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John Howard Tidyman, a long-time writer, editor, and publisher in the Greater Cleveland area, died on Tuesday, March 9, 2022, from complications of a stroke. His death was announced by his wife, Annabelle Lee Tidyman (nee Stasko).

This story was written by members of John's family and approved by his wife Annabelle to publish with her thanks!

A Rose by Any Other Name

In the early days of the DD214 Chronicle, oftentimes, there were not enough writers. No problem: John would research the subject, make up a pseudonym and write it himself.

A game played at the house had us trying to guess which was the pseudonym and which was the real writer. As time went by and more writers came on board, the game just faded away.

However, in one issue, a reader became really upset with one of the articles the pseudonym wrote and expressed his displeasure to John, the editor.

A lively email exchange went on for a few days, with John finally conceding, "Yes, we've had more than a few complaints regarding this writer. Not to worry though, I fired him this morning."

It's been two years, and we miss you; John!

Donald C. Stark
Publisher/Sales Manager

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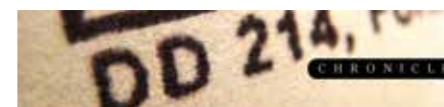
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Cleveland Veteran Joined the Navy to See the World

By Christopher Johnston

Growing up in Independence, MO, Kevin Chapman knew he needed to get away from small-town “Missouriness.”

“Independence is the hometown of Harry Truman and nothing else,” Chapman sighs. After graduating from William Chrisman High School and patrolling the aisles selling peanuts and hot dogs at Arrowhead and Royals stadiums in nearby Kansas City, he contemplated going to trade school or college. Neither, however, promised an opportunity to see the world.

Then his mother suggested checking out the U.S. Navy, which his cousin Danny had recently joined. A week and a half later, in July of 1986, he found himself being sworn in at the recruitment station in Independence. He had to wait a year, but he started active duty on July 9, 1987, and celebrated his 18th birthday in boot camp in San Diego.

“I just didn’t have anything going on there,” Chapman recalls. “Trade school or college didn’t really appeal to me. Then there was the Navy where I could do something adventurous. San Diego was entirely a different planet from where I was from. Before that, the farthest I’d been from home was Louisiana.”

Initially, he struggled with his studies in Communications and Electrician A School, but his instructors were all extremely helpful. They believed in the young sailor and inspired him to do well. From there he went to his first



ship, the U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt, then the largest ship in the fleet, out of Norfolk, VA. Two years later, he was transferred to the U.S.S. La Salle to complete his C School training in CCTV.

“At the time, that was the toughest school for my rate, and it was really hard,” he says. “I had to push myself to make it far

KC in the Persian Gulf when he was on the USS LaSalle AGF-3. They had been sent from the ship to help with clean up and stopped to look at a destroyed Iraqi tank.

in that school, but I loved it.”

While stationed to join the La Salle in 1990 before the Persian Gulf War started, Chapman decided to participate in the Operation Dear Abby letter-writing campaign to military service members. A couple of months in, he picked up a letter from a woman named Teresa and became her pen pal. In 1992, the two wed at St. Felicitas Church in Euclid and have been happily married for 32

years.

“I came back from the Persian Gulf, and during the month on leave, I went to see her and fell madly in love instantly,” Chapman remembers. “We dated long distance for about six months before we eloped, and then we had our big wedding in October.”

The newlyweds lived in Memphis for a couple of years, where their first son, Jacob, was born. When Chapman learned he was supposed to serve on the U.S.S. America, an amphibious assault ship that was scheduled for a tour around the world, he chose to spend more time with his family instead.

“I knew I wouldn’t be able to see my son for a year and a half at the very least, and I said, ‘No, I can get out and see my son every day,’ because I wasn’t coming back to a three-year-old who did not know who I was.”



KC in uniform with a woman in red who is his mother visiting him on the deck of his first ship, the USS Theodore Roosevelt CVN-71.



KC on the USS Theodore Roosevelt CVN-71 being promoted to 3rd class.

Chapman transitioned out of active duty in March, 1996, and then served in the reserves until 1998. He, his wife, and son settled in Cleveland because that is where Teresa’s family lived. Their second son, Nicolas, was born there in 1998. Chapman tried several jobs until he was hired as a phone installer by AT&T, where he later moved into Call Center work and more sophisticated communications technology. He has enjoyed a successful career for 28 years.



The logo of KC's writer's group that he founded 20 years ago.

“If I look back at my military service about the things that helped me, it’s getting a bigger worldview,” Chapman concludes. “I was a kid from Missouri who ‘didn’t know nothing.’ I saw the pyramids in Egypt, Roman glassworks in Israel and Turkey, and the Masada in Israel. I saw the “Highway to Hell” in Kuwait, when we went in to help rebuild. I had a lot of fun with shipmates doing everything from just getting drunk in bars to hanging out with members of other military navies and doing stuff all over the world. It really broadened my perspective.”



KC and his wife Teresa at a Browns football game in Cleveland. She is a huge Browns fan and he roots for his hometown Kansas City Chiefs, whose logo is his initials.

When AT&T found out that I worked on phones in the Navy, they started me at top rate,” he says. “It’s a union job, so I started out at top rate from being in the military and working on phones.”

After writing a story for Teresa on a whim in 1997, Chapman also learned of his aptitude for creative writing. She bought him his first laptop, and he’s never looked back. Twenty years ago, he even started the Cleveland East Side Writers Group, which meets a couple of times a month at Willoughby Public Library. With a preference for science fiction and romance stories, the versatile author’s writing has been published in several anthologies, including Pieces, a book published by his group; several volumes of Kaleidoscope Hearts; and the Ghostly Writes Anthology.



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Civil War Books? One Can Never Have Too Many...

By Jacob Arnett

The last rays of sun disappear beneath the gray clouds of a bone-chillingly cold November night in the windswept cornfields of Southern Illinois, 1861. News of the Union defeat and disorganized retreat at Bull Run in June, in the first major battle of the Civil War, has already been digested by the country. The “Summer frolic” of a war that was sure to be over by July 4th, as the author, Leander Stillwell writes, has turned into a bloody slugfest of mass infantry engagements. The disorganized enthusiasm of the Northern boys has been hardened into the hatred and dogged determination to win that only the spilling of blood can bring out of the psyche of innocent youth. The untested innocent youth you are steps out from your modest log home nestled amongst the prostrate corn, a click away from the main dirt road. It is the only home you’ve ever known. You listen to three sets of steps pressing the dead corn stalks into the earth with a familiar crackle and pop as you wordlessly accompany your stoic frontiersman father and kindhearted mother on the short journey to the nearby home of one Harvey Edsall, a neighbor boy 4 or 5 years your senior who has just returned from the battle lines to recover from a gunshot wound taken to the calf of one of his legs. You gather around on the wooden floor with the other neighbor boys near the potbelly stove and the crackling fire, impatiently awaiting the completion of the sermon delivered by Elder Harrison Rowden while eagerly anticipating your opportunity to hear from the twenty-three-year-old Harvey.

