

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 4 MAY/JUNE 2012

Semper Fidelis

Send In the Marines!

Fourth Annual Event Celebrates Community, Country and Corps June 11-17



CLEVELAND, OHIO — The United States Marine Corps will partner with the city of Cleveland, Ohio, to bring Marine Week to the nation's Rock and Roll Capital, June 11-17, 2012. Marine Week is a celebration of community, country and Corps, and provides the unique experience to directly connect the American public and Marines.

"Marine Week will bring the Corps' latest technology, state-of-the-art equipment, rich history and hundreds of Marines to Cleveland," said Lt. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commander of Marine Forces Reserve; and Commander, Marine Forces North. "For more than 50 years, the greater Cleveland area

has been a good friend to the Corps. Marine Week is our opportunity to connect with Clevelanders and all Americans, thank them for their support and demonstrate why the Marine Corps is America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness." Marine Week attendees will have the opportunity to climb aboard a variety of the Corps' aircraft and ground equipment at static display venues throughout downtown, to include the revolutionary MV-22 Osprey and the multifaceted Assault Amphibious Vehicle. Clevelanders will be able to witness Marine Corps martial arts demonstrations and engage in clinics with Marine Corps sports teams, all while taking in the sights

and sounds of the Silent Drill Platoon and Marine Corps Band. Marines will be lending a hand to local communities through dozens of community service projects, such as neighborhood clean-ups, park restorations and housing rebuilds. The week will culminate with a simulated full-scale combat demonstration, as the Marines highlight the unique capabilities they use to fight our country's battles in the air, on land and at sea. "The City of Cleveland is pleased to host Marine Week in 2012. It will be a true honor and privilege to celebrate the service of the brave men and women who protect us and our freedom," said Mayor Frank G. Jackson. "A convenient destination,

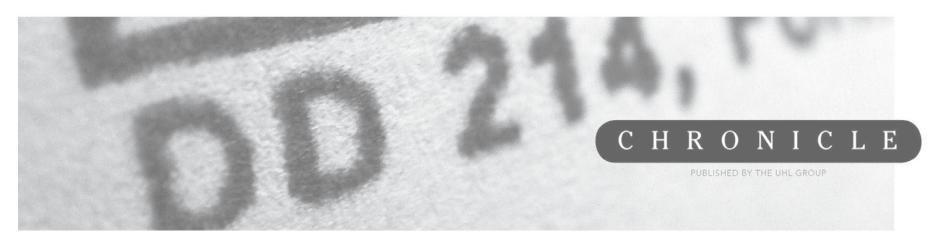
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Cleveland offers visitors the opportunity to enjoy live performances, visit local establishments and world-famous museums, and see all the sights of the Rock and Roll Capital."

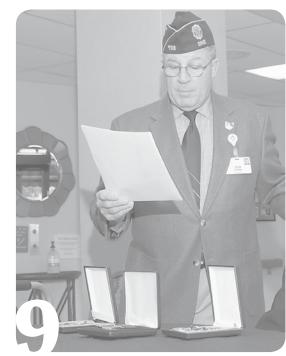
"The city of Cleveland and all of northeast Ohio is honored to host Marine Week 2012," said Brook Park Mayor Mark J. Elliot. "This will be an outstanding event where we can salute America and the courage, dedication and heroism of our great country."

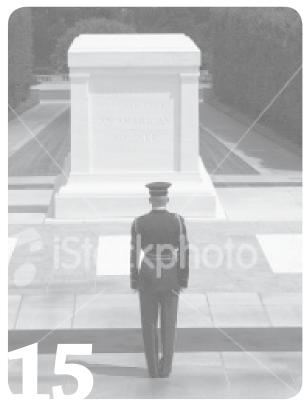
Free and open to the public, all Marine Week events will honor and recognize Marines, including many from northeast Ohio, for their service and sacrifice. Since 1962, the Marines of 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment (3/25), located in Brook Park, have served the Greater Cleveland area. During the last decade, the Regiment has deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Currently, more than 9,370 active duty and reserve Marines from Ohio are serving at home and overseas, including Marines participating in combat operations in Afghanistan. For additional Marine Week information, photos and video, visit www.Marines.mil/MarineWeek. The Marine Week schedule along with event locations will be announced at a later date. For updates, follow Marine Week on Twitter @USMC, (#MarineWeek) or become a fan on Facebook at Facebook.com/Marines.



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STAND AT EASE By John H. Tidyman, Editor

All Gave Some; Some Gave All

e sometimes forget the adage, "All Gave Some; Some Gave All." It takes a mountain of men and women to maintain a fighting force. I lift my glass to every troop who was behind the lines. Where would we be without the company clerk? He or she maintained our records and without them, securing our benefits would be impossible. Same question for troops in supply. Can't fight without boots and helmet liners. If Cookie isn't cooking for us, we're not going anywhere. If our armorer isn't fine tuning the BAR or M-60, we're carrying lots of dead weight.

