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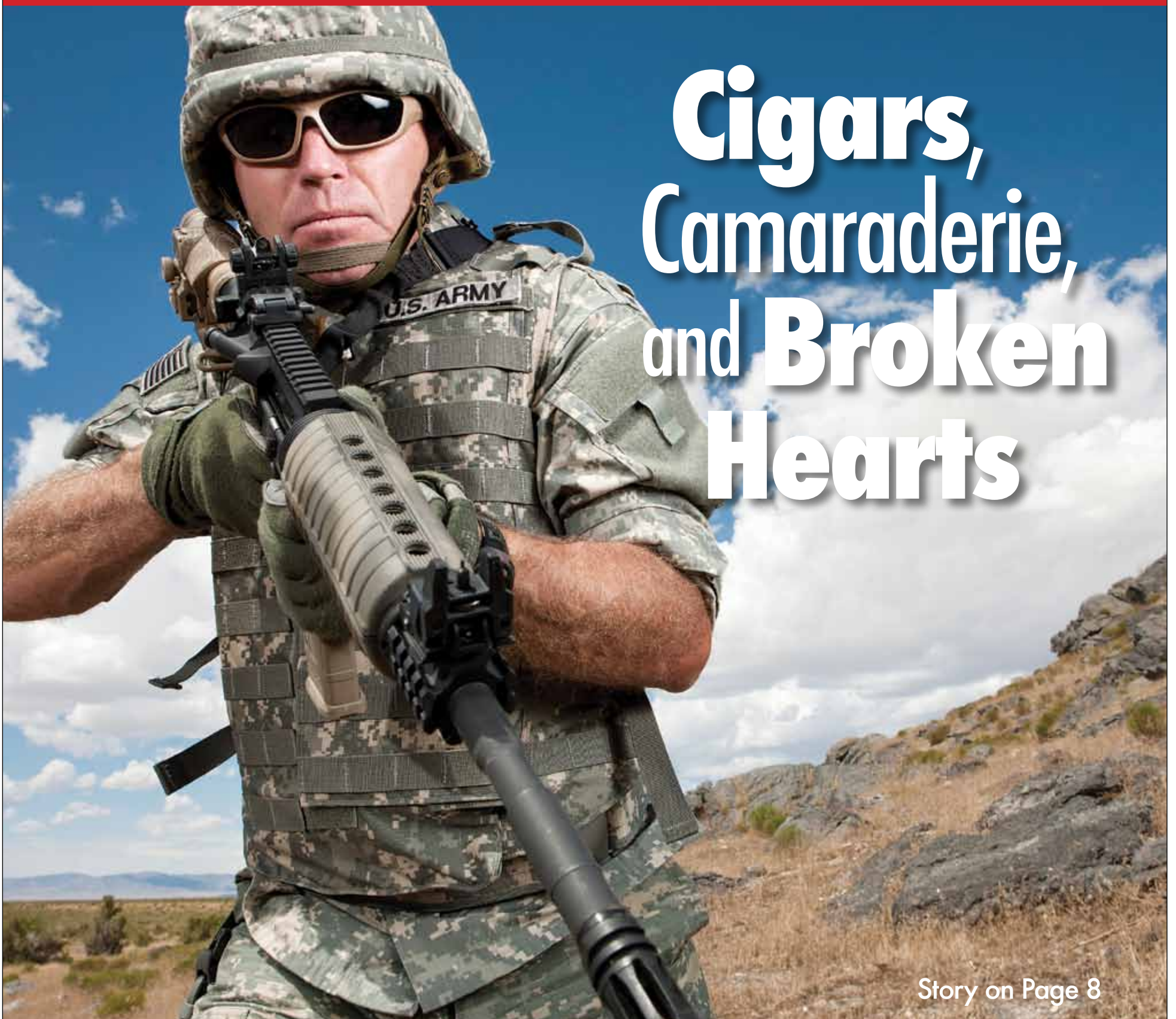


# CHRONICLE

The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 4

MAY/JUNE 2015



Story on Page 8



## We remember the fallen

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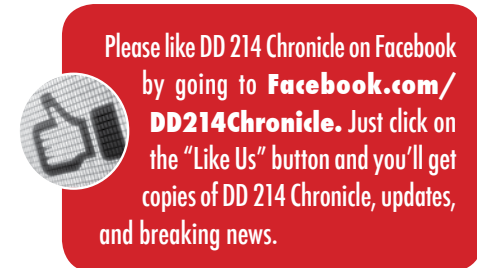


Where futures begin<sup>SM</sup>

## Uniform of the day

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## STAND AT EASE *By John H. Tidyman, Editor*

## Bring Back the Draft; This Time, Include Women

**M**e, I think the volunteer Army is a debacle. I think the draft is a much better way to fill the ranks. Here's why:

The volunteer Army allows the Commander-in-Chief to virtually skip over Congress when he believes war profiteers. Congress appears pretty satisfied with that situation. Why not? It keeps citizens from examining and acting on our foreign policy.

