as they were concerned. We found this to be the most efficient way of simply disarming them. The fact that they had been captured was a terrible psychological shock.

Leathers also interrogated prisoners in tent camps.

"We used some of them for road work, according to the Geneva Convention. So, there are 25 guys out there putting rocks in the road. Here comes a Japanese officer, probably a second lieutenant, first lieutenant, spic and span. They had separate quarters. I guess this guy [prisoner] was loafing, or at least he thought he was. The lieutenant called him to attention, and he knocked him down. The guy got back up and he knocked him down. He beat on this guy for six or seven times, dusted his gloves off and strutted away."

Interviewed April 20, 2010 in his home in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio Assistant gunner **Richard H. Lacey** toted a 45-pound machine gun across Europe. He recalled an incident in 1944 soon after his nineteenth birthday, near the Belgian town of Petit-Lanae on the Albert Canal.

"We set up our machine guns on blocks there. We had two machine guns and we were supporting about thirty K Company riflemen. We were pulling guard duty there. There was a road there across the front of the canal with an iron railing. The next morning about 9, a company of Germans came up the road facing us. It was a real good field of fire; the road was quite level. They got about 75 yards from us and all of a sudden, the guns started shooting. The gunner got on our machine gun. He started shooting down the road. It lasted only about ten minutes. We captured seventy-five Germans, killed twelve, wounded eighteen. We got all of them but one. And the one climbed up on the hill and the next day, one of our fellows was rowing some of the wounded across the canal and this German on the hill started shooting at the guy. You could see the bullets hit the water. He [the G.I.] finally got across."

Interviewed March 6, 2010 at the 64th reunion of World War II Veterans of the 30th Infantry Division in Nashville, Tennessee

B-17 pilot **W.Budd Wentz** flew his 28th mission out of England in April 1945.

"A beautiful sunny day. We were flying in number four spot, which is right behind the lead airplane of the group. Everything was quiet. And I felt this terrific bang! And a great big jolt that shuddered the whole airplane. I looked around and said, 'What happened?' And they said an airplane crashed into the back of the airplane."

The engineer reported that the rudder and elevators were gone and pieces were breaking off their bomber and flying everywhere. "I just pulled back on the throttle and skid around in a great big broad turn without banking the airplane. As soon as I felt I had some degree of safety, keeping it flat, we salvoed the bombs wherever, I really didn't give a damn where the bombs went."

When one of his crew members spotted a small runway, Wentz landed in German territory taken by American infantrymen two hours earlier. He assessed the damage to his aircraft.

"The horizontal stabilizers were practically gone. There were no elevators on either side. The turret was completely mashed. And there was about a three-foot-long piece of the wing of a Messerschimtt shoved into the tail of the airplane."

Wentz flew the crew back to England in a beat-up but serviceable B-17 the Germans had captured but abandoned at their airbase. His commanding officer asked Wentz what happened to the plane he departed in that morning.

"I think it was an ME-109 that was out of control, probably hit by our fighters, and the pilot was either wounded or the plane was crippled and out of control. And he accidentally dove into formation and hit my airplane," Wentz said. In 2003, a Dutch colonel contacted Wentz while writing a book about the Eighth Air Force. He had discovered that Wentz's B-17 was deliberately rammed as part of an organized Luftwaffe mission.

"A significant number of the Luftwaffe pilots did survive the ramming," Wentz said. "And then I got another phone call from a German Luftwaffe pilot who had been one of these people."

Wentz then corresponded with two German veterans of the operation. They were able to identify the pilot who attacked his B-17. The man had bailed out after the collision, but injured his arm so badly, it had to be amputated.

"When they told him that we had all survived the war and got back safely, he broke down and was crying."

Interviewed September 13, 2006 in his home in Shaker Heights, Ohio



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MAIL CALL Continued from page 4 Vietnam is our ally, North Vietnam is trying to take over South Vietnam, so therefore we have a moral obligation to defend South Vietnam."

My parents subsequently drove me to the Terminal Tower in downtown Cleveland for a train trip that eventually took me to—I assume— Columbus, Georgia, the closest town to Fort Benning, where I completed BCT (Basic Combat Training) in September, 1966. Before leaving Benning I received orders for my AIT (Advanced Individual Training--a euphemism for mundane make-work projects) that would be at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, with an assignment to the 13th PsyOps (Psychological Operations) Battalion, which was part of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center, home of the Special Forces, commonly known as the "Green Berets."

Luckily, the army kept me in the same line of work I had in civilian life, writing articles for Veritas, the Fort Bragg newspaper. I was at Bragg from September, 1966 until around June of '67. During the interim my battalion participated in war games in Puerto Rico and at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Shortly after the second war game I was shocked to receive orders to take part in a real war, assigned to the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in South Vietnam. I never thought I would receive orders for Vietnam since I was a middleclass white boy with a college degree. I had assumed they didn't send guys like me over there—just West Point grads and poor kids.

