CHRONICLE

The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

MARCH/APRIL 2022

A COMBAT ENGINEER IN VIETNAM

See page 9

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After helping prepare the *DD214*s for the last eleven editions, one constant has remained the same for me. I am reminded how really necessary it is to support the many Veterans and interested businesses helping us! I never want to forget how important these entities are to the health and well-being of our newspaper! These individuals and businesses help keep our Veteran readership informed and entertained.

The Vets that are close to our publishing should already know how they are revered, and I thank them again right now.

Advertisers should be lauded each time they support us. Even during times that they are not part of a *DD214* issue, they are a part of our success, and we want them to know so! We also want our readers to know that supporting our ad partners is important to the life blood of the *DD214 Chronicle*, our advertisers, and our Veterans and All Who Love Them! Please make every effort to support our supporting group of fine Veterans and businesses! Thanks in advance!

Donald C. Stark, publisher

These businesses are very important to all of us!

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see page 6

Editorial Statement

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

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Vet-2-Vet Classifieds

Wanted / Military Collectibles

My dad was a Navy turret gunner in WW2 fighting in the Pacific Theatre. I have discovered items he brought back and have them on display at my home. And have become an avid collector. NOT an antique dealer but a preserver of memorabilia and am searching for arti-facts vets saved during their tour of duty. Willing to negotiate a good price and learn and share the back stories that come with the pieces. **Please call (440) 669-0978**.

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Freedom Walks

The NEOPAT Freedom Walks concept was created to help community members raise awareness and funds for NEOPAT so we may continue in our mission to Keep The Promise to honor and remember our veterans and support military families in Northeast Ohio.

NEOPAT Freedom Walks are designed to allow you to create a team of walkers that will walk in honor of your story.

Whether you are walking in memory of a hero, are a current veteran, have a veteran in your family you wish to acknowledge or you are a patriot wanting to give back to the men and women that sacrifice for our freedoms, the NEOPAT Freedom Walks will bring your community together.

NEOPAT Freedom Walks ar fun, promote a healthy activity to involve many individuals and a variety of ages and can easily be connected to the NEOPAT mission.

- There is no registration fee.
- We ask that each walker raise a minimum of $50.
- Each team that registers and raises their minimum per walker before the walk, will each be given commemorative NEOPAT Freedom Walks T-shirts to wear while walking.
- Best of all, it's easy for you to begin and **100% of every dollar raised goes directly to our mission**!

neopat.org/events/freedom-walks

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Our Vet-2-Vet Classifieds Page is for you to promote your events and activities to improve attendance, membership, and communications. This page is yours to support. Five bucks per line of copy with free **bolding** and **color**. Welcome home!

Contact (216) 323-4699
donaldstark408@ymail.com

Department of Veterans Affairs photo

Tons of waste were burned in open pits in Iraq and Afghanistan, producing toxic smoke and potential adverse health conditions, according to veterans.

President Biden signs two burn pit acts, but impact may be limited

By Brian Albrecht

Former Lt. Col Walter Nagel still remembers the noxious smoke billowing from trash-burning pits at bases where he served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

One burn pit, typical of those used by American military forces to burn anything and everything medical and human waste, munitions, electronics, plastics and more, all ignited by jet fuel was located right next to a rest area tent.

"It [the burn pit smoke] was hot, muggy and sticky, and I had a cough, coughing up 'product'," recalled Nagel, 78, of Medina, who was deployed as an Army senior intelligence and liaison/linguist officer. "You can't tell me we didn't get anything from that."

Nagel said he was treated for severe bronchitis overseas and believes the smoke exposure "definitely damaged my lungs."

Other vets who served in the Gulf also have more than just memories of that conflict in the form of medical conditions including cancers, respiratory problems and hypertension that they blame on inhaling burn pit smoke that could contain the same toxins found in the Vietnam-era defoliant Agent Orange.

In recent years their disability claims filed with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have been largely unsuccessful due to a lack of scientific evidence linking their conditions to burn pit exposure. The VA rejected 78 percent of these 12,582 claims filed from 2007-2020.

That situation may be slowly changing, as evidenced by President Joe Biden's signing of two burn pit-related acts in early January. (Biden has previously speculated that burn pit emissions may have contributed to his son Beau's fatal brain cancer.)

The Burn Pits Health Provider Training Act requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to implement mandatory training for all medical providers working for the DOD on the potential health effects of burn pits, with the goal of identifying early signs of toxic exposure.

The second act that Biden signed expands areas covered by the DOD/VA Airborne Hazards and Open Pit Registry (https://www.va.gov/health/newsfeatures/2014/october/burn-pit-exposure-signup-now-in-va-registry.asp)which collects data regarding burn pit exposure from veterans who served in regions including Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Djibouti, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and now Egypt and Syria.

So far 224,226 vets (4,879 from Ohio), have registered and some 91 percent report being exposed to burn pits, and 32 percent said they had respiratory problems during deployment.

A statement from a sponsor of the acts, U.S. Rep. Paul Ruiz, praised Biden's recent action, calling it "an incredible step forward in our fight to get our veterans affected by toxic burn pit exposure the care they deserve."

But to Rosie Torres, head of Burn Pits 360 (https://burnpits360.org/) a nonprofit advocacy group, the issue is far from settled. Torres co-founded the Texas-based group in 2009 with her husband, a former Army captain who has suffered illnesses they blamed on toxic exposure during his deployment to Iraq, and was denied disability benefits.

Torres said the Biden action was "one of our lower priorities," and posed several questions regarding the training act: What clinical guidelines will be used, how they will be implemented, and whether this measure applies to the VA, for example.

Biden could have done much more, according to Torres. "He should be at the forefront of this issue," she added.