We ain't the World's Police/Swat Team. We act as though we are the first and last arbiter of which side should win.

It allows us to repeat the sad and painful lessons we should have learned in Vietnam and other places.

The separation between armed forces and the citizenry creates a



chasm that serves no one.

It allows senior commanders to continue fooling politicians and citizens.

It has deflated the definition of hero. "Welcome Home, Hero!" destroyed the definition of hero while making it sound as if Americans give a shit about young troops.

It allows Administrations to waste billions of tax dollars on unwinnable conflicts.

At the same time it allows young men and women to shirk the duty of every American: To defend and protect.

Further dumbing down of citizens. We stick our heads in the sand, the better to pretend lives of our young people are not being wasted.

If there is no draft, is there no war? If a tree falls in the woods when no one is around, does it make a sound? (I have always thought that



was one of the most ignorant and foolish of our egocentric boasts. Birds hear it, especially birds whose nests just crashed. I think bears hear it, and get out of the way. I don't think a sound has to be verified by only human ears.) If our young men and women are being killed on foreign

soil, the sounds reverberate only in the dead trooper's family.

While peace is preferable, history books teach us war is one of man's constant failures. Empires and civilizations come and go. Not war. It has always been — and will always be — inevitable.

## VA study finds drop in testosterone prescriptions, despite upward trend in diagnoses



A study in VA's Pacific Northwest region found that despite increases in testing, and in the actual proportion of men with low testosterone levels, the number of VA patients who received testosterone therapy has actually decreased.

Testosterone therapy rates are on the rise worldwide, with some reports citing an "epidemic" of tes-

tosterone prescribing. VA may be bucking the trend, however, according to research by a team with the University of Washington and VA's Pacific Northwest region.

The results, published online in *Andrology* on Feb. 13, 2015, suggest that despite increases in testing, and in the actual proportion of men with low testosterone levels, the

number of VA patients who received testosterone therapy has actually decreased.

Testosterone therapy isn't necessarily a bad thing. Numerous studies have shown the negative effects of testosterone deficiency, from erectile dys-

function and decreased libido to increased risk of osteoporosis, weight gain, and depression. But while the hazards of low testosterone are well-documented, so too are the risks of therapy. Recent studies have suggested a link be-

tween testosterone therapy and heart disease, sleep apnea, and even prostate cancer. Currently, the Food and Drug Administration is investigating the risk of stroke, heart attack, and death in men taking FDA-approved testosterone.

### Terms Not Found in the Dictionary, but vital in the military

- Gig Line
- Hot LZ
- No Salute Zone
- Rack
- Saddle Up!
- Tracer Round



### Hello, Honeybee — Buy You a Drink?

Bees are very hard working little creatures and vital to our environment. They dramatically assist with our food supply so it's very important we do what we can for them. Their work is exhausting and the need to keep hydrated, but the problem is that a safe water source is not always available.

Bees need very shallow water to drink from. Otherwise their risk being drowned which is why this super simple idea of a Bee Waterer is ingenious. All you do is fill a pie pan with water and marbles. The marbles give the bees somewhere to land so they can drink without the risk of being drowned.



### West Geauga High School Veterans, Listen Up!

West Geauga High School is looking for alumni who served in the United States military. The school will be installing a plaque in the high school honoring all men and women who have served. Any veterans who would like to be included will need to provide the follow-



ing information: the year they graduated from West Geauga High School, branch of the military, and rank to kim.rataiczak@westg.org or by calling 440-729-5930. Dismissed!

## News from a Parallel Universe

**The Armed Forces Usable Equipment Donation Program** has hit a snag. The program was started two years ago to distribute unused or unusable military equipment to cities needing .50 caliber machine guns, first-generation drones, air-to-air missiles, mortar tubes and rounds, Claymore mines, and a bushel basket filled with unsharpened bayonets. Six weeks ago, a submarine was donated to the newly-formed Put-in-Bay Navy. Although all weapons are checked and oiled before shipment, one submarine had a live torpedo in its tube. It was accidentally fired and the torpedo hit the dock, resulting in more than \$600,000 in damages. There were no fatalities.