So I don't care what job a veteran filled; each was important and every one of them, from chaplain's assistant to radio repairman to graves registration made a difference. So let's order another round and toast them. "Thank you for your service." Hear! Hear!

I don't know, but I would guess that incidents of Stolen Valor attend every conflict. Every time I read about a guy who covers his chest with medals he never won, or tells war stories that are pure

fiction, the screenplay in my brain reads, MUSIC: UP, and I hear Elvis singing, "The Great Pretender." Lots of guys get upset with pretend-

ers, but I don't. I feel sorry for them.



Are their lives so lacking that they have to create an alter ego? There must be a low level of constant anxiety: Will they find out? Will I get caught?

I wonder if pretenders give real veterans wide berth. Might a real

veteran ask questions the pretender can't confidently answer and thus create suspicion? What about lying to friends and family and coworkers and neighbors? It seems Stolen

Valor has few rewards and many, many risks. Is the humiliation of being caught worth the lying?

I hope we don't lose valuable energy being angry at pretenders and instead look at the bright side: He wasn't part of your squad.

> No one is going to argue when we say war is a horrible institution, but along the way, some pretty funny things happened, didn't they? Or some incredibly lucky things. I want to do more than read them; I want to create a collection of them for Cleveland Memories Project at Cleveland State University. So, send them to me at our website: www.dd214chronicle.com.

If our armorer isn't fine tuning the BAR or M-60, we're carrying lots of dead weight.

As a veteran, you have served our country with dedication, bravery, and courage, and we are forever

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Tarawa, Operation Galvanic, and the 2nd Marine Division

by Tina Mathis

n the days following the attack on Pearl Harbor, as the nation focused on its own enormous losses, a small, remote chain of islands became the target of Japanese forces. The Gilbert Islands are comprised of 16 rocky islands, 2400 miles southwest of Honolulu. The largest of Tarawa's islets is Betio, less than three miles long and a half mile wide. Anticipating the arrival of allied forces, the Imperial Japanese Navy spent more than a year fortifying this strategic position. Tarawa was the first major American land offensive in the Pacific and Betio turned out to be the most heavily defended island that the Marines had encountered. The Japanese commander, Rear Admiral Keiji Shibasaki, confident of victory, boasted that a million men could not take Tarawa in a hundred years.

As part of Operation Galvanic, the United States dispatched a fleet that included battleships, destroyers, aircraft carriers and more than 20,000 Marines. Prior to the ground invasion, eager to destroy major entrenchments, Navy and

Marine forces bombarded the island with four million pounds of ordnance. In the early morning hours of November 20, 1943, the 2nd Marine Division began the ground offensive. Hindered by the islands natural defenses, the coral reef and low tide, Marines were forced to wade in chest deep water. The first wave suffered substantial casualties; many never reached the shore.

After 76 hours of fierce fighting, the Japanese forces were annihilated; only seventeen of the original 4500 men survived. The cheers of an absolute victory were quieted by the execrable task of burying 1149



dead American servicemen. Due to the enormous death toll and sanitation concerns, many were buried where they fell while others

were buried in temporary, makeshift cemeteries.

Additionally, Marine history detailed 171 men buried at sea.

In January 1946, the 604th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company received orders to disinter, identify, and re-inter remains located on Tarawa. The company arrived March 4, 1946 with enough equipment and caskets to re-inter approximately 1000 men. They discovered 43 burial locations, from single burials to mass graves. Near the chapel, a suitable location was secured for a central cemetery, designated the Lone Palm Cemetery. By May 1946,

the disappointing result was only 49 percent of the bodies reportedly buried on Tarawa were recovered and re-interred.

According to the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, Graves Registration returned to Tarawa in 1947. All the remains from the Lone Palm location were disinterred and shipped to Schofield Barrack Central Identification Laboratory for identification and repatriation. The process resulted in 465 individuals being positively identified and buried at the direction of the families.

While numerous discrepancies exist, approximately 520 men are still unaccounted for and 90 others are unidentified. The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command recently released the list of Tarawa casualties, including 27 Ohio Marines who have no next of kin or family DNA on file. Visit JPAC website www.jpac. pacom.mil.



A Well Deserved Thank You

THE PINNING CEREMONY AT HOSPICE OF THE WESTERN RESERVE

The unique ceremony for veterans at the Hospice of the Western Reserve is honorable, emotional, and a well-deserved 'thank you,' to veterans preparing to leave us.

It is with great honor that I say these words. Some time ago, you enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, you stood up, raised your right hand and took on an oath "to protect and defend the Constitution." You wore the uniform and were held to a higher standard compared to your civilian counterparts. As you and your fellow Marine Corps inductees began the necessary training designed for the rapid acquisition of military procedures, you were asked to face danger and, if necessary, stand in harm's way. Unforgettable and haunting experiences are commonly associated with actions taken in "defending our country against all enemies." But, often along with painfully sad memories, there is a positive legacy. Veterans typically are proud to have worn the uniform that stood for something bigger than them, and almost universally feel that they became better for it. Recognition for wounds and all that you have endured in war is well deserved, and your sacrifice is gratefully acknowledged. Please wear your pin with pride.