What's needed is an educational campaign regarding burn pit hazards and medical symptoms across the entire health system. "An awareness campaign is key because it can save lives" in the early diagnosis of potential burn pit-related health problems, she said.

"While they're figuring out regulations and policies, people are dying and being misdiagnosed," she added.

Torres and other advocates are pushing for Congressional passage of the Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, which includes establishing a presumption of a service connection for 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers related to burn pits. Much the same policy has been established for Vietnam vets who were exposed to Agent Orange.

The VA recently said a new evaluation model is being piloted that "will consider possible relationships of in-service environmental hazards to medical conditions." This model will continue to "leverage" scientific research, and monitor veterans health and claims data, with the goal of reducing the burden of proof for vets impacted by exposure, and speeding the delivery of health care benefits.

Torres is optimistic regarding passage of the PACT Act in the House of Representatives, due to a growing voice of veterans for change.

"More and more people are coming forward and saying 'I'm dying and I want to tell my story,'" she said. "People are not being quiet anymore."

Environmental Exposures Programs and Services for Veterans
www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures

Military Exposures Website
www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures

Environmental Health Coordinator at VA Medical Facility
www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp

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Veteran Enjoys Belated U.S. Citizenship

by Jerri Donohue

Robert Rivera had lived in the United States since he was a preschooler, but he wasn't an American citizen when his draft notice arrived in 1966. He had a green card and had registered as required.

"There was a friend of mine that was a Mexican citizen in Texas and he went back to Mexico," the North Royalton resident said of a draftee in similar circumstances.

Rivera rejected that option. His family had come to the United States from Mexico under the sponsorship of a rancher in Montana. His mother died while they waited on the border, and despite hardships early on, Rivera remembers a happy, active childhood.

His father returned to Mexico when Rivera was a teenager but allowed his son to remain behind with relatives in Cleveland. Rivera graduated from West High School in 1965 and then worked at Fisher Foods Bakery.

After boot camp, he trained as a cook at Fort Jackson, South Carolina before the Army sent him to Fort Hood, Texas. His sweetheart, Sharon, traveled to San Antonio and stayed with Rivera's sister and brother-in-law. He visited on alternate weekends. After he and Sharon married, the newly-weds settled into a duplex off base and Rivera prepared to go to Vietnam with the First Armored Division. Instead, he was among

fewer than a dozen men who didn't ship out. He later learned that his father had prayed for his safety at the Mexican shrine of Our Lady of San Juan de los Lagos.

"He made a promise that if I would be okay, that he would take me back to Mexico to visit the shrine," Rivera said.

Meanwhile, Rivera joined the base boxing team. Boxing matches provided entertainment for the troops.

"They took me out of the company and all I did was train and box," he said.

He eventually won the featherweight championship at Fort Hood and also was runner up for the Fourth Army in a tournament at Fort Bliss.

Upon his discharge in 1968, Rivera returned to his previous job. Just months later, his father kept the promise he'd made to Our Lady of San Juan de los Lagos. He prevailed upon another son to drive him to Ohio, where he insisted Rivera joined them in a road trip to the shrine in central Mexico. Rivera, who said his father nurtured his family's strong faith, was moved by the scene in the Mexican church.

"My Dad got to the door, he got down on his knees and went on his knees all the way to the altar to give thanks," Rivera recalled.

In the years that followed, Rivera held a green card and occasionally attended veterans' fairs to seek help in becoming a U.S. citizen.

"They always said, 'There's nothing we can do,'" he recalled.

That is, until he met David Dobo at an information fair held by U.S. Representative Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH 16). A member of the congressman's staff, Dobo assisted Rivera with the application process. Rivera's favorite subject was history and he easily passed the test, but the COVID pandemic delayed his citizenship ceremony. Worse, Sharon and the couple's five sons were not permitted to attend it because of pandemic precautions. To Rivera's surprise, however, he received congratulatory cards after his story appeared on Congressman Gonzalez's website. Strangers who recognized Rivera stopped to congratulate him.

The veteran voted in an election for the first time in 2020 at age 72. He has never regretted serving in the military before he became a citizen.

"It's something I'm proud of," Rivera said. "I didn't volunteer, but I'm glad I did serve."

A Combat Engineer in Vietnam: One Veteran's Story

By Nancy Peacock

In 1968, Vietnam was the last place most young American men wanted to find themselves. When Eric Kindig received his draft notice, the 24-year-old from Lodi in Medina County had already graduated from college with a degree in forestry and was working for the U.S. Forestry Service in the redwood country of northern California. Unfortunately, the Army had no service category called Forestry.

Kindig applied for officer candidate school and was disheartened to learn the Army wanted to make him a 2nd Lieutenant in the Infantry.

"The survival rate for 2nd Lieutenants was not good," Kindig remembered recently. "I'd lost a close friend from college. He had gone to ROTC in college and right out of college into the service and he didn't last two weeks. They put him in the field with a squad and it was all over. So I said, 'thanks but no thanks' and just let them draft me."

During basic training, he mulled over the few options available to him.

"The drill sergeant kept hounding me to go to helicopter school because I had high enough academics," Kindig said. "I didn't want to do that because I knew I would not be good at it. I'm mildly dyslexic and if you're trying to fly a helicopter, that's not a good thing."

He planned to go back to the forestry service and reasoned it might be helpful know how to run heavy machinery. Kindig applied and was accepted to the eight-week combat engineer program at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

As he soon discovered, there was very little actual engineering education involved.

"You're not an engineer at the end of eight weeks," he said. "You're not designing roads and bridges. You're basically a not-highly skilled carpenter."

For example, his training included more than a week on learning to operate pneumatic saws, drills and backfill tampers.