**Boy Scouts of America** will offer new merit badges, including: Treatment of Sucking Chest Wounds, Short-Sheeting Fellow Troops, Cooking with C-4, Swearing Like a Sailor, and Spit Shining Boots Using Real Spit. Courses will be taught by soldiers and sailors unable to find work after being released from the Armed Forces as a result of budget cutbacks. **VA hospitals** will offer additional services to veterans in waiting rooms, including manicures, spark plug and oil changes, laundry services, shoe shines, scalp massages, and dry cleaning. The new services are designed to comfort veterans waiting for medical appointments. **Troops returning from overseas deployments** will no longer be flown on military aircraft. The Department of Defense has contracted with two cruise ship lines to carry troops home. Instructors on Royal Caribbean and Carnival Cruise Lines, according to a news release, will allow troops to hone their ballroom dancing skills, refine their dining etiquette (including which wines go with which foods,) properly knot neckties (both Windsor and four-in-



Put-in-Bay Navy Misfires

hand,) learn shuffleboard, and improve their skeet-shooting skills. **William Montague, the former director of the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center** in Cleveland, is in prison for five dozen corruption charges. "He's handling it well," according to administrator Chuck Wallborn. "Bill, as we call him, volunteered to teach business courses to inmates. We agreed with Bill when he told us the charges against him had applications in the business world."

Bill teaches wire fraud, mail fraud, bribery and kickback schemes, as well as money laundering. Montague named his course: "Stuff You Really Shouldn't Do, 'Specially if You Don't Need the Money." **Revlon** has been awarded the face and body camouflage contract from the U.S. Army. Revlon was awarded the contract after submitting samples, including, "Poison Sumac Green," "Dog Poop Brown," and "Desert Storm Sand."

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

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at Lorain County Community College

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- Learn about other scholarships available
- Talk with a Veterans Certifying Official
- Meet with a Counselor
- Explore all that LCCC has to offer

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

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

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



"The Veterans Services staff at LCCC is great and I was able to work with a success coach right from the beginning," said Navy veteran Esperanza Correa. She is studying social work at LCCC through the University Partnership.



 Lorain County Community College

# Sklyand Golf Course Sort of Considering New Rules for Play

By Harry Besharet

**M**y Dad played there, I play there, and as soon as my first born learns to grip a club, he'll join me. And we're hardly the third generation: Skyland Golf Course, in Medina, was created by the first generation of the Rhodes family, grown and managed by the second, and now is in the capable hands of the third generation.

Speaking of previous generations, some golfers wanted their ashes spread on the course. They are. In my will, ashes will be strewn along the 2nd fairway. Even with the Golfer's Prayer and three Hail Marys, I cannot get on that green in two.

It is not a long course, measuring 6116 yards with a slope of 116. Greens are readable, and kept at medium speed. It's a good course for league play, so I keep tabs on the league schedule. If the leagues are not lining up at the first tee, play is fast.

While cursing on any course is reprehensible, some players find the only relief for a banana ball to be profanity. Not to worry. The only people who are going to hear are other golfers; Skyland is bordered by woods on three sides, and State Route 18 on the fourth. Not likely a trucker is going to complain.

At first glance, the course looks flat. No. 1 is an excellent warmup hole: short, flat, bit of a dog leg left, flat green.

That changes on the second tee. First timers have been known to ex-



No. 3, the roller coaster.

claim, "Where the hell did this hole come from?" It's over a sizable lake, and uphill after that to a green that would no more hold a second shot than you would hold a grenade more than five seconds. Approach has to come in high and soft. This green is no pushover even for players with good reading skills.

Me, I always play No. 2 from the women's tee, which avoids the water. Call me a wimp (and join the chorus,) but that lake has enough of my Titleists.

Number three is the first par 5, and it's beautiful.

A wide fairway rolls straight down to the midpoint, then back up the green. Trees line most of the fairways, and on the left is a tall, handsome American Elm that miraculously escaped the Dutch Elm disease that confounded and saddened a generation of greens keepers and players.

The rest of the course is similar. Holes can appear easy; others make us add an extra stick or two. Water shows up on three holes and sand is minimal.

Finishing holes, both 9 and 18, can decide matches; both are long and uphill before flattening out.

Management is considering acting on my suggestions, and until they are added to house rules, here they are:

No riding carts for players under 35.

Smoking allowed, but no filter cigarettes, which refuse to disintegrate: instead, Lucky Strikes and Camels.

Penalty for failure to replace and tamp down divots: two strokes.

After third missed putt, pick up. Nassaus are limited to five bucks.

The Chronicle is hardly the first or only medium to extol Skyland's virtues. *Fox 8* came out for a story and so did *Crain's Cleveland Business*. It won high praise in the *Cleveland Golfer's Bible* as well as *Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Golfer's Book*.

See you at the turn.