4 DD 21

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission: A History of Service

Daniel T. Weist was appointed to the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission in 2002. Bad timing. The Commission was, if not in shambles, a very poor excuse for veterans' service. Two weeks before he was appointed, the state finished its audit of the Commission. The audit called for an overhaul that included 192 recommendations. The inmates were running the asylum.

The Commission has five members, one each from the VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Vets of America, and AMVETS. Appointments are for five-year terms.

The Commission started in 1886, when it was the Soldiers Relief Commission. Each of Ohio's 88 counties has a commission. It was created to provide financial assistance to veterans, their minor children, and their widows.

The Commission is not part of the Veterans Administration, but it regularly works hand in hand with the VA for benefits including: service-connected compensation, non-service connected disability pension, survivor's pension, death and burial benefits, upgrading or correcting DD214 forms, and a whole lot more.

It's fair to say that if you're a vet and you need help, the Commission is the best place to start. Employees there are well-trained and professional as well as a source of pride for Weist and his fellow commissioners.

It wasn't always so and the long road back was a huge job. Weist was familiar with huge jobs. He served as an artillery forward observer in Vietnam and damn near got his ass shot off more than once. It was there he found out what a fast learner he was, and his torso leans slightly left

when he assembles his decorations on his chest. Weist is uncommonly shy about his service in Viet Nam, but has compiled a Vietnam diary at the request of his children. It's highly personal and you're not ever going to get to read it. Weist is part German and lots Irish, so the guy can fight as well as write.

He served the Rocky River police department for a few decades, and on retiring, became more active in veterans affairs.

When the call went out for a new commissioner, Weist applied, along with a couple dozen other veterans. He was surprised when he was appointed, and well he should have been. He wasn't intimately familiar with the Commission's work and he asked interviewers more questions than they asked him. Somehow, his talent and experience carried the

day. Nearing his tenth year on the Commission, the agency is a source of great pride to Weist.

It wasn't always. He needed almost two years to learn and apply all the Commission can do, and during those two years, firefights and ambushes were part of the office workday. Looking back on that decade brings a satisfied smile to the old soldier's face.

He said, "The Commission today is one of the best in the state and at one time, it was one of the worst. We have great employees who care about veterans and we have a customer service school."

Cuyahoga County Service Commission has no miracle workers, but for many vets who bring their insurmountable problems to the Prospect Avenue office, it often seems there is some divine intervention.

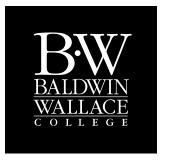


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www.dd214chronicle.com DD 214 Chronicle May/June 2012

On 70th Anniversary, Honoring The Doolittle Tokyo Raiders

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On the 70th Anniversary of the World War II bomber mission, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced leg-

islation honoring the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders. In the first offensive action by the U.S. military following the attack on Pearl Harbor, 80 men, who became known as the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, conducted a bombing mission against Tokyo and five other targets on the island of Honshu on April 18, 1942. The annual reunion of the sur-

viving raiders took place in Dayton last month. One of the five surviving veterans is Cincinnati native Major Tom Griffin (USAF, Ret.).

Volunteering for an "extremely hazardous mission" without knowing the target, location, or assignment, the raiders, led by Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, were forced to launch their airplanes 650 miles from their target. After hitting their military and industrial targets in Tokyo and five other cities, low on fuel and in setting night and deteriorating weather, all 16 airplanes were forced to crash-land in China

> or Russia. Of the eight Raiders who were captured, three were executed. one died of disease, and four returned home. Their mission traveled an averaged distance of 2,250 nautical miles over a period of 13 hours, making it the longest combat mission ever flown in a B-25

Mitchell bomber.

- Whereas 80 brave American airmen volunteered for an "extremely hazardous mission" without knowing the target, location, or assignment and willingly put their lives in harm's way, risking death, capture, and torture;
- Whereas the mission was the first offensive action by the United States military following the attack on Pearl Harbor on Decem-

ber 7, 1941;

- Whereas the Doolittle Raid represented the first time in which the Army Air Corps and the Navy collaborated in a tactical mission by flying 16 Army B-25 medium bombers off of the USS Hornet;
- Whereas the flying of bombers from a Navy carrier had never been done before, making the mission extremely hazardous from the very start;
- · Whereas after encountering Japanese picket ships 170 miles from the prearranged launch point, the Raiders, led by Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, proceeded to launch 650 miles from the target of Tokyo;
- Whereas by launching more than 170 miles early the Raiders deliberately accepted the risk that the B-25s might not have enough fuel to make it beyond the Japanese lines in occupied China;
- · Whereas the additional risk virtually sealed the fate of the Raiders to crash land in China or on the home islands of Japan, subjecting them to imprisonment, torture, or death;
- Whereas because of that deliberate choice, after hitting their military and industrial targets in Tokyo and five other cities on the island of