"I never saw another pneumatic power tool the day after I walked out of Fort Leonard Wood," he said. "There certainly weren't any in Nam."

Kindig was assigned to A Company, 26th Engineer Battalion, attached to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade as a support unit and part of the Americal Division. It was a unit that had been organized during World War II, disbanded after the war, and then recreated for Vietnam. His unit had two main responsibilities – constructing buildings and doing mine sweeps.

"Because of my cynical nature, I have likened my months over there to being sentenced to a Georgia chain gang," he said. "It was hard physical labor all day, every day, seven days a week. It wasn't just us, it was everybody. What are you going to do when you're not working? There's no weekend in a combat zone. You don't get much time off."

His unit was assigned to build a battalion headquarters, including a command post, hospital, mess halls, barracks, perimeter guard posts, and bunkers.

"It wasn't finished carpentry by any stretch," Kindig said. "I never saw any plans. It was really basic stuff, concrete slabs and rough construction."

Every three or four weeks, his squad would switch duty to do mine sweeps. They were assigned to Highway 535, which ran from Landing Zone Baldy, a base down by the coast, to 13 miles up the valley at Landing Zone Ross.

"We would have a squad at each base, and each squad would sweep out to the middle of that 13-mile section," he said. "Then a convoy would be able to pass through."

The mine detector was actually a metal detector and the engineers swept it back and forth while listening with headphones.

"Every time you hear a beep, that's metal," Kindig said. "But the problem was this road had been in existence since the French era, with millions of people on motor bikes and Cushman three-wheeled vehicles with parts falling off. And with combat there was shrapnel, and millions of pop-top rings, so each one of those would ping. And the real contradiction was that the mines we were looking for had almost no metal in them. But we used those detectors because that's what they told us to use: 'Here, go find a mine.'"

The mines they were searching for were made by the Viet Cong out of unexploded U.S. ordnance found in the field.

"The Cong would build a fire and melt the explosives out of the shell into a wooden box to form a 30-pound block,' Kind said. "They used a pop can to make a hole in the

Continued on next page

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middle of this block and filled the hole with plastic explosive and an electrical blasting cap."

The only metal in the mine was a flashlight battery, which they would wire onto a board and under a split piece of bamboo. When a vehicle drove over the bamboo and crushed it, the wires would touch, a connection was made and the cap would go off.

"Very, very primitive," Kindig said. "Fortunately, it did not have an anti-disturbance device connected to it. So you could just dig it out of the ground. Sometimes you could drive over it two or three times before a vehicle hit it just right and set it off."

Even more primitive than the mines they found was the method they used to locate the mines.

"We used a two-and-a-half-ton dump truck," Kindig recalled. "We filled the truck bed with dirt and packed sandbags all around it. Then we took the top of the cab off and the driver sat backward on the hood, facing the back of the truck with his legs down in the cab and straddling the steering wheel. Then he put the truck in reverse in low gear and slowly backed down the road. So that the rear wheels would detonate the mine and the truck bed would explode instead of the cab. Who thought this up? The Army."

This method usually worked, except for when the road was declared mine-free and one of the engineers decided to drive forward, "hot-dogging it" at 50 mph down the dirt road. He hit an undiscovered mine with the front tires and it exploded under his seat.

"That was one of the few fatalities we had," Kindig said.

Kindig said he was grateful not to be in combat.

"Given the choice between hard labor and combat, I'll take hard labor any day," he said. "You got up and did the job and it could have been a lot worse."

Like so many other veterans, Kindig chafes when well-meaning people thank him for his service.

"I really don't like when people say 'Thank you for your service,'" he said. "What service did we do there that protected this country? I did what I was asked to do. The question then becomes: Did it accomplish anything? I'm not convinced it accomplished much. In World War II they did something really important. They got the job done. That's what they were asked to do and they did it. We weren't asked to do the right job."

During his 15 months in Vietnam, Kindig said he noticed all the children who seemed to be without parents. Reading recent stories about the burn pits in the Middle East wars, Kindig was reminded of a similar situation in Vietnam called blow pits.

"We would pay the kids to scrounge around out in the fields and bring us unexploded ordnance like a mortar shell that hadn't gone off," he said. "They would bring it to us, we would pay them a pittance, and we would put it in a pit, put some explosives on top of it and blow it up.

"Before the smoke cleared, all the little kids would rush back down into the pit and grab anything that didn't go off and sell it to us again. To the best of my knowledge, we never lost a kid or had anyone injured. It was ridiculously dangerous for them to do what they were doing, but somehow they all survived."

He filled his off-duty hours by reading and writing letters to family and friends. When an Akron high school senior wrote to him as part of her English class assignment, he replied with a letter that filled four legal pages on both sides. They continued to write, sharing their feelings about the war, the books they had read and their interest in adopting war orphans. When he returned stateside, Kindig called the young lady and offered to take her to dinner. Three weeks later, they were engaged.

"What was unique is that it lasted 51 years," he said.

He and his wife Tess adopted two daughters from South Korea after Vietnam shut down its adoption program. Kindig joined his family's business, the Log Cabin in Lodi, which sells antiques, black powder rifles, historical reenactment equipment and books. Tess became a writer and the author of 15 books.

Their daughters are now successful adults with families of their own. Sadly, Tess passed away in November. Looking back, even though his time as a combat engineer in Vietnam left a lot to be desired, Kindig remains grateful for all the doors it opened.

"To me," he said, "the most important part of the war experience was afterwards."

Family & Community Services, Inc. (FCS) will be renovating two of its facilities in 2022! Expansions will create safer living conditions for veterans as they reach their permanent housing goal. FCS will be renovating its **Harry Donovan Jr. Valor Home, Summit County** and **Freedom House, Portage County** facilities so that every veteran will have their own bedroom & bathroom. These renovations will allow everyone to observe the protocols of the Covid-19 epidemic and like diseases moving forward. This will create space that could allow FCS to better meet the needs of the veterans by serving single men, woman and other genders.