“I well remember how we boys stood around and looked at him with wide-eyed admiration. And he had to tell us the story of the fight, and all about the circumstances connected with the shot he got in his leg, until he probably was sick and tired of the subject. But, for my part, I thought Harvey’s story was just grand, and it somehow impressed me with the idea that the only life worth living was that of a soldier in time of war. The idea of staying at home and turning over senseless clods on the farm with the cannon thundering so close at hand that the old men said that when the wind was from the south they sometimes smelled the powder!— was simply intolerable.

I’ve enjoyed reading the many parallels to my own military journey in this book, *The Story of a*

Common Soldier of Army Life in the Civil War, by Leander Stillwell. Above, I’ve used my literary license to illustrate the environment in which the seeds of Stillwell’s military service were sown. I will admit that Mr. Stillwell is no “Bill Shakespeare” when it comes to the written word, however, this should not dissuade you from picking up this book. There goes a common understanding amongst our fellow veterans of war that a good war memoir does not often gain from much literary “dressing”. We like our meat and potatoes, so to speak. Or, in this case, our coffee, sow-belly, Yankee beans, and hardtack.

Where this book certainly does not disappoint



Civil War Hardtack
Photo Courtesy: Aidan 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers

*Modern US Army
Wheat Snack Bread*



is in the description of the oft-overlooked items of daily life back then, especially the important mention of the political ideologies of those folks in the surrounding counties—mostly pro-Confederacy Democrats. The author mentions that President Lincoln knew all too well of the political leanings of the people of Southern Illinois, 90% of whom had come to settle there from the Southern States. It is interesting to note that decisions were made from the very top to ensure that a life-long Democrat, war veteran of the “Black Hawk War,” Gen. Jacob Fry, was put in charge of recruiting a regiment from those counties. Lincoln, by all accounts, had a superior grasp of American ground-level

politics, and this random pocket of America being handled with such care can only give you a subtle glimpse of how messy a civil war in our modern age would be. For this question, Leander Stillwell himself had an answer. Here, about the impact of Bull Run, he states:

“Bull Run was probably all for the best. Had it been a Union victory, and the Rebellion then been crushed, negro slavery would have been retained, and the “irrepressible conflict” would have been fought out likely in your time, with doubtless tenfold the loss of life and limb that ensued in the war of the sixties.”

The author takes us on a journey from his mustering in as a private in D Company, 61st Illinois Infantry, to experiencing action at the battle of Shiloh and siege of Vicksburg (he mentions purchasing the notebook which would become his diary in Memphis on the way to Vicksburg), on through to the mundane life of guard duty and supply chain management in the rear. You can almost smell the bacon fat they used to grease their M1861 Spring-

fields, and there are plenty of humorous depictions of what they did with the age-old military standard of “down-time”.

So, I’ll leave the rest up to you to read. It’s a quick one, but thoroughly enjoyable and well-written. This book can be found free in PDF form online and narrated in full on YouTube. Semper Fidelis.

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Great Elixirs

By Chris Zurawski

Whiskey has likely been around for some of your most memorable late-night shenanigans worldwide. We paratroopers know how to fight and how to enjoy a good whiskey.

In the aftermath of the Revolutionary War, the United States found itself grappling with the burdensome task of settling its war debt, a concern reflective of an era when the nation prioritized fiscal responsibility. In the late 1700s, Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton proposed a tax on domestic liquor to alleviate this financial strain. However, this proposition encountered strong opposition from whiskey makers in Pennsylvania, leading to the emergence of the Whiskey Rebellion, a short-lived but impactful event. Yet, the influence of whiskey on wartime affairs did not conclude with this rebellion.

During the Civil War, the brown elixir played a pivotal role in sustaining soldiers, particularly those in the North who enjoyed better wages and could afford such luxuries. General Ulysses S. Grant, a prominent figure in the conflict, reportedly favored Old Crow whiskey. President Abraham Lincoln humorously linked Grant's success on the battlefield to his consumption of this potent libation. An intriguing anecdote from the New York Herald's 18 September 1863 edition recounts a moment when Lincoln was confronted by a group advocating for Grant's removal due to allegations of his alcohol consumption. Responding with his characteristic wit, the tall, hat-wearing president reportedly quipped, questioning the group about Grant's preferred whiskey.

Lincoln's purported statement, "If I can only find out, I will send a barrel of this wonderful whiskey to every general in the army," has become a legendary episode in history. Despite the historical debate surrounding the legitimacy of the quote, given its reliance on anonymous sources, the enduring allure of this tale persists through the annals of time.

Whiskey's relationship with servicemembers is not happenstance. It's celebrated and imbibed by daredevils and patriots. I took the advice of some great distillers and veterans and the writings of Joshua Skovlund. Paratroopers make these three whiskeys and continue to support the Veteran community. Not to mention, they taste great. But please remember, be responsible when drinking.

Crafted through exceptional distillation and 12 years of meticulous barrel aging, the Hooten Young American Whiskey stands out for its rarity and distinctive flavor profile. This American Whiskey boasts enticing tasting

notes of maple, vanilla, and ripe apple, creating a sensory experience that resonates with enthusiasts. Comprising a mash bill of 99% corn and 1% barley, this finely balanced composition contributes to a prolonged, smooth finish that enhances every sip.



Hooten Young Paired with Their Ma Deuce Cigars

The first whiskey is one my SFA Chapter enjoys immensely, --not just because it pairs well with cigars but because its creator is a great American. Norman Hooten is renowned for Eric Bana's portrayal of him in the Hollywood blockbuster "Black Hawk Down." He proclaims the Hooten Young American Whiskey as a remarkable sipping companion, and those of us who sipped on it are crushingly positive. The inspiration behind this venture stemmed from Hooten and Young's desire to create a whiskey that harmonized seamlessly with their love for cigars. Their efforts culminated in the production of a 12-year American Whiskey. For those enthusiasts who appreciate the marriage of a fine cigar and whiskey, Hooten suggests enhancing the experience by pairing the Hooten Young American Whiskey with a "Ma Deuce" cigar,

elevating the pleasure derived from each indulgent moment.