I had about two weeks off after leaving Bragg for the last time, which I spent at home in Painesville. Before leaving for Vietnam, my parents hosted a going-away party attended by several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends of my parents. It was a very nice sendoff, but there was no doubt in my mind that several of those attending thought it might be the last time they would see me alive. I thought the same of them.

In July of '67 my parents drove me to Cleveland Hopkins International Airport for an American Airlines flight to San Francisco. From there, a bus took me to the Oakland Army Depot and then a bus to Travis Air Force Base for a flight on a barebones C141 Starlifter jet, the military version of a Boeing 707. The plane landed in Guam for refueling, with the next stop being an airstrip in Pleiku, near the First Cav's headquarters basecamp at An Khe. At night, illumination flares were fired into the sky, creating bright white light to detect any enemy movement toward the basecamp perimeter. The next day my orders were changed to join the First Infantry Division ("Big Red One"), so I boarded a C130 transport plane for my flight south to Saigon, with stops in Qui Nhon, Nha Trang and Cam Ranh on the way.

In Saigon, I boarded an army bus whose windows were covered with what resembled thick chain-link fencing to thwart an unwelcome hand grenade thrown by a disenchanted Vietnamese.

Next stop was the Di An (zee-ahn) basecamp of the Big Red One. I was assigned to the Public Information Office (PIO) where I mostly edited stories filed by field reporters. I also wrote some stories myself, with a few appearing in the Pacific edition of Stars and Stripes. After a few months the PIO was moved to the Lai Khe (lie-kay) basecamp, the new headquarters for the First Infantry Division, which had been headquartered in Di An.

Late January of 1968 saw the beginning of the Tet Offensive. In the early morning hours of February 4th, 1st Lt. Billy Joe Blacksten, who served in the PIO, was killed by mortar shrapnel at virtually point-blank range three days after his 23rd birthday. He was already in a bunker, but facing the entrance when a mortar round landed just outside the entry. It seems like only yesterday that Sgt.Wilson stopped down into my large bunker about 100 yards away and told about 15 of us huddled there, "Lt. Blacksten was killed last night." It is one of my most painful memories. If the army gave out Purple Hearts for emotional wounds, probably everyone in a war zone would get one.

About a month after the Tet Offensive ended I was named editor of the First Infantry Division newspaper, The American Traveler and was transferred to Saigon, as the paper was printed in the Kim Lai An Quan Printing Co. plant there. I was forced to live in an air conditioned hotel room in Saigon during the few months I was editor before rotating back to the states and mustered out of active duty..

During a rather heated conversation in a military bar in Saigon with Spec 4 Mike McKenna, of Providence, RI, who questioned why we were in Vietnam, I strongly defended the war. In retrospect, I think it was because subconsciously, I simply did not want to admit Lt. Blacksten's life was wasted.

After returning home in July, 1968, I rejoined Industrial Publishing Co., but was hired to write for a different but much more interesting trade journal, *Occupational Hazards*, which focused on industrial safety, security and fire protection issues.

For more than 40 years I was apathetic and non-committal about our wars, assuming our government was being truthful and acting in our best interest. Over time, however, I learned President Lyndon B. Johnson had lied about the USS Maddox being attacked by North Vietnam in the Gulf of Tonkin. He used the phantom attack as the rationale for escalating our involvement in Vietnam. In time I came to realize how our government manipulates us with words, to serve its own agendas.

My metamorphosis into a "dove" occurred during the run-up to President George W. Bush's unjustified, unconscionable, ignoble invasion of Iraq in March, 2003. I attended two anti-war rallies before the invasion and since then have been promoting peace as much as possible to large groups of people... folks going to Browns and Indians games, people attending the Parade the Circle behind the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Blossom Festival Parade in Chagrin Falls, the Shaker Heights Memorial Day Parade, Fourth of July Parades in Lakewood and Cleveland National Air Shows in downtown Cleveland on Labor Day weekends. Also, I was downtown a few days in July, 2016 during the Republican National Convention and at events tied to last July's Major League Baseball All-Star game in Cleveland. (Google: Pumphrey RNC)

In good weather I wear my very tight Class A's dress green uniform, carrying my peace flag. In cold weather I wear my vintage 1966 army field jacket.

Most people who don't like what they see ignore my cheery greetings. Some guys, however, have flipped me off. The next time someone gives me the finger I will shout at him: "Is that your IQ or your sperm count? Maybe BOTH." Some have shouted USA!! USA!!

and I shout back, PEACE ON EARTH!! PEACE ON EARTH!!