Skyland Golf Course  
2085 Center Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
(330) 225-5698

# VSC Officer John Moore Gives Fellow Vets Service, Respect They Deserve

by Jerri Donohue

**J**ohn Moore's client seemed confused and frustrated about the claim she needed to file. As he listened in his office at the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission, Moore realized her troubles included PTSD, and he urged her to contact the Vets Center.

"We have a lot of veterans with PTSD out there that think there is nothing wrong with them," the Veterans Service Officer said. "They're hiding certain issues because they figure if they receive help, it's going to affect their job or their lifestyle with their family."

In reality, seeking such assistance improves the veteran's situation. Moore described the Vets Center as, "a comfort zone where vets get to talk to a counselor or a psychiatrist in confidentiality."

Moore's client followed his advice, and today she is doing much better. She recently called Moore from her new home in Georgia.

"She was really thankful for the help that I gave her that allowed her to reconnect with her children and her other family members," Moore said.

When Moore meets with veterans, he routinely spends the first 15 minutes listening to their concerns.

"That pretty much lets me know what direction we need to go," he said. For example, some clients struggle with emotional problems

or troubled relationships.

"I usually point them in the direction of the Vets Center, where we have other veterans who understand what's going on," he said. "The counselors are veterans themselves."

The Service Officer also realizes that veterans applying for disability compensation sometimes feel uncomfortable with the person on the other side of desk.

A native of Akron, Moore injured his knees while serving in the Navy from 1988 to 1998. He visited more than 60 ports of call and racked up six and a half years of sea time.

His unpleasant encounter with a bureaucrat in 2013 prompted Moore to leave a career in information technology to work for the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission. He resolved that no other veteran should have the negative experience he had.

"One bad experience can change an outlook toward an agency, company or organization," Moore said.

Moore brings a patient, non-judgmental approach to each client. In a typical week, he sees between 35 to 45 vets from all military branches. Clients already in the system might request information, and simply need someone to explain it. More often, Moore

helps men and women receive the Veterans Administration benefits to which they are entitled.

"I like when a veteran recommends my name (to another veteran) and says, 'Why don't you go down there and talk to my guy John? John will get you straight,'" Moore said. "And I love that!"

Moore observed that increasing numbers of Vietnam veterans are contacting VSC. Sometimes he can sense their discouragement as they walk through the door.

"Vietnam era veterans are the ones who have taken the brunt of social, political and everything else in between – they have had that 'blow back,'" Moore said. "These are veterans that got out in '68, '69, '70, '71 and they will not go to the V.A. They refuse to go."

Whether a vet appears discour-

aged or just plain cantankerous, Moore provides attentive service.

"If you come in with a bad attitude, I try to be sure your attitude is much better when you leave my office," he said.

Whatever their challenges, Moore described all of his cases as "gratifying." He recently worked with a World War II veteran seeking compensation for bi-lateral hearing loss. Without hearing protection available to soldiers these days, the man had driven a tank in North Africa and in subsequent campaigns from France to Germany.

"A lot of World War II veterans did not receive any help," Moore said.

Seventy years after the war ended, Moore was pleased to further assist the tanker by ordering the medals he deserved.

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"A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit."

— the Army's magazine of preventive maintenance



# Cigars, Camaraderie, and Broken Hearts

By Dennis M. Thrasher Sr.

I read with delight an article by tobaccoist Christopher Joyce about the joys and pleasures of a good cigar. Like many cigar smokers, I lament at the notions of the “nanny state” mentality that seeks to regulate every aspect of our lives, and day by day erodes the freedoms that all veterans fought so hard for. The magazine *Cigar Aficionado* sponsors events around the country that not only allow but promote and celebrate the art and science of cigar making and all its associated pleasures.

I had the good fortune to attend one of their events, the Las Vegas Big Smoke event, held at the Palazzo Hotel, part of the Venetian Hotel complex there.

I was waiting in line to enter the grand hall where the event was about to begin, as we had to confirm our pre-paid reservations (these events are sold out each year) and pick up my ticket and badge holder that would allow me to enter.

I struck up a conversation with a young man and his lady friend who waited in line ahead of me. As it turns out they were both currently serving in the US Navy, were about to get married and had come to Las Vegas to do just that.

They both enjoyed a good cigar and had timed their visit to ensure that they could attend this very event. After registering we entered the hall, and being by myself (my wife was enjoying the pleasures of the slot machines,) I asked if I could join them, to which they offered an enthusiastic “yes.”

We shared stories about our days in the service, mine in the Canadian RCAF and theirs in the Navy.

I learned that he was a Navy Seal; a member of that prestigious and formidable group of combat warriors, said to have the hardest and most grueling test if you wished to join the group.