Devils Brigade

Crafted in both Montana and Canada, Devil's Brigade Whiskey artfully combines two distinct whiskeys in the scenic town of Ennis, Montana. This unique spirit, characterized by tasting notes of citrus, toasted oak, and vanilla, serves as a commendable tribute to the brave paratroopers who shared the same perilous journey. The deliberate blend comprises 60% American Bourbon and 40% Canadian Whiskey, a symbolic nod to the proportional representation of American and Canadian men within the legendary Devil's Brigade during World War II.

The foreboding phrase "Das dicke Ende kommt Noch!" graces the back label of each bottle, translating to "The worst is yet to come" in English. This chilling warning mirrors the ominous messages found on 'death cards,' a practice adopted by members of the First Special Service Force as they placed these cards on deceased Nazis during the war.

Furthermore, every purchase of Devil's Brigade Whiskey contributes to a noble cause, as each bottle sold constitutes a donation to the Special Forces Association Chapter XXVII, a non-profit organization known as the "Devil's Brigade Chapter" located in Montana. The commitment to supporting such a worthy cause adds intrinsic value to the experience, making each penny spent on this exceptional whiskey well worth the investment.



Three Rangers Whiskey

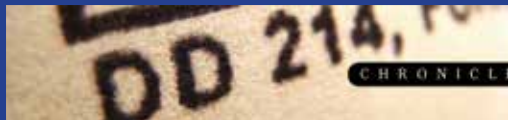
This last one is always a favorite and comes highly recommended by my Ranger Buddy, Vince. Conceived with a noble purpose, Three Rangers Premium Rye Whiskey stands as a distinguished single-barrel Rye Whiskey dedicated to supporting the Three Rangers Foundation.

This foundation, committed to offering transition services for the men and women of the 75th Ranger Regiment, aligns seamlessly with its motto: "Recognize, honor, and celebrate those who serve and sacrifice." Mirroring the ethos of the foundation, the label of Three Rangers Premium Rye Whiskey proudly displays words from the Ranger Creed, declaring, "I will never leave a fallen comrade."

Delivering a sensory journey, this whiskey offers tasting notes that encompass toasted oak, butterscotch, vanilla, cinnamon powder, and clove. Each sip culminates in a harmonious blend, presenting a smooth and sweet finish that lingers on the palate. Importantly, every bottle sold contributes to raising funds for the Three Rangers Foundation, exemplifying a fusion of exceptional craftsmanship and a noble cause.

All three of these are made by great Americans who continue to support great causes. If you partake, I recommend one of these. Sometimes, they may be hard to find. That's why I always recommend my go-to, Horse Soldiers. This one is also made by Green Berets. DOL!





Honoring the Triple Nickles: Courage Knows No Color

By Chris Zurawski

In the annals of military history, the Triple Nickles, officially known as the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, stand as a testament to courage, resilience, and breaking down racial barriers. As we celebrate Black History Month, we must shine a light on this remarkable unit and its indomitable spirit.

The Triple Nickles were the first all-black airborne unit in the United States military, formed during a time when racial segregation permeated various facets of American society. Despite the pervasive discrimination, these brave men volunteered to serve their country with unwavering dedication. The 555's exploits are vividly chronicled in the book "Courage Has No Color" by Tanya Lee Stone, which provides a compelling narrative of their remarkable journey.

Established in 1943, the 555th faced not only the challenges of military training but also the pervasive racism of the time. The prejudice extended to the point where they were initially assigned to fight forest fires rather than enemy combatants. However, the Triple Nickles demonstrated their mettle and courage by excelling in their unconventional mission.

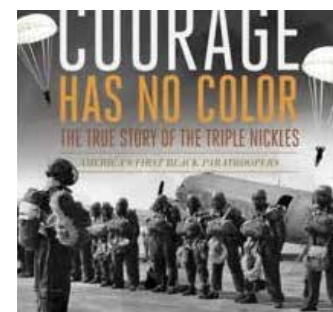


555th Jumper Standing By

military unit, showcased the adaptability and courage of the Triple Nickles. They demonstrated their valor by parachuting into hazardous terrain, risking their lives to protect American lives and property.

The Triple Nickles' story is not just one of military accomplishments; it's a narrative of breaking down racial barriers and paving the way for future generations. Their courage, resilience, and sacrifices challenged the deeply ingrained prejudices of their era. Black History Month provides a fitting occasion to reflect on their accomplishments and acknowledge the significant contributions of African-American service members throughout history.

or," we are reminded that the Triple Nickles faced both external enemies and the internal challenges of racial prejudice. Their story is a powerful reminder that courage transcends color, and the Triple Nickles' legacy inspires generations to come. Their legacy serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us that no obstacle is insurmountable when faced with unwavering courage and a commitment to justice.



Courage Has No Color book cover

One of their most significant deployments occurred during World War II, where they were tasked with combating forest fires caused by Japanese balloon bombs on the West Coast. This mission, though unconventional for a


As we delve into the pages of "Courage Has No Col-



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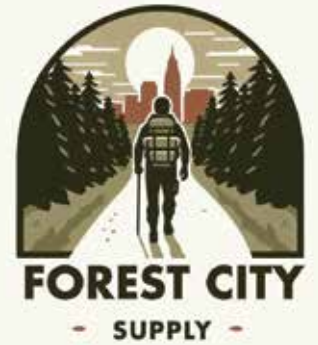


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One Helicopter Pilot, Two Tours of Vietnam

By Nancy Peacock

James C. Mooney Jr.'s Uncle Bill was a World War II infantryman who landed at Normandy, fought through France to Czechoslovakia, earned a Silver Star and several Purple Hearts before liberating a concentration camp. But most of the details have been lost because he never wrote them down.

"I heard most of it second hand from my father," Mooney recalled recently.

Decades after his own combat experience as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, Mooney decided to take a different approach than his uncle. In 2018, he self-published *Vietnam: A Tale of Two Tours* (Amazon, \$15.99)

"When I started writing this memoir, it was only for a family history, so when my memory went bad or I died, anybody who was interested could know what I did and how it happened," he said. "I wrote this to explain my time in the service, and in Vietnam."

Mooney describes his two tours from 1969-1970 at the height of U.S. troop strength during the war and again in 1972-1973 at the end of U.S. combat operations. He shares a profile of the typical helicopter pilot in his flight school class: 19 years old, one year of college, with a middle-class upbringing.

"My previous flying experience was sitting in the back of a plane going to Shreveport, LA," he said. "Then I go to flight school and 11 months later, I'm a qualified pilot."

Helicopters of that era were primitive by today's standards and dangerous to fly. Mooney lists the five helicopters used in Vietnam with their mechanical problems and limitations.

"A helicopter could be hit a dozen or more times from ground fire and continue to fly without a problem," he wrote. "On the other hand, it could be hit with one round in any one of hundreds of critical places and cease flying immediately -- and probably catastrophically."