Honshu, low on fuel and in setting night and deteriorating weather, none of the 16 airplanes reached the prearranged Chinese airfields;

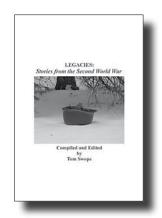
- · Whereas the total distance traveled averaged 2,250 nautical miles over a period of 13 hours is the longest combat mission ever flown in a B-25 Mitchell bomber;
- Whereas of the eight Raiders who were captured, three were executed, one died of disease, and four came home: and
- Whereas, the Doolittle Raid led the fight for the eventual victory of the United States in the Second World War: Now, therefore, be it
- · Resolved, that the Senate commends the five living members and 80 original members of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders for their participation in the Tokyo bombing raid of April 18, 1942; and recognizes the valor, skill, and courage of the Raiders that proved invaluable to the eventual defeat of Japan during the Second World War; and acknowledges that the actions of the Raiders helped to forge an enduring example of heroism in the face of uncertainty for the Army Air Corps of the Second World War, the future of the Air Force, and the United States as a whole.

Cuyahoga County Council Member Jack Schron served in the Army Infantry as well as JAG



ou can call him Jack, Mr. Schron, or Councilman, but for many years, he was properly addressed as, "Sir." Schron was an active duty Army infantryman who also served in the JAG. He was active duty in 1970 and again from 1975 to 1978. He was a member of the Reserves from 1978 to 1998. He wore eagles on

his epaulets, a Lieutenant Colonel when he retired.



Great Reading on the Plane, Thanks to Tom Swope, Tom Anderson, and Paisley Farms

Local author and radio producer Tom Swope, with the generous support of Tom Anderson and Paisley Farms Inc. Food Products of Willoughby, is donating copies of his book, LEGACIES: Stories from the Second World War, to all World War II veterans on the Cleveland Honor Flight in May.

LEGACIES is a collection of personal stories, diaries, essays and photos from Northeast Ohio veterans. The book is based

on the award-winning radio show broadcast on WELW-AM 1330 in Willoughby, Ohio. The donation is made in the memory of World War Two veterans Earl Anderson (U.S. Navy) from Willoughby and Clarence 'Mike' Swope (U.S. Army) from Mentor.



VET Meets Living Needs of Veteran Students at Kent State University by Trenton Chavez

ent State University's Center for Adult and Veteran Services is creating a living-learning community called VET, Valor through Education and Training, which opens in fall 2012.

The living-learning community, specifically molded for veterans attending Kent campus, will be housed in McDowell Hall, a section of Twin Towers on the Kent Campus. VET will house 16 veteran students.

"The program will assist veterans with the transition into civilian life, engage interaction with traditional students and help with the overall college experience," says Joshua Rider, assistant director of the Center for Adult and Veteran Services and VA Certifying Official.

Rider said specific activities and programming, along with community resources built for veterans, make V.E.T. stand out from non livinglearning communities.

"The emersion into the college environment will be easier with the community," Rider says. "It will help veteran students interact and community.

Applications are now open to live in VET. Veterans interest in applying for the VET living-learning community need to visit Residence Services website at www.kent.edu/housing by July.

The VET Center provides a unique housing option for vets attending Kent State. The Center is a brick-and-mortar example of KSU's commitment to the education of veterans.

with traditional students."

present in VET to provide smooth integration, programming, security

The living-learning community A residence assistant will be is just another way that Kent State shows its military friendliness. Kent State University was named to G.I.

Jobs 2012 list of Military Friendly Schools. The list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's veterans as students.

Although Angela Miller, a veteran student at Kent State University, will not be living in the community, she values Kent State's veteran programs.

'The Center for Adult and Veteran Services has been great at making me feel welcome," Miller says. This is Miller's second semester at Kent State University.

For more information about veteran programs at Kent State University, visit www.kent.edu/veterans. For more information about the Center for Adult and Veteran Services, visit www.kent.edu/cavs.

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For more information: Call Joe 216-244-5717 or Ed 440-248-0819 or visit rnrcsm.com

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Soldiers to Look Like ... uh, Soldiers

by Leo Cantrelle

ne guy grew sideburns that would make Gen. Burnside jealous. A black-haired female NCO dyed her eyebrows blonde. Lots of soldiers have more tattoos than vital organs.

All that is going to change, according to Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond Chandler, who wants a uniform and professional Army. To critics who seek personal expression, he has two sentences: "You chose to join the Army. The Army didn't choose to join you."

New grooming regulations are almost ready to be implemented and among them:

Men will be prohibited from wearing cosmetics, to include nail polish. Clean shaven, even while on leave. No eating, drinking, smoking or chatting on a cell phone while walking. No visible body piercings. No gold teeth. And my personal favorite, men are prohibited from wearing cosmetics. Really? Army guys are wearing cosmetics? What? A little eye shadow and foundation?