He shared with me that he had served in Afghanistan in the mountains, and regaled me with tales that made my hair stand on end. It seems that they were both going to be deployed back to that miserable mountainous country, with him going into combat again once they returned from Las Vegas.

In the coming next few days, they joined my wife and I for dinner, we smoked a lot of cigars together and by the last day they had grown in my respect and we had developed a sense of affection for them both as a fellow veteran and as an older man and woman for a younger couple.

As with many such events there were lots of giveaway items, cigars to be sure, but also cigar cutters, various kinds of liquors, as well as the inevitable tee shirts and hats.

My new friends shared with me the notion that they were going to bring as much as they could carry back with them to share with their comrades.

They also shared a tradition which had evolved over time in his platoon. It seems that once or twice each month they would have a cigar party in their base camp in the mountains, gather together, pour a little whiskey or bourbon and smoke a cigar, assuming they could put their hands on a sufficient

supply for the group.

It was their way of connecting with home and for a brief time they would laugh and enjoy life. In a moment of inspiration I took the hat I had been given and wrote on the inside band, “This is a good luck hat. Whoever smokes a cigar while wearing this hat will come home safe,” or something to that effect, and gave it to him.

Other attendees, seeing what I was doing, joined in and before long they had a stack of hats, all with the same inscription written inside the band, sufficient for all the troops in their platoon.

Upon being presented with the stack of hats, that tough Navy Seal was hard pressed to find words to speak, but with tears in his eyes he did manage to say this.

He told me that while he was very grateful for the hats, and would see to it that all his comrades got one, but what meant more to them was the fact that we cared. So often while in that terrible place they felt alone, abandoned by the faith of the American people and forgotten. While we stood on with our daily lives, they stood in harm’s way and on coming home, after a brief welcome, it was all forgotten.

On our last day together they were both appreciative of all the things we had shared and done together.

He told me that he had spoken to some of his comrades and they had decided that the next time they went into the mountains, as they always took their unit’s battle flag with them, that when they returned from their mission, it was their intention to send me that very battle flag to hang on my

office wall. Not as a thank you for just the goodies, but also the thoughts and prayers that went with them.

I got his e-mail address and an address where to send things and then after coming home and sharing this event with others we would send along a box of cigars from time to time.

When it came time for him to deploy into the mountains I waited for their return, and for that flag that would soon hang on my wall. Weeks went by that turned into months and not hearing from them I began to send e-mails inquiring as to their health and safety. It being a war zone, I expected that I wouldn’t hear much until their actual return.

What I did get, I did not expect. After some months of repeated effort, my e-mail was intercepted by another soldier who told me in simple terms that they had been killed in action. It broke my heart and I must admit I shed a tear or two when I learned this.

After a while I got to thinking that this same thing was happening to many other young men and women, whom I didn’t know at all and that it did not touch me in the same way.

It occurred to me that if each American could connect with just one soldier that the lives and deaths of these courageous men and women might mean more, might give us pause for thought the next time someone called us to war in a faraway place; that the cost was real people and real lives.

Lest we forget.

## Number of fatalities among Western coalition soldiers involved in the execution of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2001 to 2015

The statistic shows the number of Western coalition soldiers who were killed in the execution of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2015. In 2013, 161 soldiers from the Western coalition have lost their lives. Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) is a large military operation, being carried out within the framework of the War on Terror.

### Afghanistan War

As mentioned in the statistic above, the Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, which began in October 7, 2001, caused the deaths of many soldiers during the period from 2001 to 2014. The Operation Enduring Freedom is an American term for the Afghanistan War, used by the U.S. government. The Operation Enduring Freedom was a response to the terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 and the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism.

In recent statistics representing the public

opinion of U.S. Americans on the fighting in Afghanistan, 57 percent of the respondents stated that the fighting in Afghanistan was worth it in February 2007. Over the last few years, the Americans changed their opinion on the war in Afghanistan. In July 2013, around 67 percent of the Americans said it was not worth fighting in Afghanistan.

Although it has been nearly 15 years since the Americans started the Global War on Terror, there are still many terrorist attacks in Afghanistan. About 3,346 terrorist attacks were counted in 2010. In 2013, a total number of 1,144 terrorist attacks were registered in Afghanistan.

Due to terrorism in Afghanistan, the number of deaths has increased from 1,952 killed people in 2007 up to 3,111 killed people in 2013 by terrorists in Afghanistan. According to the *Chicago Project on Security on Terrorism*, about 336 people were wounded due to suicide attacks in Afghanistan, while 860 injured people were counted in Iraq.