FCS received $2.1M for these renovations but will need to raise another $500K to complete the six-wing addition to Harry A. Donovan Jr. Valor Home, Summit County to support the veterans residing in the VA Intensive Outpatient Program. To raise these funds FCS has an **"Adopt-a-Room" Program**. If interested please contact Matthew Slater, Director, Veterans Services at 330-773-7000 ext 317 or email mslater@fcsohio.org.

The Northeast Ohio Foundation for Patriotism chose late LCpl Daniel Scherry as its 2022 Charles Kirby Wilcox honoree.

Photo courtesy Marianne Scherry

To the amusement of onlookers, Danny Scherry teaches dance moves to a young Iraqi. Iraq, 2007

Northeast Ohio Foundation for Patriotism Honors Late Marine LCpl Danny Scherry

by Jerri Donohue

The last time LCpl Daniel Scherry spoke to his mother, he told her he wouldn't be able to call home for a while. But Marianne Scherry could tell her son was happy.

"Mom, this is what I trained for," he told her.

The 20-year old Marine died on April 16, 2007 while returning from an extended combat mission. Dangling electrical wires caused by heavy bombing blocked the path of the armored vehicle in which he rode. Using a device to lift them, LCpl Scherry was partially outside the turret when a live wire swung back and struck him.

The Northeast Ohio Foundation for Patriotism (NEOPAT) has selected the Marine as its 2022 Charles Kirby Wilcox honoree. Each year the nonprofit recognizes a serviceman or woman from Northeast Ohio who died in military service since September 11, 2001. The honor is named after Lt. Wilcox, a West Point graduate who was killed in Vietnam in 1968.

"Danny was passionate about what was important to him—his family, his friends, his religion and the Marines. With him, the brotherhood was an important thing. That's how Danny lived."

Marianne Scherry

"Danny Scherry, from his days as a star athlete at Rocky River High School, to his years of service in the Marine Corps, lived his life with a commitment to honor, service, and integrity," NEOPAT Executive Director Rick DeChant told *DD 214 Chronicle*. "His commitment to these core values serve as a wonderful example for the young men and women of Northeast Ohio to follow."

A 2005 graduate of Rocky River High School, Daniel Scherry played on its football team for four years, three on varsity. Earlier, he enjoyed CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) sports as a student at Our Lady of Angels in West Park. Having long admired the toughness of the Marine Corps, he enlisted in January 2006. He received two promotions within a single year.

"Danny was passionate about what was important to him—his family, his friends, his religion and the Marines," Marianne Scherry said. "With him, the brotherhood was an important thing. That's how Danny lived."

After boot camp, Daniel Scherry trained as a mortar man. He excelled at working with weapons and imitated the sounds they made to amuse his family.

Marianne Scherry met many of her son's friends at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina shortly before they deployed to the Al Anbar province of Iraq with the 1st Battalion, 2nd

Continued on next page

Photo courtesy Marianne Scherry

LCpl Daniel Scherry watches from the turret of an armored vehicle in Iraq, March 2007.

Photo courtesy Marianne Scherry

LCpl Daniel Scherry signals to another Marine, Iraq, 2007.

Continued from previous page
Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force in March 2007. The close-knit squad consisted of men from all over the country.

"They were struggling over there when they lost Danny," Scherry said.

One man asked his mother to attend the Marine's funeral since he could not. The woman traveled from Tennessee to Rocky River to represent him.

Marianne Scherry later attended the memorial service for her son and four other Marines at Camp LeJeune when the group returned from Iraq. She found the ceremony's roll call painful.

"They called his name three times," Scherry said. "They did it with the others, too."

She found consolation later that day in stories his buddies shared about him.

"I knew he was happy there," Scherry said. "He was with people he loved."

A few of the men are still in touch with her years later, and several have visited the family.

"It helps them," the Gold Star mother said. "They need to talk about Danny. And we need to show them everything the community has done for us."

Football players erected a memorial to LCpl Scherry in a local park, for example, and a stretch of I-90 as it enters Rocky River is dedicated to him.

Soon after his death, the family established The Danny Scherry Memorial Scholarship Fund. It annually awards a $1000 scholarship to a senior on Rocky River High School's football team. Coaches choose the recipient based on his leadership, commitment to service and enthusiasm for the sport. Until the state of Ohio implemented vouchers, the fund also provided tuition assistance to students at Our Lady of Angels School. Since 2017, however, scholarships of $500 each are awarded to two additional Rocky River High School graduates who plan careers as nurses, teachers, paramedics or in other service-oriented professions. (Donations can be made to the fund at any Ohio Savings Bank.)

"We are very honored," Scherry said of NEOPAT's selection of LCpl Daniel Scherry as its 2022 Charles Kirby Wilcox honoree. "It keeps his name out there. It's another occasion when we are proud of him."

Video tributes to LCpl Daniel Scherry and other Charles Kirby Wilcox honorees are posted at www.neopat.org/charles-kirby-wilcox-honorees

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Saturday, April 2nd, 2022
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Contact Chad Gibson: text 216-469-9241 or
chad@bunkerhillgc.com with questions

10-month-old Liam has been battling a very rare disease called Sphingosine Phosphate Lyase Insufficiency Syndrome (SGPL1). There are only 46 cases WORLDWIDE. One of the many symptoms is kidney failure.

Liam has been on dialysis since November 19th, 2021, on December 3rd he finally had surgery for a dialysis port so he could receive dialysis at home.