Mooney meticulously recounts the everyday routines of the pilots and the soldiers or "grunts" as they were known.

He devotes an entire chapter to the concept of luck in a combat situation.

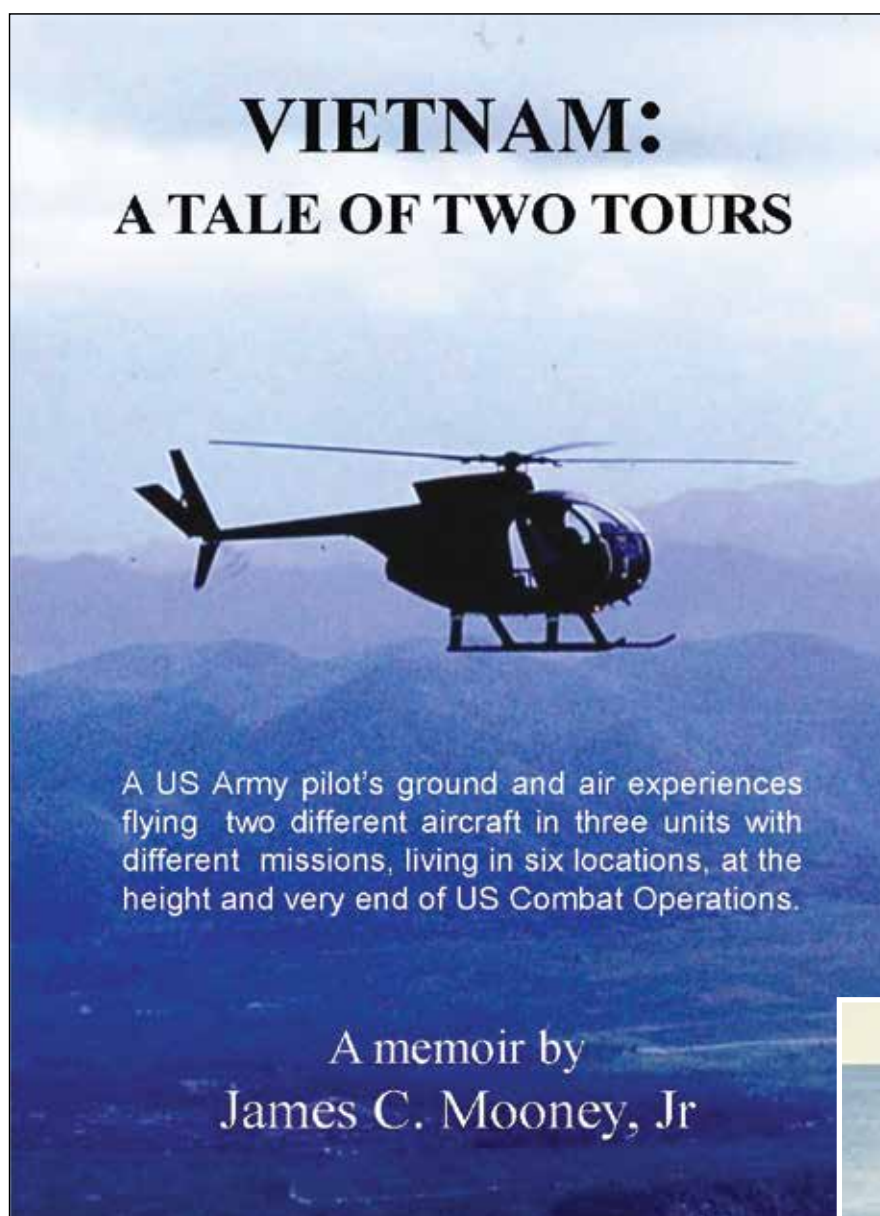
"I think there is luck, there's leadership and there's the hand of God," he said. "If you don't have a family to worry about, you can be young and stupid and 20 years of age. I never thought I was going to die. Nobody ever thinks they're going to die."

Mooney spent a total of 21 years in the Army and 32 years as an Air Force Civil Service Program Manager. After retirement, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer from exposure to Agent Orange and is currently in remission. He believes the military was unaware of the deadly effects of Agent Orange on veterans. Yet he is angered by the reluctance of the VA to take responsibility for the long-term effects.

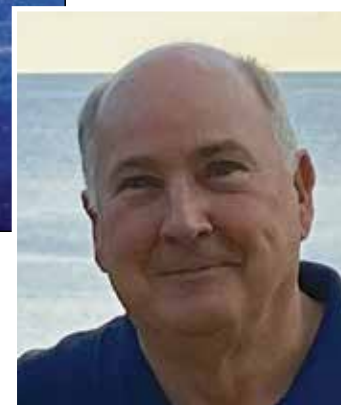
"I don't have a lot of love for the VA," he said.

Mooney is proud of his service while acknowledging the war was wrong.


"My fellow vets get mad at me because I say you have to differentiate between your patriotic service and the fact that you served in a war that was dumb," he said. "The country wasted your time. The fact is that you served the way you should have. But you can't decide that because you served, the war was right. Once I got to Vietnam, I said I'm going to do my best but this place is a mess. To not say that is to be disingenuous to oneself."



"Fortunately, God gave me a really good memory," he said. "To me, it's natural to have all that detail. People ask me if I kept notes and I didn't keep any. It's all from memory."




Author,
James C. Mooney



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Why on Earth is There a Museum Dedicated to the Vietnam War?

Louis H. Pumphrey

In December 2022 I received a mailing from The National Vietnam War Museum in Weatherford, Texas that included a wall calendar for 2023. That such a museum existed was news to me.

The question came to mind, “Who came up with the cockamamie idea to build a Vietnam War Museum?” Why would anyone want to visit a museum dedicated to the most horrific, embarrassingly wasteful--in terms of lives and dollars--unwarranted, unnecessary and unwinnable catastrophe in American military history?

For Vietnam veterans such as yours truly, visiting the museum would be like rubbing salt in a wound, reminding me of the enormous death and destruction visited upon the Vietnamese people by OUR weapons of mass destruction, not to mention wasting the lives of more than 58,000 Americans. We invaded a country where communists posed no threat to our safety, security or freedoms.

I went to the museum’s website and learned that while there is no charge to tour the museum, donations are accepted.

Charity Navigator rates the organization at a dismal 34% with zero stars out of a possible four. (CN notes the IRS is way behind in examining the organization’s financials, so the museum may have “cleaned up its act” in the meantime.)

For a \$200,000 donation, you can have your name placed on the museum’s Phase II building. A \$100,000 donation allows you to have your name placed on one of the galleries in the proposed building.