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Kent State University's Center for Adult and Veteran Services assists military veterans in their transition to higher education. The center is now offering on-campus housing exclusively for veterans.

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to a good place. And I learned some-

The Essence of Empathy: Don Stark Comforts the Dying

By Annabelle Lee Dowd

hen Don Stark joined the Marine Corps in 1966, the Vietnam War was in full battle dress. As Stark sweated and studied his way through Parris Island, and then air intelligence school at

Camp Lejeune, the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong were planning the craziest, bloodiest, most influential battle of the war: the Tet Offensive. Just in time for Stark's arrival.

Stark had no idea what his welcome would be when his Braniff International flight landed in Danang. He got a hint when the pilot came on the intercom and said the airstrip was under rocket attack. "As soon as you get off, run for cover." The plane was on the ground 120 seconds. In the following two minutes, Stark jumped into a bunker and shared Lucky Strikes with other Marines. It wasn't until the next day he was able to make his way to his unit.



Welcome tο Vietnam.

Stark had top secret clearance. He put together armaments, coordinates of interest, and locations for search and destroy missions. He provided

Phantom pilots with coordinates for bombing runs over North Vietnam. Those technical and strategic conversations with pilots were marked by jokes and laughs. Until some of the pilots failed to return.

Stark is a member of both the VFW and the American Legion, but until his sister became terminally ill, had no outlet for his experience.

Stark said, "When my sister passed away at the Hospice of the Western Reserve, her care was fabulous. It was the essence of hospice, and I told my better half that when I retired, I wanted to volunteer at the Hospice."

Typical Marine: he did just what he said he would do. Three years

ago, he took the Hospice volunteer training, 21 hours spread over seven weeks. His first visit was with

a woman near death. He sat with her for her last hours, and the two talked. "It was a nervous venture for



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To volunteer with fellow Veterans, call 800.707.8922, or visit hospicewr.org/volunteer







DD 214 Chronicle March/April 2012

Niedziela wieczorem z moją matką w prawo

THE MESS HALL

f you already have a Polish mother-in-law, you know what I'm talking about. If you don't, here's your chance. Sunday dinner at the Polish American Cultural Center, 6501 Lansing Avenue, in Cleveland's Slavic Village. There's a big parking lot across the street.

There is no menu. You buy a ticket for ten bucks when you walk in. Get your own coffee. It seems very little English is spoken here; almost all the customers speak Polish. At 11:30, lunch is served. Get in line. There is only one item on the menu and you don't know what it is until your plate is filled. Along with the main dish, mashed potatoes, salad, vegetable, bread and rolls. And a selection of desserts. It is served only from 11:30 to 1 p.m.

Most of the customers are still in their Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes, though there is no dress code. When you finish, you clear your own table.



Most of the tables buzz with Polish, not English. All tables seat eight, 10 if you're related.

That's it.

That description hardly does Sunday dinner justice. The food is made by the women who run the kitchen and until the steam table is opened, even their husbands have no idea what's for dinner. So what? Your mother-in-law is going to poison you?

It is Polish home cooking at its best. First time we went, the entrée was spareribs and sauerkraut. Second time, it was meat loaf. If you can clean your plate, and enjoy dessert, you're a better man than I.

Now, I have a Polish mother-inlaw. Stella is 90 and like all Polish mothers-in-law, a severe critic of other cooks. (She cleaned her plate,

so, yes, she's a better man than I.) She couldn't say enough about it, maybe her way of subtly suggesting we take her again. We will.

The museum consists of several sections including: Area dedicated to the contribution of Poles to the history of America, History of Cleveland Polonia, Paderewski memorabilia, military history, Polish folklore room, Solidarity remembrance room, and a meeting room.



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Eighteen Holes in Three Hours? Why Not?

By John H. Tidyman, editor

Skyland Golf Course, in Hinckley, is about to make golf history. We may come to referring to a style of play as "Skyland Rules."

Third-generation owner Rich Rhodes said, "We're going to adjust play on the tees and greens. It doesn't sound like much, but I believe it will speed play."

Somebody say speed play? Somebody talking about solving the unsolvable problem of slow play? Somebody talking about a round of golf in four hours or fewer?

Rhodes, like the rest of us, can't stand slow play. He doesn't want a foursome waiting ten minutes on a tee. His view is from management. "When you're forced to stop, your momentum is lost, and your frustration rises. That's no way to enjoy a golf course."

The adjustment that will be Skyland Rules isn't set in stone. Yet. Rhodes said, "We're going to try it for a month and ask players for their opinions when they finish. If most players like the changes, we'll add the house rules to our scorecard. I know there will be some players who won't trust it at first, but I'd love Sky-



land to be known for fast play."

And what, pray tell, are these changes?

There are only two. The first is West Side Honors, which means the first player on the tee hits. It dispenses with the honors being awarded to the lowest scorer from the previous hole. "I don't know how much time

this will save, but my guess is up to two minutes. Here's an example: Say the player who won the last hole is also scorekeeper. Instead of filling in scores and adjusting bets before racing to the tee, he can relax, fill in the little squares at leisure, and then tee it up. No one has to wait for him."