When Liam gains enough weight and gets to 22lbs he can receive a kidney transplant and hopefully be on his way to being a healthy, happy little boy again! His parents, Kimberlee and Keenan were honorably discharged from the Marine Corps and just moved back home from San Diego, unfortunately Liam was not, and currently is not eligible for any health insurance. **Please help us raise money to help with medical expenses for this sweet baby boy!**

FROM BUDAPEST TO VIETNAM By Colonel Nick Hun

A Book Review by JC Sullivan

Arriving in Cleveland, Ohio as a refugee from World War Two, Nick Hun and his family had initially entrained to Germany upon learning their husband and father had been wounded fighting the Russians with the Hungarian Army. He was eventually able to join them from an Austrian hospital, then spent seven years in Displaced Persons (DP) Camps in Germany where they were they were not welcome due to "the scarcity of resources." Hun, while there, observed American soldiers who were cleaning up the remnants of the retreating and surrendering German Army. "I quickly realized, even as a young child, that these Americans were different somehow from other soldiers, able to carry a sword in one hand and gifts of kindness in the other. I wanted to become one of them someday and this became my dream. I thought how amazing it would be to be an American soldier."

In the DP Camps he and his older brother Laszlo developed fighting skills that got them through, and later in the Buckeye Road neighborhood in their adopted hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. They weren't even welcome there, fighting their way when they had to, even at St. Margaret of Hungary Grade School. (I, too, had to fight a classmate on my first day of class after I transferred there, apparently a rite of passage.)

Hun arrived with language skills in German and Hungarian but without being able to speak English he found himself in a kindergarten class at age 10. They slowly progressed him until he was proficient enough in English to attend classes with peers of his own age. I met him in my 7th grade class.

Not long after High School graduation he joined the U.S. Army. Beginning as an Enlisted Man, this autobiography initially takes readers through his Basic Training at Ft. Knox, Fort Bragg Jump School and then, as an MP in the Airborne Infantry, to combat in the Dominican Republic with the 82nd Airborne.

After returning to the United States he went before an Army Board where he was accepted into Officer Candidate School (OCS). His commission as a 2nd Lieutenant led him to Bad Tolz, Germany 10th Special Forces where he was accepted into the Special Forces after training to determine whether he "fit". His ability to speak three languages was a big plus for him.

After his initial tour combat tour in Vietnam in 1966 , much of which is detailed in the book, in 1969 he completed Helicopter Flight School and by October he was assigned to detachment A-242 in Dong Xoai, Vietnam. Now on his second tour he again saw plenty of combat there, on the ground and flying with Cobra Helicopter Pilots.

Colonel Hun received a Bachelor Degree from the University of Nebraska and a Master's Degree in Counseling from Long Island University. He retired from the Army after thirty years of service but continues to serve. He was appointed Commissioner of Corrections for the State of West Virginia and has been active in veteran affairs through the Department of Veteran Affairs, (formerly the known as the VA).

Among his decorations are the *Distinguished Flying Cross*, the *Bronze Star with "V" and three oak leaf clusters*, the *Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters* and the *Purple Heart*. He also received the *Vietnamese Cross f Gallantry with Silver Star*.

Hun currently resides in Hurricane, West Virginia. He and his spouse Brenda have been married 52 years. Their two children, Tara Hun Dorris and Dr. Nick C. Hun, are both medical professionals. He credits his siblings Laszlo, also a former Special Forces Solder, and sisters Ilona Farkas and Maria Horansky for their life-long unwavering love and support.

In summarizing the life of Nick Hun in this autobiography I can only say you will read his story and pick it up from time to time...and read it again and again. It is available at booksellers everywhere.

Sullivan is a U.S. Army veteran of the Second Armored Division. He participated in Operations Big Lift and Desert Strike.

Patrol Officer Shane Bartek

End of Watch Friday, December 31, 2021

The Cleveland Police Foundation wishes to thank citizens and businesses in Cleveland, and across Northern Ohio, for their generous contributions in support of the ***Heroes Fund*** *which enables the Foundation to assist the families of Cleveland Police Officers lost in the line of duty, and officers suffering serious health issues as a result of their service.*

www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org/heroes-fund

Cleveland Police Foundation

2301 Payne Avenue, Suite 201

Cleveland, Ohio 44114

The Cleveland Police Foundation is the official charity for the Cleveland Division of Police and the only organization authorized to solicit charitable contributions on its behalf. We provide funding for youth and community outreach programs, community policing and engagement initiatives, safety & crime prevention programs, and support the members of the Cleveland Division of Police to help them better perform their duties. Contributions to the CPF are tax deductible under section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Code.


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Photo courtesy of George Theodore

An F-94B fighter jet which George Theodore worked on while stationed at Thule Air Base, Greenland, in 1954. Theodore served as onboard radar crew chief during flights.

Photo courtesy of George Theodore

The Records Department at Wright Patterson in Dayton, Ohio confirmed that the pictured F-94B Fighter Jet was in fact the exact same FA-942 that Theodore worked on in Thule Greenland in 1954 and flew in as the radar crew chief. He rediscovered the plane with his sons and a few of his grandchildren at the airbase many years later.

George Theodore's Icy Memories of Greenland During the Korean War

By Christopher Johnston

Eskimos, polar bears, extra heavy gloves and caps, 50 degrees below zero, severe ice storms—George Theodore will never forget any of those. When he served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, he was stationed at Thule Air Base, Greenland for the year of 1954. At times, he weather conditions could become so wicked that airman and officers all had to crawl along the ground guided by rope lines because visibility was so poor. It was also the only way to avoid being slashed by razor-sharp ice chips hurtling through the air like spear tips.