Included in my mailing with a calendar was a four-page letter from William Kane, president of the museum’s board of directors. It is likely Kane is not a war veteran, or he would have mentioned that in his letter.

Kane notes in his missive there are certain anniversaries on the calendar related to the Vietnam War, such as January 30th as the beginning of the Tet Offensive in 1968. (Where I was stationed at the First Infantry Division’s headquarters basecamp in Lai Khe, the assault began after midnight, so it was very early on January 31st that the Tet Offensive began for us.)

In his letter, Kane wrote that the museum “will never shy away from its duty to talk about all aspects of the war, including many that may be uncomfortable or unpopular to revisit.”

I have my doubts. For the month of March on the calendar the white square for March 16 is blank. That is the date of the My Lai Massacre in 1968. I called the museum and talked with a friendly gentleman named Jerry, a volunteer whose Texas drawl was so thick a Texas chainsaw couldn’t cut it. I asked Jerry if the museum referenced the massacre and he said “there is a diorama, but nothing graphic.” No surprise there.

A separate sheet in the mailing is for submitting donations and text on the sheet claims the museum “plays an important role in healing wounds, providing closure and giving our Vietnam veterans a proper homecoming.” Homecoming??!! What nonsense. The last Vietnam veteran came home 50 years ago when the U.S. pulled out of Vietnam after signing the Paris Peace Accords on January 27, 1973, along with Vietnamese signatories.

And what exactly is meant by “closure”? Painful memories and wounds of the war--emotional as well as physical--last a lifetime. No door “closes” on those memories.

In his letter Kane gives a shout out to the “more than 2.7 million members of the military who faithfully served their country”

Again, nonsense. Neither I nor anyone in Vietnam served our country. We served deceitful, lying, fearmongering, war-mongering politicians and their war profiteering bed partners. Those truly serving our country are the medics, nurses, doctors and mental health professionals who work very hard to mend as best they can the psyches and bodies of those savaged and ravaged by war. They are the real war heroes. Not those who kill and destroy. That’s not heroic. It’s barbaric. Here’s the near-palpable irony: We call ourselves a “Christian nation”--followers of the Prince of Peace.



Drafted in 1966, Pumphrey was a reporter, then editor, for the U.S. Army’s First Infantry Division newspaper in Vietnam from July 1967 to July 1968. Among his half-dozen military awards are Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medals. He is a sustaining member of Veterans for Peace and a founding member of the U.S. Peace Memorial Foundation. Pumphrey is an award-winning former reporter for The Catholic Universe Bulletin and Our Sunday Visitor, a national Catholic publication. He lives in Shaker Heights.

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**Lorain County
Community College**

Commander Joseph Francis Enright, the USS Archerfish and the Japanese aircraft carrier Shinano

By JC (aka John) Sullivan

I was in California for a technical conference, being held at Monterey, for the Akron Company that I was President of, an entity of Jones & Ross Engineering, a designer of tire-building machines. On my side of matters, I was experienced in employing Contract Field Engineers at companies such as Pullman Power at the Perry Nuclear Plant and technicians of all sorts at Goodyear, B.F. Goodrich and others in Summit County.

My initial flight was scheduled through San Francisco International Airport, with a connecting flight from there to Monterey, California, which I later learned is a mecca for retired Navy Personnel.

My latter flight was overbooked and since I was early for the conference, I accepted a “rain check” for a flight anywhere in the U.S. to be used within a

year. The new, short flight seated me next to an elderly gentleman with whom I attempted a conversation. However, he reached into his carry-on bag and retrieved a book. “So much,” I thought, “for conversation.”

However, that short connecting flight introduced me to Navy Cross recipient Captain Joseph Francis Enright, US Navy (ret.). The book he retrieved was an issue of Reader’s Digest

Condensed Book Series that featured his story and that of the USS Archerfish, the Balao Class submarine he commanded in WWII. Captain Enright was returning from the reunion of its crew in Florida. Although Wikipedia shows him being born in Minot, SD, he told me, as I recall, he was from Ohio.

In November 1944, with 10 officers and 70–71 enlisted men, they departed Pearl Harbor on her fifth war patrol, stopping in Saipan for some quick repairs. Her mission was lifeguard services for B-29 Superfortress Bomber pilots and crews that had crashed in the ocean after bombing raids against Tokyo itself.

On that day, no raids were scheduled by the U.S. Army Air Force, so she could roam at will, giving her carte blanche to roam the waters near Tokyo Bay. That changed on November 28, when Enright received a message from his radar operator and keen-eyed lookouts, who had spotted what they thought was a tanker leaving Tokyo Bay, accompanied by three ships and a submarine chaser.

Getting into position, they fired six torpedoes. They were set by Enright to run shallow, in the event the torpedoes ran higher and might capsize it. Four of Archerfish’s torpedoes hit, striking the carrier between the anti-torpedo bulge and the waterline at approximately 0320. The damage was magnified by the fact that Shinano had turned south just minutes before Enright shot his torpedoes, thus exposing its side to Archerfish, a nearly ideal firing situation for a submarine. The Shinano initially continued under way but it lost power around 0600. The crew was unable to contain the flooding, due to serious design flaws and inexperience, and the carrier capsized just before 1100.

Immediately afterward, Captain Enright ordered the submarine to 400 feet in anticipation of depth charge attacks. For close to an hour, they heard the death throes of a ship breaking up. They had

sunk a Japanese aircraft carrier. However, the story doesn’t end there.

After almost two months on patrol, they finally returned to Guam, only to learn the Office of Naval Intelligence told them they had not sunk a carrier and wanted to give them credit for a heavy cruiser. They didn’t believe the enemy had any carriers in that part of the sea. However, Enright had enough foresight to have made sketches of the target.

It wasn’t until the end of the war they learned the identity of the biggest aircraft carrier ever built at the time. It had been converted from a Yamato-class battleship into the 72,000-ton supercarrier after the Battle of Midway.