Sounds good. What happens at

the green? "This is where I think we can save up to four minutes per hole. We have small greens here, and Skyland Rules calls for putting out if your playing partners are not in your line. That means no marking the ball, studying the green, allowing other players to putt, and finally putting. Instead, once you're on the green, you'll putt out, whether it takes two or three putts."

Seems simple. "It is simple," Rhodes said, "but if you're able to save six minutes per hole, do the math. Six minutes times 18 holes equals more than an hour and a half."

Are your hopes too high? "Yes, they are. But if it saves even three minutes per hole, it will make golf a lot more pleasurable. One of the best features is while it speeds play, it never hurries players. You're going to play at your normal pace, but you won't have to wait."

John H. Tidyman is the author of three books on golf. The latest is, "Golf, Poker, and Whiskey: the Guys' Guide to Ohio Golf Getaways." He has never broken 80 and at this rate, it's unlikely he ever will.

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In Times of Desolation

By Rev. Ralph Fotia, DD 214 Chronicle Chaplain

FAITH

William Sloan Coffin wrote about music, "In time of desolation, God alone has comforted me more; when the world seems bent on madness, it's music as much as literature that reassures me of its sanity."

I know of no other experience that best supports Coffin's profound appreciation of music than a wartime event that occurred in France, 1945. The Cathedral of Chartres loomed over our airfield. Its towers and medieval façade gave testimony to faith. It was thought, as one artist put it, the towers were reaching up and grab the hands of the deity, and saying, "We are here. Look at us."

Our airfield was the site of the 9^{th}

troop carrier group. Preparations for the allied attack on the Rhine were in high gear As the allied armies moved deep into Germany, deat camps were being liberated Among the dead were the survivors, the living dead. The few living dead were being flown into French towns for rehabilitation.

Our troop carriers, C-47s, would take part in evacuating survivors of

the death camps. A number of survivors would arrive at Chartres for resettling and rehabilitation. The airfield at Chartres had been occupied by the Luftwaffe during the German occupations. Here and there hangars and



The Sad Serenades of Death

buildings showed signs of allied bombings.

The mess hall was partially damaged with open air and sky visible through sections of the roof. The GIs used the mess hall for meals.

On one, particular occasion, the mess hall was filled with music. The music was provided by a group of

provided by a group of musicians with stringed instruments. The musi-

cians were survivors of the death camp.

How could it be that in the midst of death, destruction and hopelessness, these musicians made music? Instead of the bombed mess hall, we were suddenly in the Waldorf Astoria.

I don't recall recognizing the music. But whatever, the musicians and their music was overpowering. The moment was so civilized.

To this day, I don't know who provided the musical instruments. What determination on the part of those survivors, to witness to the power of music.

With all the madness in the world, outdoor concerts ring the world with music, shutting out the strident sounds of discord.

God has given us the gift of music. Music is universal.

Lift every voice and sing.

Rev. Ralph Fotia, who served with the Army Air Corps in World War II, is the Coordinator of Pastoral Care at University Circle United Methodist Church,

The Search for the Forgotten Thirty-Four: Honored by the U.S. Marines, Unheralded in Their Hometowns

By Terence W. Barrett, Ph.D.

intimate and fascinating.

t took Barrett almost 600 pages to write about 34 Marines, an average of almost 18 pages per troop. That's because he goes far afield in his book about the most remarkable fighting men since the Spartans. As Marines grimly remind us, they are, "The first to fight; the first to die."

First of all, the 34 weren't just honored by the Marines; each was awarded our highest honor, the Medal of Honor.

Barrett reminds us that no one joins the Marines, asking the recruiting officer, "Is this where I get a Medal of Honor?"

Not for nothing is it our highest

military award. Men risk life and limb, often losing, before the medal is draped around their necks, or presented to a heartbroken family.

The Search ... isn't easily read. It is highly detailed for a couple reasons. First, Barrett set off on a search that had few guideposts. There were dead ends, roundabouts, and the element that blurs and distorts: Time. Memories fail, records are lost, family members move or grow old and die. Second, Barrett adds history of the Corps and the Medal of Honor to his tome. Third, his writing is less than disciplined. But so what? The book is like a wonder-

ful series of lectures from a guy who knows what he's talking about and the stories are scary, inspiring, terribly sad, and important.

Barrett tries to understand the makeup of a Medal of Honor winner, seeking common denominators. It is a difficult search; these guys came from all walks of life. America, after all, is a big place. Maybe the futility of the search for common denominators is a sidelong compliment to our society. Medal of Honor recipients come from all sorts of different backgrounds.

So *The Search* ... is like a police report, filled with plenty of detail. And

the fun is in the detail. From whence come these fearless, truly fearless, fighting men? An orphan from New Mexico, a Nebraska farmer, a high school dropout from New York who was as good at fabricating his own background as he was with a .22 rifle, once taking off the head of a chicken at 80 yards.