	Total*	U.S.	UK	Canada	Germany	France
2001	12	12	0	0	0	0
2002	70	49	3	4	10	0
2003	58	48	0	2	6	0
2004	60	52	1	1	0	3
2005	131	99	1	1	4	2
2006	191	98	39	36	0	6
2007	232	117	42	30	7	3
2008	295	155	51	32	3	11
2009	521	317	108	32	7	11
2010	711	499	103	16	9	16
2011	566	418	46	4	7	26
2012	402	310	44	0	0	8
2013	161	127	9	0	1	0
2014	75	55	6	0	0	0
2015	1	0	0	0	0	0

## LORAIN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

42495 North Ridge Rd., Elyria, OH 44035 • [www.LorainCountyVeterans.com](http://www.LorainCountyVeterans.com)

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Temporary financial assistance may be available to Veterans or their widow who show a need and meet eligibility requirements. Assistance is based on household income and may be given for rent or mortgage, property tax, utilities, car payment, car/home/life/medical insurances, food and/or personal items.

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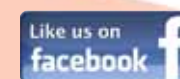


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# Irish Clevelanders in the Civil War; No Wearin' of the Green in Battle

by JC Sullivan

James K. O'Reilly was returning from Sunday Mass at Cleveland, Ohio's St. Edward Church on Woodland Avenue when news posters announced the assault on Ft. Sumter, South Carolina.

America's Civil War began on that April day.

O'Reilly, born in County Longford in 1838, came to Cleveland in 1858 via New York City. He and his Irish friends James Butler and Thomas Francis Galwey were eager to join Union forces before the fight was over. They hurried to the armory of the Hibernian Guards and enlisted for three months, officially becoming Co. B, 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. When it was all over, almost five years later, the 8th Ohio would have 97 men present for muster-out of a total 990 that began the unit.

Kenneth R. Callahan, an attorney with the Cleveland law firm of Buckley King and most recently a Common Pleas Court Judge in Cuyahoga



County, is a direct descendent of Captain O'Reilly, his maternal great-grandfather. He honors the spirit of his colorful and gallant forebear by insuring Americans don't forget the deeds and valor of the 8th Ohio,



Left: O'Reilly  
Right: Galwey

a unit that fought fiercely in most of the major battles of the Potomac Army.

He also wants to ensure that history accurately reflects the role they played in turning the famous 'Pickett's Charge' at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in July of 1863.

By June, 1863, Confederate General Robert E. Lee's rag-tag forces had moved into the farmlands of Pennsylvania, rich in the much-needed resources of food, material and steel.

The march to Gettysburg was brutally hot. Unlike modern armies, neither side at Gettysburg had summer uniforms - only ones made of heavy wool. Some were lucky to have shoes. During the march to Gettysburg it was frightfully hot. O'Reilly suffered sunstroke and went by horse-drawn ambulance there. "When he found

out the 8th was positioned outside the Emmitsburg Road," said Callahan, "he left the hospital and ran out and joined the company there."

O'Reilly, deathly ill, arrived at Gettysburg after the first day of battle. Colonel Samuel Springs immediately ordered the 8th into a cornfield between the Union lines on Cemetery Ridge and Confederate lines on Seminary Ridge, with orders to push back. With this advanced picket line established, they spent the night there while the rest of the brigade was pulled out by General Hancock to support other areas.

Confederate sharpshooters reminded them of their closeness throughout the evening by shooting at them.

On the morning of the 3rd, General Lee, believing the center of the Union line to be weakened, opened up his attack with a two-hour artillery barrage.

*continued on page 12*



## FISHER HOUSE CLEVELAND



### HELP US BUILD

The Greater Cleveland Fisher House needs your help to build a home where military families can stay while their service members are being treated through the Cleveland VA Medical Center and surrounding facilities.



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Sunday, June 7 | Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

8:00 a.m. to Noon, Rain or Shine

#### A fun, leisurely Walk through the Zoo!

Walkers receive full-day admission to the Zoo and Rainforest, a limited-edition t-shirt, complimentary beverages, healthy snacks and more. Enjoy entertainment and activities for children of all ages, plus the chance to honor the memory of your loved one.

**\$25 for individuals | \$60 for families**

All Walk proceeds support seriously ill patients and their loved ones throughout Northern Ohio.

Register online at [hospicewr.org/walk](http://hospicewr.org/walk)



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continued from page 10

"Nothing more terrific than this story of artillery can be imagined," said Colonel Franklyn Sawyer. "The missiles of both armies passed over our heads. The roar of the guns was deafening, the air was soon clouded with smoke, and the shrieks and the startling crack of the exploding shells above, a round and in our midst; the blowing up of our caissons in our rear; the driving through the air of the fence rails, posts and limbs of trees; the groans of dying men, the neighing of frantic and wounded horses, created a scene of absolute horror."