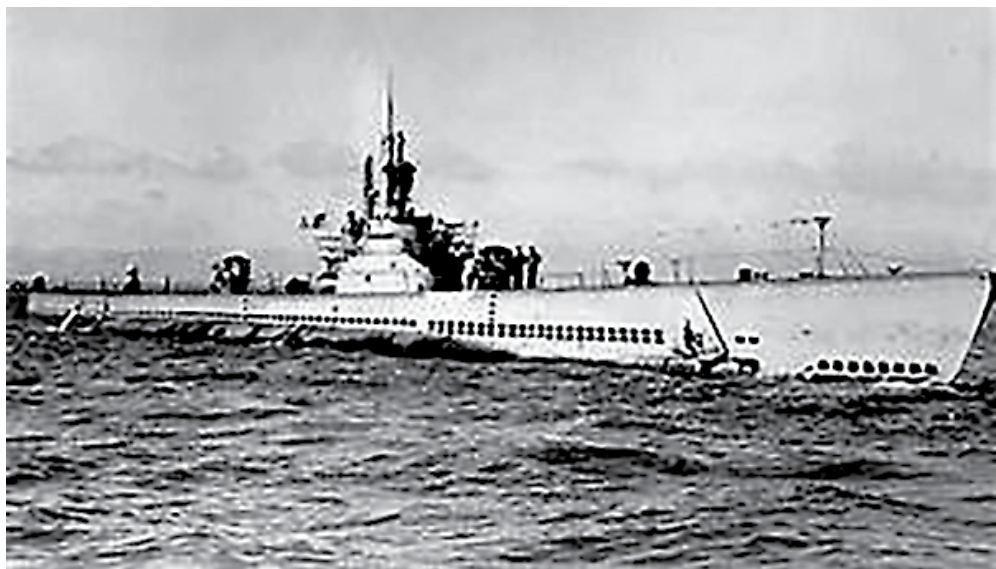
When the sketches were presented to naval authorities, they were finally given credit for sinking the 28,000-pound Shinano. Archerfish and her crew received the Presidential Unit Citation, and Enright received the Navy Cross for this action. To this day, Shinano is the largest warship to be sunk by a submarine.

Sullivan served with the 2nd Armored Division in the U.S. and Europe. He is a military historian and former Councilman who writes from Northfield Village.

Bibliography ‘Shinano’ and Wikipedia



Captain Enright



USS Archerfish

Judge Sara J. Harper Village marks first year of providing 'oasis' for homeless women veterans

By Brian Albrecht

There's a place for women who served their country but were later ambushed by trauma or misfortune. The Judge Sarah J. Harper Village, in Glenville, OH, opened on Veterans Day, 2022, as an affordable housing program for homeless and traumatized women veterans. The facility (www.voaohin.org/locations/judge-sara-j-harper-village/), operated by Volunteers of America (VOA) of Ohio and Indiana, houses 12 residents and is the second such VOA home in Ohio. The other residence opened in Cincinnati in 2017.



The Village

Residents of the fully furnished units pay rent subsidized by the Veterans Administration (VA). Additionally, the village offers such support as employment assistance, case management, referrals to treatment needed for military sexual trauma (often resulting in post-traumatic stress disorder), and other recovery issues. Above all, it's a safe, caring environment that has already achieved remarkable results in its first year of operation, according to Becky Carlino, vice president of development.

"It's magical. The residents have renamed themselves the '12 strong' and bonded in a way we hoped that veterans would respond to other veterans," she said. "They wholeheartedly say that they're stronger together, and want to give back to the community. A lot of them are really, truly thriving. You can just feel the magic."

Although overall veteran homelessness has decreased in recent years, women vets comprise the fastest-growing segment of that population, possibly due to more women entering the military, according to Carlino. Homeless veterans often deal with mental health disorders (PTSD being the largest) and issues related to drug/alcohol abuse. According to the VA, women represent about 10% of the estimated 33,000 homeless vets nationally. The VA has also noted that challenges putting women vets at risk for homeless-



Unit Interior

ness include domestic and/or substance abuse, the psychological effects of combat or sexual assault in the military (reported by one in five women vets), and a lack of employment and affordable housing. Residents, ranging in age from their 30s to 60s, can stay at the village as long as they need to get on the road to full recovery.

As one resident, Youngstown native and Marine veteran Gina Watson, 65, said, "I'm ready to go back to work, and I don't care how old I am. I have a few more things to take care of with myself. I want to be a part of the solution, not the problem." Watson, who served in the Marines for seven years, wound up at the village after her husband died and the economic impact of the COVID epidemic crippled

their painting business. "I couldn't buy a house and couldn't afford an apartment. I was displaced, briefly," she said. "Homeless doesn't always mean you have mental issues or you're poor. You can be very easily displaced by the things going on with the world." Watson said she has found a safe, supportive environment at the village, and discovered resources she never knew were available to her as a veteran. "It's an oasis, actually. It really is," she said. "We have challenges but we overcome them," she added. "Together, as a unit, we get it done." The village vets have worked together on community projects, and also added to their number with the birth of two babies, according to Watson.

Women veterans were initially paired with the village through their involvement in local VA programs. One resident has since moved on and has been replaced. Turnover at the Cincinnati home has been

about 50% in the past seven years, according to Carlino. Some women vets at the village, representing all service branches, have borne the burden of military sexual abuse and its after-effects for decades. "I've seen women at the village who have carried 30 years of trauma, and are just now raising their hands (for recovery). We've created a safe space for them," Carlino said. But she also noted that the residents "are fighters. They may still show some fear and vulnerability, but they are inspiring, determined, and hopeful. They're just now regaining their footing and rebuilding their lives."

The village's namesake, Sara Harper, now 97, is still involved with the facility and visited there for her birthday last year. Harper was the first woman appointed to the Marine Corps judiciary, the first African American woman on Ohio's Court of Appeals, and an inductee into the Ohio Veterans and Ohio Civil Rights Halls of Fame. Constance Trumbo Haqq said her mother had been asked to lend her name to other facilities over the years, but supported the VOA effort because of its "commitment and support of the facility over a long term, which is very important to us." She said the residents were also "one of the things that impressed us so much. They started calling themselves the '12 strong,' which is emblematic of the fact that they really support one another, and they're very, very appreciative of being there." Haqq added, "These are people who have made a huge sacrifice for our country and suffered from it to a certain extent, who are working incredibly hard to be healed and whole, and make their contributions to the community,"



Residents, family and friends celebrating with Judge Harper (seated, blue jacket) on her birthday.



Sara Harper and Jon Arx

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Sub Zero Mission Expands Work with Homeless Veterans

By Jerri Donohue

On a freezing night in 2009, former Marines Al Raddatz and Del Bethel learned a couple of veterans were living under a bridge in Painesville. The two gathered up Raddatz's military winter gear and took it to the homeless men.

Fifteen years after that spontaneous act of kindness, The Sub Zero Mission, a 501(c)3 nonprofit Raddatz and Bethel subsequently founded, has distributed thousands of coats, hats, gloves, boots, and sleeping bags to homeless persons in Cleveland, Akron, Ashtabula and other cities in Ohio. In addition, the organization has worked with groups in Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan to deliver its "Stay Alive Five" items there.

Marketing Director James Hido said the need has grown because of an uptick in the homeless population that isn't reflected in recent government figures. "The government doesn't have boots on the ground," Hido explained. "Agencies only report on the people who come to them."