"The wind was so heavy, 120 mph, the wind would chip the ice so that if you were outside it would hit you in the face and slice your face," the spry 91-year-old Theodore recalls. "If you had to go from one barracks to another, you could not see where you were going, so you had to grab this rope that was on different stanchions, and crawl yourself as slowly as you could to the next one. Otherwise, you could get lost and become frozen to death in less than a minute. So I was very careful with that."

Located 750 miles north of the Arctic Circle and 947 miles south of the North Pole on the northwest side of the island of Greenland, Thule Air Base is the U.S. Department of Defense's northernmost installation.

"When I enlisted in the Air Force at 18, I always dreamed of being a fighter pilot," Theodore reveals. "I took all the tests. I passed everything, except for my eyes. I might have become a pilot. I didn't because from that point on I wore glasses, as I do today."

Theodore ended up doing the next closest thing for him. He studied to learn the intricate electronics of the Air Force's fighter jets and became a radar operator. He was promoted to the position of flight chief responsible for 27 fighter jets, primarily the F94 Starfire and F89 Scorpion, for the 821st Air Base Group. The base had been established in 1941 to help Denmark defend its colonies from Germany during WWII.

"God I loved those planes," he enthuses. "I would have to go up on all those fighter jets and work the radar with the pilot in cold, cold, cold weather. I would see a blip of someone who should not be in our flight zone. So I would radio the pilot who was sitting in front of me: 'Contact him, transmit a message to him to identify who he is,' and if he didn't identify himself properly, we shot him down. I shot down at least eight or nine Russian planes."

Part of the squadron's strategic responsibility, he explains, was to serve as a first guard against the Soviet Air Force, which was very close to Greenland, if they sent any planes over that air space.

Theodore was also in charge of 84 technicians who worked on the fighter jets to make sure everything was operating smoothly, even in 52-below-zero. And he assures that it was 52-below-zero for most of 1954. Of course, as a flight chief, he was outside 10 to 12 hours every day, checking on his technicians and monitoring the operation of the radar. That is until he developed an extremely severe case of frostbite that has continued to trouble him ever since.

"They were going to amputate my right hand and right foot, even though I had all of the gear given to me by the military to protect myself," Theodore recalls. "Sometimes you have to take your hand out of your big glove to write down a pre-flight report, which means you write up that everything went well before the plane went up, and a post-flight report when the plane came down. How did things operate?"

Fortunately for the very physically active and lifelong athlete, no amputation was performed.

Theodore's barracks became a popular place for his team of technicians to gather in their off-hours mostly to play cards and relax. He also had a small radio that was usually tuned to Greek music. Knowing that he was the proud offspring of Greek parents, the guys would ask him to translate the lyrics of the songs. He contacted the DJ for the station located in Thule.

"His name was George Boyd," Theodore recalls. "I said, 'Mr. Boyd, I'm Sgt. Theodore. We're both on the same base. Is that Greek music?' He said, 'Yeah, there's a big group of Greek guys up here in Greenland. Do you want to join them?' I said, 'Sure.'

He quickly became close friends with the Greek guys, who numbered roughly 11 out of the 4,000 airmen stationed at Thule. It helped that the head chef for the base was one of them. Today, Theodore savors his memories of the chef gathering them all in the mess hall, where he would prepare Greek food just for them and the fun that would ensue and the strong camaraderie that they shared.

"We would dance, and the Greeks have a dance where one may would put his arm around another man and we would hop and do all the steps, and we had a ball," he says with a laugh. "We'd be drinking wine. All the other guys would say, 'Hey, George, tell the chef I'm

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page
Greek!' They all wanted to join." Until just a few years ago, he kept in touch with most of the guys who were mainly from New York and New Jersey.

Theodore decided to leave the service in 1955 so that he could come back to Cleveland and take care of his widowed mother. His father had died when he was six. However, because of his knowledge, his experience with doing radar training, and "secret" clearance status, the Air Force asked him to remain in the reserves. He was granted an honorable discharge but remained in the reserves until 1959.

"Overall, the military was a good experience for me," he says. "I made a lot of good friends, and it served as college for me at that time."

Coming from a highly patriotic family, both his older brother Ted and his younger brother Nick served in the military after he did. Ted joined the Army and spent his entire time at Ft. Knox; Nick joined the Air Force like his big brother and ended up in the Strategic Air Command, where he frequently got to view the world from an altitude of 80,000 feet, Theodore says.

Fittingly for this passionate veteran, Theodore was born on Armistice Day. He deeply treasures his childhood growing up with his mother, Anna, and his two brothers in about a 500-square-foot apartment in the East 103rd Street and St.Clair Avenue neighborhood, near where their father Demetrius – bka Jimmy the Greek – ran his dry cleaning shop. His regular customers included Cleveland Indians' players and even a famous New York Yankee, who Theodore remembers coming in to chat with his father while his son shined the Babe's shoes.

Before going on to become a Hollywood legend, Paul Newman grew up in Shaker Heights, and his maternal grandparents lived upstairs from the Theodores. They often asked "Georgie" to go to the store to purchase their groceries. Newman, who was several years older, always appreciated that courtesy and thanked him whenever he saw George.

All three boys were exceptional athletes, and played football, baseball and ran track. They were taught by their parents to give 110% at anything they did. In 1949, Theodore saw an advertisement in The Cleveland Press for high school athletes to meet at League Park to try out for the then World Champion Cleveland Indians.

After throwing out a base runner from centerfield, Theodore felt a tap on his shoulder. It was Indian pitching ace Bob Feller. Feller and shortstop/manager Lou Boudreau offered young George a chance to try out as a pitcher, which he did, but ended up having to quit so that he could get a job and earn enough money to help out at home.