General Lee followed this up by sending fifteen thousand gray backs into the fray. The 150 - 180 men of the 8th Ohio poured rifle fire into the left flank of James J. Pettigrew's division. "They moved up splendidly," Sawyer wrote, "deploying into column as they crossed the long, sloping interval between us and their base. At first it looked like they would sweep our position, but as they advanced, their direction lay to our left."

A moan went up from the battlefield distinctly to be heard amid the storm of battle," related survivor Galwey. The surprised Southerners, led by gallant officers on horseback,

broke and retreated. "... the first sign of faltering came from Colonel J.M. Brockenbrough's brigade of Virginians who, under Pettigrew, were stationed in the extreme left of the advance, that is, directly in front of the 8th Ohio," Callahan said.

With Sawyer admitting their 'blood was up,' he then turned his men 90 degrees and fired into the flank of Joseph Davis' brigade. When Union commanders saw this development, they sent reinforcements to turn the attack. The 8th advanced, cutting off three regiments, capturing their colors and many soldiers.

Afterwards, an attempt was made to discharge Colonel Sawyer from the service for it was believed he was drunk; it was thought no Commander in his right mind would attempt such a maneuver with such a small force.

Later that summer, after the battle of Gettysburg, the 8th Ohio was sent to New York City for riot duty. When the draft was instituted, provisions were made for purchasing one's way out through the process of buying a substitute. Many Irish and other immigrants could not afford to do so and objected to the practice.

While there, O'Reilly met his

future bride, Susan O'Brien. "The whole thing was a drinking expedition," Callahan said. "Commander Sawyer was telling everybody not to get drunk but about an hour later he was arrested for drunkenness. I think they had a good time in New York City."

In August, 1865, at the war's end, O'Reilly returned to New York City and married Susan O'Brien at St. Stephen's Parish Church. The couple came to Cleveland and resided at 189 Quincy Ave., where they raised seven children. Part of the time he worked for Thomas Jones & Sons Monument Co., which was located at E. 28th Street and Prospect Avenue.

Because of his disability from his Gettysburg sunstroke, however, he was never able to work for long periods of time. He tried to get a pension the rest of his life in a protracted struggle with the War Department, not unlike modern American veterans of other conflicts.

His widow Susan was finally awarded one in 1930, thirty years after his death. In 1900, after a funeral Mass at St. Edward's Church, O'Reilly was laid to rest in St. John's cemetery, next to the church. His stone, erected by his daughter, says simply, "Captain J.K. O'Reilly."

Callahan met Captain O'Reilly's daughter, Isabelle, in 1952. She blamed her father for the fact that she never married. She claimed every time somebody came over to see her he pulled them into the parlor and kept them up until midnight telling stories about the Civil War.

The following letter is Comrade Galwey's tribute to his friend and captain, as printed in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

New York, May 22nd, 1900

Editor of the Sunday Cleveland Plain Dealer

Sir:

I desire as a comrade officer of the 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry to say through the Plain Dealer a few words upon the military career of the late Captain J.K. O'Reilly, the news of whose recent death at 189 Quincy Street, Cleveland, has just reached us.

During the twenty campaigns and more than sixty engagements in which the 8th Infantry gained its fame in the Civil War, O'Reilly's influence and example, first among its non-commissioned officers and afterwards among its commissioned officers, contributed greatly to its fighting spirit, conduct and meth-

continued on page 14



## Honoring Our Veterans

At Hospice of the Western Reserve, we honor our veterans every day. Through our Peaceful & Proud initiative, hospice veterans can receive care from staff members trained on how the unique life experiences of veterans shape end-of-life preferences. Through specialized, quality care, we can help patients and families live their lives with dignity. See why more families choose the hospice of choice at [hospicewr.org/serving-our-veterans](http://hospicewr.org/serving-our-veterans).



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## Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary — Helping People Connect With Animals

Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary is celebrating 15 years as a non-profit organization providing support services to humane societies and law enforcement agencies regarding farm animal abuse. Located in Ravenna, Ohio, Happy Trails serves not only Ohio but any state that requests their animal rescue services.

While many counties in Ohio address abuse and neglect of pets, they often do not have the facilities, the resources or the knowledge to care for and rehabilitate other types of animals.

The same mental defect that causes people to be cruel to dogs and cats can cause these same individuals to be cruel to other animals as well.



Animal abuse of any type of animal is often a red flag, alerting us to the capacity for violence in that individual. Many cruelty cases presented to Happy Trails include other violent crimes. Addressing animal abuse of all animals helps to create safer communities.