At last year's Blossom Festival Parade in conservative Chagrin Falls, two men standing by the side of the road, took a step or two toward me and shouted "SHAME ON YOU!! SHAME ON YOU!!" with one man saying, "You shouldn't be in the parade!" I simply smiled sweetly at them and said, "Thank you...thank you...You're very kind" I'm guessing the gentlemen are not war veterans.

Last summer while standing at the northwest corner of East Ninth Street and Carnegie Avenue, greeting people heading to an Indians game at Progressive Field, a woman asked what I say to people who think my flag desecrates the American flag. I said, "I have a different perspective. I was in Vietnam for a year and from my perspective it doesn't desecrate or disrespect the American flag. It respects peace. People who have not been in a war—who have never experienced the bitter taste of war--will never never never—not EVER—respect peace to the same degree I do. It just can't happen. Not even come close."

On another occasion, while greeting people heading to Progressive Field, one elderly man—okay, he was probably about my age—said my peace symbol was "the footprint of the American chicken." That annoyed me to such an extent that I yelled at him, "You been in a war? Yeah, I didn't think so." He said nothing and walked away.

Other people have said, "Where are the stars? There are supposed to be stars on that flag." And I have replied, "The stars are in hiding. They're ashamed, embarrassed and disgusted with all the death, destruction, instability and chaos we have caused in the Middle East. Millions upon millions of refugees, and it all started with us."



Zoloft: Social Anxiety Disorder

n addition to Zoloft's purpose of relieving anxiety, side effects are considerable.

Nausea, dizziness, drowsiness, dry mouth, loss of appetite, increased sweating, diarrhea, upset stomach, or trouble sleeping may occur. If any of these effects last or get worse, tell your doctor or pharmacist promptly.

Remember that your doctor has prescribed this medication because he or she has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects.

Tell your doctor right away if you have any serious side effects, including: easy bruising/bleeding, decreased interest in sex, decrease in sexual ability (ejaculation delay), muscle cramps/weakness, shaking (tremor), unusual weight loss.

Get medical help right away if you have any very serious side effects, including: fast/irregular heartbeat, fainting, black/bloody stools, vomit that looks like coffee grounds, eye pain/swelling/redness, widened pupils, vision changes (such as seeing rainbows around lights at night, blurred vision).

This medication may increase

serotonin and rarely cause a very serious condition called serotonin syndrome/toxicity. The risk increases if you are also taking other drugs that increase serotonin, so tell your doctor or pharmacist of all the drugs you take (see Drug Interactions section). Get medical help right away if you develop some of the following symptoms: fast heartbeat, hallucinations, loss of coordination, severe dizziness, severe nausea/vomiting/ diarrhea, twitching muscles, unexplained fever, unusual agitation/ restlessness.

Rarely, males may have a painful or prolonged erection lasting 4 or more hours. If this occurs, stop using this drug and get medical help right away, or permanent problems could occur.

A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is rare. However, get medical help right away if you notice any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, including: rash, itching/swelling (especially of the face/tongue/ throat), severe dizziness, trouble breathing.

This is not a complete list of possible side effects. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

Lockheed Martin: Death from the sky

By Sterling Haynes

n 1912 Glenn L. Martin established the Glenn L. Martin Company in Los Angeles, California.

He started the company after building his first plane in a rented church, where he took a leap of faith on innovative aircraft design inspired by the Wright brothers. Months later Malcolm Lockheed founded the Lockheed Aircraft Company. They constructed seaplanes out of a garage that would set new records for flights across the ocean.

After the Cold War the Secretary of Defense requested Lockheed and Martin merge to save resources. In 1994, Lockheed Martin was established to become the largest U.S government contractor.

Its main office is in Bethesda, Maryland, and composed of over 375 facilities, 16,000 active suppliers, including suppliers in every U.S. state and more than 1,000 suppliers in over 50 countries. Over 105,000 people are employed at Lockheed Martin worldwide.

The majority of Lockheed Martin's business is with the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S.

federal government agencies. In addition, Sikorsky (a Lockheed Martin Company) provides military and rotary-wing aircraft to all five branches of the U.S. armed forces.

As a global security company, it focuses on business segments: aeronautics, missiles and fire control, rotary and mission systems and space.

According to the 2018 financial report, the company had \$53.8 billion in net sales: 70 percent from the U.S government, 28 percent from international customers, and 2 percent from other markets.

Lockheed Martin is the first company to bring laser weapon systems out of the lab and put them into the hands of soldiers, sailors and warfighters across all branches. The ATHENA system is a prototype transportable, ground-based system. The laser destroys drones and enemy aircraft. It mounts on naval ships, military bases and tactical armor vehicles.

Javelin is a lightweight, shoulder-fired, quick-fire antitank weapon. It was used in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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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.



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