The background of each subject can be interesting because it supports the idea of America as a big, rambling, multi-cultural society with plenty of opportunity. The stories of the battles and selfless bravery is beyond interesting; the book becomes



When grief overwhelms us, the grace of flowers reminds us of the beauty of life.

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DD 214 Chronicle May/June 2012

Serving Her: Reaching Out to Female Veterans

By Amanda McCoy

hio has over 61,000 female veterans. On average, it takes these women seven years to adjust to civilian life after returning from deployment. One major adjustment is assimilating into the college setting. Veterans in particular suffer from many issues associated with trauma that can prevent them from returning to school, as well as hinder their performance in the classroom. For example, some veterans report that service-related issues such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) affect their attendance and class behavior.

Along with trauma-related issues, female veterans face gender-specific complications. One of the primary barriers that prevent women from returning to school is childcare. Women are often the sole caretakers for their children, and due to lack of childcare options, many cannot return to school. Work also prevents some women from pursuing an education, particularly if they have children.

One in five women experienced Military Sexual Trauma (MST), and mixed-gender settings may be particularly difficult for these individuals. Once female veterans do return to school, they may benefit from forming friendships with other women, as female support may be critical for them to remain enrolled.

Veterans Upward Bound, a college preparatory program housed at Cuyahoga Community College's



Metropolitan Campus, aims to assist veterans in the difficult transition to post-secondary education.

In my experience as the Academic Coordinator and English instructor, female veterans are more likely to graduate from our VUB program if there are other women in the group.

In this current VUB session, three women are enrolled. Though they have no trouble meshing with the guys, the women do admit they find comfort and security in one another. Current VUB student Yvette Hooper adds to this notion: "I feel camaraderie with these ladies. They know how hard it was to be in the military in competition and working with men and succeed. Being in the military was the hardest thing I have done."

In order for more female veterans to return to school, a number of things are needed. These include better counseling, childcare and outreach. In order to cope with trauma that may make the school transition difficult, counseling may be needed, but many female veterans do not seek treatment or assistance as frequently as males do. Therefore, they may need more encouragement to obtain help.

Outreach is another area that needs improvement. "There isn't enough publicity on the matter because this is still a man's military organization," says Hooper. "Everything is geared toward them. I believe regular information should be emailed or mailed to the female vets on a regular basis."

Once veterans are ready to return to the educational setting, they often find great reward in the process. Hooper says, "As a female veteran, pursuing an education is a plus. Having a career and being a vet holds a lot of weight. To me, it says that you care about more than just yourself."

Amanda McCoy is an English instructor as well as Academic Coordinator at Cuyahoga Community College.

Madam, Yes, Madam!

The Marine Corps is justly famous for many military innovations.

The latest might be the most interesting: Women infantry officers. According to a story in the Marine Corps Times, the Corps is seeking volunteers to attend the 10-week Infantry Officer Course in Quantico, Virginia.

"Get a Job," The Silhouettes, 1957

As if they didn't have enough problems, our young veterans can't find work. The 2011 unemployment rate for vets 18 to 24 was more than 30 per cent. The number spiked at almost 38 per cent late last year. The tide may be turning. Congress passed the Hire a Hero Act last year and statistics point to some success: The unemployment rate dropped precipitously in the first three months of this year and in March was 17.8 per cent. While the figure is scandalously high, it represents significant progress.



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DD 214 Chronicle's Fishin' Guide, John Barbo

OUTDOORS

Excerpted from the book, The Cleveland Fishing Guide, 2nd Edition © 2007 by John Barbo. Reprinted with permission from Gray & Company, Publishers. The book is available at northeast Ohio bookstores and online from Amazon.com. For more information, call the publisher at 1-800-915-3609 or visit their web site at www.grayco.com

It is not uncommon for fishermen to feel an allegiance to a specific fish species. Perhaps we can somehow relate to a characteristic of our favorite piscatorial prize—the feistiness of a bluegill; the aggressiveness of muskie; or the predatory instincts of bass

But few fish species enjoy as unbridled a commitment from their pursuers as the steelhead trout.

As the autumn days grow shorter and the leaves begin to blaze, local fishermen start to speculate on this year's run. The run they speak of is the migration of steelhead, which begins each fall and continues

throughout the winter. It is an amazing annual phenomenon as thousands of these fish make an annual pilgrimage from Lake Erie back upstream to where their journey began as smolts stocked by the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Before the steelhead, the Division of Wildlife had stocked other species. They experienced a poor return rate from their brown trout stocking program, and although the coho salmon stocking program might have been a hit with local fishermen, the fish had problems with disease and, unlike steelhead, died after spawning. Now, the Division of Wildlife relies on the Little Manistee strain of steelhead for its stocking program. The strain of a species refers to its place of origin, in this case the Little Manistee River in Michigan.