Theodore, who along with his siblings had a gift for drawing since childhood, studied mechanical drawing and design, went on to take more classes at Fenn College. Because of his design capabilities and experience, he was later invited to teach at Cuyahoga Community College. He also earned scholarships to the Cleveland Institute of Art, Cooper School of Art, and then attended John Huntington Polytechnic. While working at Republic Steel, he befriended a young designer who frequently asked him for help with his projects. That was a then-unknown Roy Lichtenstein, who later earned international acclaim as a contemporary artist.

As in sports and art, the hard-working Theodore also achieved great things in sales and held several positions as vice president or president of companies. In 1993, he leveraged his strengths in negotiating, sales and marketing to launch his own consulting business, where his clients included Home Depot, Lowe's. Sears and Wal-Mart.

"He always worked hard," relates his oldest son, Jim, 62, who inherited the Theodore gift for drawing and has enjoyed a stellar career as an illustrator. "He was one of those kind of guys that whatever he pursued in life he would do well at because he just worked hard, and he would figure out how to succeed at it."

One of his favorite memories is visiting the Wright-Patterson US Air Force Museum in Dayton with his two sons and his father about 15 years ago. At one point, Theodore stopped in front of an F89 exhibit. He recognized the number on the plane's tail. He disappeared for a while, went to the historical office, then came back and told them that he had once worked on that very jet.

"He loved the Air Force, and he loved his time in the Air Force," Jim says, quickly adding, "I don't think he was crazy about Thule, Greenland, though."

When he was 73, as part of a physical examination for the Air Force, Theodore was running on the treadmill that he had asked for the angle to be elevated to increase the difficulty, when an astonished doctor asked him to repeat his age. He did. The doctor went to get another physician, and the two agreed that he had the physical condition of a healthy 50-year-old man.

Next, they asked him if he would be willing to speak with other veterans to tell them what he did to keep in such outstanding shape. They started Theodore with ten veterans. He met with them to help them overcome any challenges they faced in getting their VA benefits. Since then, he estimates that he has helped more than 600 veterans.

"He's well known and respected throughout the veteran community," says Richard Healey, Department Service Officer, Disabled American Veterans at the Parma VA Clinic. "He wants to help out the veterans and their families by giving them advice, or directing them in the right direction, sitting with them and talking, maybe meeting to buy them a meal or a coffee."

Healey adds that he's also seen what a great family man, Theodore is. His children include Jim's younger siblings George, an executive at Goodyear Corporate, and Kristina, who has achieved great success in the restaurant industry.

Theodore's brother Ted is 92 and still a good golfer. His brother Nick passed away a couple of years ago. His mother, who had been quite a track star herself as a young woman in Greece who even beat men in races, died at almost 97. Theodore remains quite active and healthy, still the envy of men many years younger.

VETERAN PROGRAMS

Family & Community Services, Inc.

The Samuel A. Felton, Jr. Valor Home of Lorain County Transitional Housing Program for homeless male veterans and Veteran Service Center for all local veterans and families. Contact: 440-387-4293. Facebook: Valor-Home-Lorain-County.

Veteran's Haven of Warren and Youngstown Counties goal is to promote housing stability, to male and female veterans and their families. Through transitional housing for male veterans, Transition-In-Place housing for veteran families and a Service center which is open to all veterans in the community. Contact: 330-409-9139. Facebook: Veteran's Haven.

Honor Home of Stark County Transitional housing facility for homeless single male veterans and **women veterans with children**. Support is provided via the Advisory Committee. Contact: 330-631-3075. Facebook: Honor Home.

The Harry Donovan Jr. Valor Home of Summit County Transitional housing program for homeless male veterans. Contact: 330-773-7000. Facebook: Harry Donovan Jr. Valor Home of Summit County.

Freedom House of Portage County. Transitional housing program for all single veterans. Contact: 330-673-0705. Facebook: Freedom House

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), provides services to low-income veterans and families in order to assist in stabilizing housing. Available to those living in Lorain, Ashtabula, Stark, Medina, Summit, Portage, Geauga, Trumbull and Mahoning counties. Veterans experiencing COVID-19 housing emergencies call 855-234-7310 or email ssvf@fcsohio.org

More information at Family & Community Services, Inc., https://fcsserves.org/ or 330-676-3069

Four Chaplains Day—February 3

By Barb Smith

US Army veteran Bernadette E Miller, aka my younger sister, Billie of Hampton, VA, recently drove my husband and me to the Virginia War Museum, in Newport News. As we walked the grounds, she exclaimed, "There!" We approached a 10 ft. monument to, The Four Chaplains. Bob and I didn't know their story. "Daddy and I went to to their ceremony every year, at the Elks Club, in Marietta, Ohio!"

I studied the names and faces of the 3D bronze images staring back at me.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, four chaplains- two Protestant ministers, a Roman Catholic priest, and a Jewish rabbi enlisted in the US Army insisting that they be sent on the front lines.

Chaplain George Fox, had served on the Western Front during WWI, told his wife, "I must go. I know what these boys are facing."

Chaplain Clark Poling told his father, "Don't pray for my safe return. Pray that I do my duty."

Father John Washington, near death at age 12, recovered from a throat infection, "God must have something special for me to do."

Rabbi Alex Goode at age 10, witnessed the Unknown Soldier being laid to rest at Arlington.

The SS Dorchester, builder, Newport News, VA, Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, in 1925, originally a luxury liner was converted for the US Army as a transport ship, in January, 1942.

On January, 23, 1943, with her crew of 904, the USAT Dorchester embarked from New York, en route to Greenland.

Soon the four chaplains, became friends, offering counseling to all soldiers with mixed faith, prayer and entertainment. They provided aide to the seasick and welcomed all to their religious services.

On February 3, nearing her destination, the Dorchester was torpedoed by a German U-boat.