Sub Zero Mission, however, often serves people who remain uncounted because they don't go to shelters. The organization's "Blue Coat" volunteers find persons living in tent camps in the woods, and they

also locate individuals taking shelter in abandoned buildings.

A Marine Corps veteran, Hido credits the military background of Sub Zero's Mission's founders for its constant efforts to improve. Because safety is a priority, "Blue Coat" volunteers undergo extensive training

Last December, the Veterans Administration reported a 7.4 percent increase in the number of homeless veterans during 2023. Sub Zero Mission helps any homeless person in need of winter equipment, but it focuses on finding veterans and connecting them to the Veterans Administration for permanent solutions. Like Raddatz, Bethel, and Hido, the non-

Continued next page..



Blue Coat volunteers make a nighttime visit to a camp in the woods.



Blue Coat teams gather at Sub Zero Mission headquarters for a pre-mission briefing.



A Blue Coat team searches for homeless veterans on a city street.

Sub-Zero Mission..

Continued from page 21..

profit's earliest supporters were members of Leroy VFW Post 7939, and even today, most Blue Coats are veterans.

Small teams venture out on Tuesday and Thursday nights during the winter months, approaching homeless campers in a non-threatening and nonjudgemental manner. Nurses and former medics form a "Doc Squad" that provides medical assistance for some problems and recommends evacuation for others, such as serious cases of frostbite or potential drug overdoses.

"With the launch of its Veterans Empowerment Program, Sub Zero Mission has partnered with the Veterans Administration to have the ability to instantly verify that an individual is a veteran, and tap into a vast network of services that will assist with treatment, housing, and employment opportunities," Hido said. "We will have the front-line opportunity to get them into funded, established programs."

Alerted by tips from agencies, social media, and other sources, Sub Zero Mission also responds to daytime emergencies, equipping homeless men and women with the gear necessary to survive frigid temperatures.

In 2021, Sub Zero Mission bought and renovated the building it rented in Painesville. The property now includes expanded storage space and a garage to house the nonprofit's two buses.

Sub Zero Mission's delivery season ends with the arrival of spring, and the nonprofit will soon switch its efforts to fundraising. To help, companies and community groups sponsor casino nights, pancake breakfasts, and car washes. The nonprofit also depends on Stuff the Bus events to collect its stock for the next winter.

All year long, Sub Zero Mission accepts donations Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at its headquarters, 1760 North Ridge Road in Painesville. The nonprofit always needs tents and men's boots sizes 10 - 13. For more information, call (440)867-2626.



Volunteers mingle with Stay Alive Five recipients at a delivery site.



Until the nonprofit was able to build a garage, its buses sat exposed to Ohio's harsh winter weather.

**All photos courtesy The Sub Zero Mission.*

Bastogne Beckons

By Barb Smith

Bastogne- “Bas-tone-ye,” as the French-speaking citizens of Bastogne pronounce it. We would arrive there from Brussels on May 18, via a combination of train and bus.

First, there was a 2.5-hour-long train ride to Libramont (Libra-Mohn), then a bus for the hour-long ride to Bastogne. I was unsure of the distance from the bus station to our apartment. I texted Isabelle, the proprietor.

“No worries! Take the train to Libramont and wait for me. I will pick you up there and bring you, here! See you in a few hours!” Wow!

We arrived at the Libramont rail station, at 2:30 pm. Isabelle arrived at 4:30 pm. We hugged! She assisted loading the trunk of her car, and off we headed to Bastogne!

We drove along the new highway, passing through the dense Ardennes Forest, which lies mainly in Belgium and Luxembourg and extends into Germany and France. The rolling hills and rough terrain of the thick forest of mixed deciduous trees provided concealment for the German armies, especially in snowy weather.

The Ardennes Offensive is where thousands of Allied troops were maimed and killed by 200,000 Germans. Also known as the Battle of the Bulge, it got its name from an American war correspondent, Larry Newman. He was shown maps of the Allied lines by General Patton, and saw a bulge. He coined the catchy term, Battle of the Bulge so his readers could understand.

Battle of the Bulge-
Dec. 16, 1944 -
Jan. 28, 1945

Around 19,000 men of the US Army were lost, with more than 75,000 casualties.

I thought about our local boys who had served in the Battle of the Bulge, including, Ed Gonas and Art Goodman, and how their parents worried about them. Both came home, married, raised families, and lived long lives. They were the lucky ones. Ed’s daughter, Linda, still refers to her dad as My Hero!

May 17

From our second-floor apartment window overlooking the city, we watched teenagers walking to school, imagining that 80 years ago, troops had, instead, been marching by, and supply trucks would have replaced the cars. We left our apartment and walked up the street to McAuliffe Square. Stopping at the corner, we snapped photos of the Sherman tank and the bust of General McAuliffe, who is celebrated for his one-word reply, “Nuts,” to the demands to surrender by German General von Luttwitz, on December 22, 1944.

101st Airborne Museum-

The red brick building was formerly the German headquarters. From May 1940 until September 1944, the building was occupied by the German

unteroffiziersheim, the subordinate officers. We witnessed life during a bomb attack in the shelter below. The collection of charts, maps, personal accounts, and uniform exhibits was impressive. During Isabelle’s lunch break, she picked us up and drove us the 2.6 miles to the Bastogne War Museum. “Enjoy! I’ll pick you up at 6 pm. Say “Hi,” to my sister, Ann! She’s the manager!”

We met Ann as we purchased the tickets. Ann called



McAuliffe Square - Bastogne

Isabelle back right away. “I’ll drive them back to your apartment.”

The Bastogne War Museum is full of interactive displays, personal stories, and exhibits, explaining the causes, events, and consequences of the Second World War, with a particular emphasis on the Battle of the Bulge. Visitors also experience a walk-through of old-town Bastogne.

En route home, we shared our museum experiences with Ann. Later, we, along with

Continued next page..



Ed Gonas, second from the left- A veteran of the United States Army Air Corps, he served during World War II and was a participant in the Battle of The Bulge in Belgium.



Art Goodman: Battle of The Bulge Veteran of the Year 2022

Bastogne Beckons..

Continued from page 23..

Isabelle, met at NUTS restaurant, where we met Ann's husband Fabiano, who conducts personal Battle of the Bulge to Their son R Romeo joined us.

May 18

We toured the Church of St. Pierre and the city museum in the morning.

Isabelle drove us to Bois Jacques, Jack's Wood, above the small village of Foy "Fwa." We walked acres of the historic battlefield of gigantic fir trees, where the paratroopers of "Easy Company," in frigid conditions, dug foxholes from which they would live and fight.

May 19

Isabelle drove us to our bus stop, where we were headed for the Belgian city of Liege, "Lee-eszh."