Steelhead trout are the same genus and species as rainbow trout. The difference is that steelhead migrate out of the rivers in which they were stocked and can spend an extraordinarily long time (up to three years) in Lake Erie before returning to their own stream.

The Division of Wildlife releases



Good bets for steelheading success

Grand River—Helen Hazen Wyman Park; Painesville Kiwanis Park; Indian Point; Hogback Ridge.

Chagrin River—Daniels Park; Gilson Park; Todd Field; Chagrin River Park. **Rocky River**—Scenic Park in the Rocky River Reservation; Rocky River Fords in Rocky River Reservation.

Smaller Tributaries—Arcola Creek (Arcola Creek Metropark); Wheeler Creek & Cowles Creek (Geneva State Park); Euclid Creek (Wildwood State Park).
Conneaut Creek is a wide open river that receives excellent runs of steelhead and draws anglers not only from Ohio but from surrounding states. Conneaut Creek Boat Launch is located at the north end of Woodworth Rd. in Conneaut.

200,000 yearling steelhead between six and nine inches long annually into the Rocky River, the Chagrin River, the Grand River, and Conneaut Creek. These young trout, or smolts, then begin their journey downriver to Lake Erie, usually reaching the lake during late spring. Once they enter the lake, they begin to grow very rapidly, spurred on by a change

in diet from primarily insects to several species of baitfish, including smelt, emerald shiners, and gizzard shad. Steelhead may gain between two and three pounds per year spent in Lake Erie.

Steelhead will normally spend two or three years in Lake Erie before returning to the stream where they were stocked. Although these fish have a fair degree of imprinting regarding this stream, occasionally wayward fish do show up in streams that are not part of the stocking program.

Steelhead begin their spawning runs in the fall. They first congregate near the shoreline by river mouths; and then, usually responding to rains and higher water levels, they enter the rivers. They continue their upstream migration throughout winter, and by the end of November they have usually reached most sections of the rivers and tributaries. There they will wait out the winter months in the deeper pools.

In spring the steelhead prepare to spawn by leaving the deep pools and moving to their ideal spawning areas, usually shallow or riffle areas characterized by a moderate current and a gravel bottom. Spawning takes place from March through mid-April. Unlike salmon, most steelhead do not die after spawning but rather drop to the deeper pools, eventually working their way back to Lake Erie.

Central Basin boat anglers frequently catch steelhead during the summer months in water between 50 and 70 feet deep with spoons or Rapala-type plugs. As fall approaches, boaters should move into the shallow areas near the shore of the Central Basin.

River fishermen can have great success using spawn bags or jigs tipped with maggots for steelhead once they enter the river. Spinners, such as Rooster Tails, and Rapalatype lures can also be effective. Fly fishermen can use any number of patterns, including an egg pattern, sucker spawn, egg-sucking leech, or Woolly Bugger, which can be very effective. Nymph patterns are a good choice when the water is extremely clear and steelhead are skittish. Most fly fishermen have a favorite pattern that they swear by. It's just a matter of discovering which one works best for you.



DD 214 Chronicle May/June 2012

What is a Veteran?

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye. Others may carry the evidence inside them, a pin holding a hone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg – or perhaps another sort of inner steel: the soul's alley forged in the refinery of adversity.

Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem. You can't tell a vet just by looking. What is a vet?

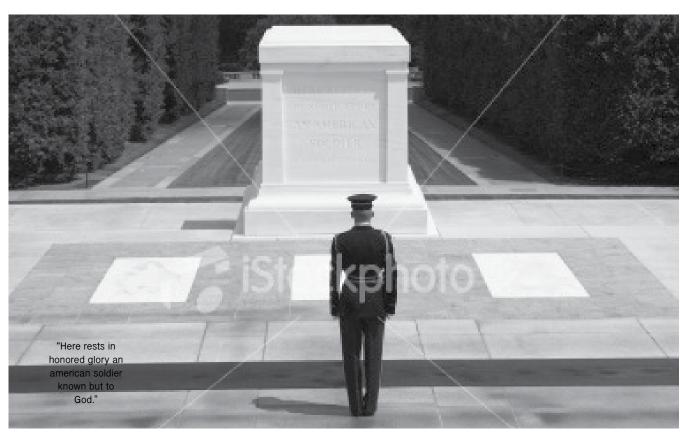
A vet is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

A vet is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th Parallel.

A vet is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

A vet is the POW who went away one person and came back another – or didn't come back at all.

A vet is the drill instructor who has never seen combat – but has saved



countless lives by turning slouchy, noaccount punks and gang members into marines, airmen, sailors, soldiers and coast guardsmen, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

A vet is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

A vet is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

A vet is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb Of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous he-

roes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

A vet is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket – palsied now and aggravatingly slow – who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

A vet is an ordinary and yet extraordinary human being, a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

A vet is a solider and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say, "Thank You." That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot, "THANK YOU."

(Attributed to a Marine Corp chaplain, Father Denis Edward O'Brian)

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