The chaplains assisted in organizing lifeboats and distributing life jackets. They gave up theirs.

Of the 230 survivors, some remember hearing prayers offered in English, in Latin and Jewish.

"I was raised in a neighborhood where Jews didn't speak to Catholics and neither Catholics nor Jews spoke to Baptists. I was amazed to see that these chaplains had so much in common. To see them enjoying one another's company was a lesson to me in ecumenism long before that word became popular." – James McAtamney, survivor, Newport News, VA

12/19/44-The four chaplains were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross.

7/14/60-Congress authorized a special medal, the Four Chaplains Medal, presented posthumously to the next of kin of each of the Four Chaplains, on 1/18/61, by Secretary of the Army Wilber Brucker at Ft. Myer, VA.

Numerous military and civilian organizations and groups hold ceremonies and services on February 3, "Four Chaplains Day." Please check your local newspaper and social media sites.

What Happens During a Memory Screening?

Memory screenings at Insight Clinical Trials are free, confidential, and administered by either our Board-Certified Neurologist or our Certified Dementia Consultant. The participant is not required to bring in any medical records.

The screening is simple, safe and takes approximately a half hour. The participant is asked a series of questions and/or tasks that take a very short time to complete. The cognitive tests are conducted to determine if a more comprehensive medical evaluation is needed. It is NOT used to diagnose any illness and it does NOT replace a consultation with a physician.

After the screening is complete, participants are given a customized memory packet of information that is designed specifically to answer any questions or concerns that arise during the assessment.

Why are memory screenings important?

A memory screening is the most important step a person can take to discover if they have a memory problem. Some memory problems that are caused by vitamin deficiencies, thyroid issues or depression can by readily treated. Other memory problems might result from causes that are not currently reversible, such as Alzheimer's disease. In general, the earlier the diagnosis, the easier it is to treat one of these conditions.

If mild cognitive impairment is detected early enough, it could afford a person the opportunity to seek treatments that may slow the memory changes or participate in a clinical trial. It could also allow them the opportunity to take a more active role in developing their health, legal and financial plans.

To schedule your free memory screening, please call 216-526-1843 or complete our online form: *insightclinicaltrials.com/contact*

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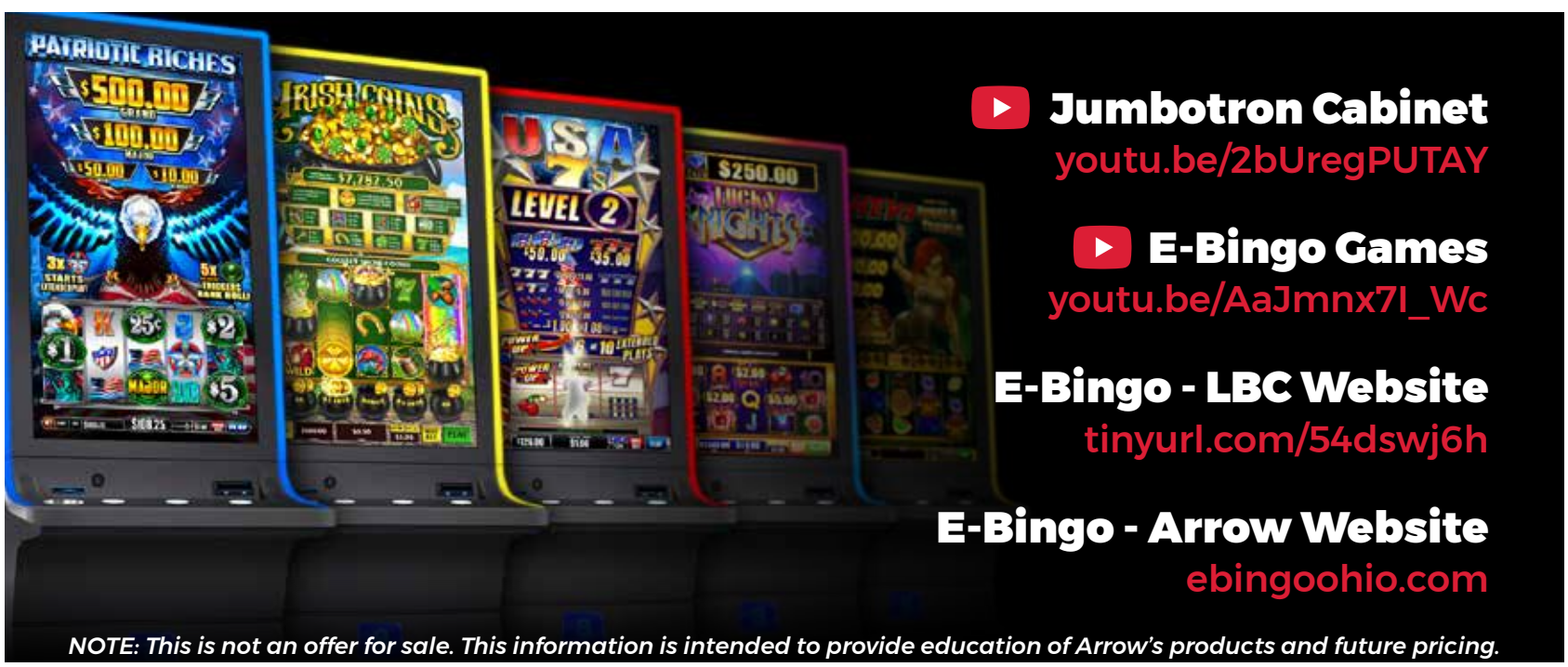

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This year's "Management Top 250," published by *The Wall Street Journal*, ranks the best run U.S. companies based on customer satisfaction, employee engagement and development, innovation, social responsibility and financial strength. Dominion Energy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

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