Bastogne Beckons,

A Second Visit

Maastricht, Netherlands

to Bastogne, Belgium

October 16-18, 2023

"No problem, I'll pick you up!"

Isabelle drove 1.5 hours north, and picked us up at the front door of our hotel in Maastricht!

October 17, 2023

Fabiano drove us on a detailed tour of the following Battle of the Bulge sites:

-Schumann's Eck-The Battlefield Trail

We walked through the frigid, rainy woods and came upon life-size placards of German and American soldiers standing, crouching, and hiding in a bunker formed with logs, their faces showing.

-Easy Company Monument- honors the men of the 506 PIR, part of the 101st Airborne Division who helped prevent the Germans from capturing Bastogne "May the eagle always scream".

-Bastogne Cemetery- The grave of nurse Renee Lemaire, who volunteered at an American military aid station. She was killed during a German air raid on Christmas Eve, 1944.

Oct. 18

We visited the Bastogne Barracks, housing the largest tank collection in Belgium, outside and inside two large buildings along with a wide variety of support vehicles.



*Field Surgery: Surgical team diorama-
life like mannequins
101st Airborne Museum: Bastogne*



Group food table: Ann, Fabiano, Bob Barb, and Isabelle

Built in 1935 and 1936, the buildings were used as billets for a new unit of Belgian soldiers. In 1940, the Wehrmacht came to town and used it as a training center for the Hitlerjugend, the Hitler youth, both boys and girls.

Every December, citizens of Bastogne celebrate their liberators with week-end-long festivities, including a parade, concerts, and awards ceremonies held on and around McAuliffe Square. Bob and I celebrate new friends made.



The Bulge! Fabiano points to US troops in Cobra King M4 Sherman tank celebrating victory in Bastogne, Belgium, 1944. The Tank is now on display at the National Museum of the United States Army at Ft. Belvoir, VA.

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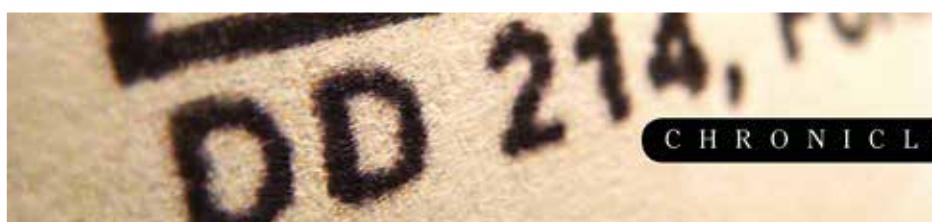
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(216) 258-5225

Clough Cleveland Consulting

IdeaEngineering
StrategicDialogue
WordWorks
MarketingSolutions
A Veteran-owned Business Resource
Contact Dick Clough
cloughcleveland@gmail.com
216.226.9040

Veteran Tribute

Cleveland Police Foundation has established a special fund to honor Bill Denihan the long-time government administrator, community activist, and veteran who passed on in June. Bill was an avid painter in retirement and donated many of his artistic creations of Cleveland scenes to raise money for charity. Please consider donating to the "Denihan Community Art Fund" to help underwrite local veteran artists. Thank you.

Details:

www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org



**CALL FOR
VOLUNTEERS
AND SPONSORS!**

**2024
PAL WRESTLING
PROGRAM**

Contact Sgt. Bob Kumazec (Ret.)
clevelandpal@yahoo.com

**ACHIEVE A SAFER
COMMUNITY
FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY,
AND FRIENDS.**



Become a Friend
of the Cleveland Police Foundation.

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE!**

Patrol Officer - \$50 / Individual

Membership Card
Lapel Pin & Window Decal
Monthly Partner Newsletter
Annual Report / Website Listing

Sergeant - \$75 / Add Spouse or Friend

Two of each of the perks listed above.

Lieutenant - \$150 / Family

Four of each of the perks listed above.

Join online at
clevelandpolicefoundation.org/friends

or contact
Rick DeChant, Executive Director
(216) 536-6776
rdechant@clevelandpolicefoundation.org

Fisher House Golf Outing's 10-Year Anniversary

Celebrate a special milestone with us! This year marks the 10th anniversary of our annual CWO4 Stanley Krysiak, USNR, Retired, Memorial Golf Outing. It'll take place on Saturday, May 18, at Briardale Greens Golf Course in Euclid.

Registration opens at 8 am, and golfers tee-off at 9 am. Prizes will be awarded for longest drive, closest to the pin, and more. A full buffet dinner, featuring door prizes and a basket raffle, will immediately follow at the PLAV (Polish Legion of American Veterans) Post 31 hall. We are so thankful this incredible group and Ladies Auxiliary are once again hosting us.

Proceeds will continue to benefit Greater Cleveland Fisher House, a nonprofit that supports a "home away from home" for military and veteran families while their loved one is receiving care at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center but who live 50 miles or so away from it.

For more information, including how to register your team, or make a donation if you'd like to help but are unable to attend, please contact Theresa Major at (216) 337-8997 or by email at info@GreaterCleveland-FisherHouse.org. You can also visit www.GreaterClevelandFisherHouse.org and click on the Events tab.

Hope to see you on the course!



The Ohio Veterans Memorial Park located in Clinton, Ohio,
 Invites all to visit the home of "The Longest Free Standing Memorial Wall" in the USA.
 We honor active service, Veterans and
 "WE REMEMBER THE FALLEN"

8005 S Cleveland Massillon Rd, Clinton, OH 44216
 OVMP.ORG





APRIL 5-7, 2024
I-X Center • Cleveland, OH



**JOIN US IN
 HONORING THE
 80TH ANNIVERSARY
 OF WORLD WAR II**

— *Supporting* —



**Greater Cleveland
 Fisher House**

Military & First Responder Discount:

With Valid ID. Limit of 4 Tickets: At I-X Center Box Office Only.

Military Admission at Show

\$15*

Kids 12 & Under

FREE

**WIN BIG WITH A \$10 TICKET!
 BUY YOURS AT THE SHOW &
 ENTER THE 50-50 RAFFLE**

*Eligible member or spouse (but not both) may purchase up to 4 tickets, provided one is used by the purchasing member/spouse. Tickets are available to all active and retired U.S. military personnel (including active and retired members of the United States Coast Guard, National Guard and Reservists) or their spouses AND Firefighters, Police, Sheriffs, EMTs and Healthcare workers must show Current, Retired or Dependent Military or First Responder ID to receive discount. Veterans must show DD214 or a VA Medical Card.

The grand prize winner will be selected at approximately 5:00 pm on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at the Auto-Rama Show through a random drawing of all sold tickets. Winner need not be present to win. If not present, the winner will be notified by telephone, email, or mail.