**Want to get involved?** At Happy Trails you can volunteer in a wide variety of ways, adopt or foster rescued animals, take a tour, or support their work with a tax-deductible donation.

Helping people connect with animals in our world

empowers us all to make kinder, more compassionate choices in our daily lives. Visit the sanctuary and experience the animals up close. **Personal.** Give a pig a belly rub. Hug a mini



horse. Play with the goats. Hear their stories and learn how you can make a difference.

**Educational tours are available on weekends from May through October.** The \$20 per person tour fee is

donated to the medical expenses and daily care costs of the rescued animals.

**For more information, call Happy Trails at 330-296-5914 or visit the website at [www.happytrailsfarm.org](http://www.happytrailsfarm.org)**



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## VA Extends Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury Contracts Awarded to Assisted Living Providers

**WASHINGTON** – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced the award of 20 contracts for the Assisted Living Pilot Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury (AL-TBI). Originally slated to end in 2014, the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (“VACAA”) extended this program through October 2017.

“We are pleased to extend this valuable program and provide specialized assisted living services to eligible Veterans with traumatic brain injury that will enhance their rehabilitation, quality of life and community integration,” said Dr. Carolyn Clancy, VA’s Interim Under Secretary

for Health, “TBI is one of the prevalent wounds of the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and VA remains committed to taking care of those Veterans suffering from TBI.”

Under the AL-TBI program, Veterans meeting the eligibility criteria are placed in private sector TBI residential care facilities specializing in neurobehavioral rehabilitation. The program offers team-based care and assistance in areas such as speech, memory and mobility. Approximately 202 Veterans participated in the AL-TBI Pilot Program in 47 facilities located in 22 states. Currently, 101 Veterans participate in the pilot as VA continues to accept new eli-

gible patients into the program.

In October, VA issued a request for proposal (RFP) for vendors wishing to participate in the program. In accordance with the RFP, VA has awarded 20 contracts to facilities located in 27 states. The contracts went into effect on April 1, 2015. The program is currently effective through October 2017, in accordance with VACAA.

For more information about the TBI program, visit [www.polytrauma.va.gov](http://www.polytrauma.va.gov). For information about VA’s work to implement the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, see <http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/documents/Fact-Sheets/Progress-Report-March-2015-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

## VA Makes Gains in Faster Disability Claims Processing

Backlog Reduced 67 Percent Under New Automation and Process Improvements

**Washington** – The federal initiative to provide timely decisions on disability payments to Veterans has crossed a major milestone in its final sprint to eliminate the backlog of Veterans’ benefits claims.

The major transformation effort to apply new technology and process solutions has paid off at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It reduced its inventory of backlogged claims from a high of 611,000 claims in March of 2013 to fewer than 200,000 this week, while at the same time improving decision quality.

“Make no mistake, we’re not slowing down short of the finish line,” said Under Secretary for Benefits Allison Hickey. “Our goal is to eliminate the claims backlog by the end of 2015 – meaning all Veterans will receive timely and accurate decisions on their disability claims.”

Hickey credited a combination of factors for the 67-percent drop in backlog: first, the extra hours of work put in by dedicated benefits claims processors across the nation, who have worked evenings, Saturdays and Sundays to drive the backlog down; as well as procedural efficiencies backed by powerful automation tools and paperless claims processing. In addition, she cited the transformation of Veterans Benefits Administration’s training and quality assurance programs resulting in steady increases in the accuracy of decisions.

Just a few years ago, claims processors handled 5,000 tons of paper annually, an amount equivalent to 200 Empire State Buildings. In less than two years, VA converted claims processing to a 21st Century digital environment where claims for VA benefits and services can be submitted and processed, and benefits delivered, online.

Veterans increasingly are filing claims electronically from the start at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov>. Veterans can submit their applications online, upload their supporting documentation, and check the status of their claim through a multi-channel Web portal boasting nearly 60 self-service features.

its battle flags at the “high water mark of the rebellion.”

In both of those splendid manoeuvres O’Reilly was very conspicuous, if he was not to some extent the real author of each. He was at first a man of fine physique, and like many others who constantly exposed themselves, escaped almost unharmed by the enemy, but he suffered to the last from sunstroke that befell him during fearful hot day on the march to Gettysburg, and I understand that this was the chief cause of his death.

Cleveland is not today the quiet little city it was on the 16th of April, 1861, when, in defence of

the Union, O’Reilly enlisted as a private in the Hibernian Guards, which became Company B of the 8th Ohio Infantry. But big and bustling as Cleveland has become, it will not, I imagine, forget the honor done to its name in the Civil War by such a man as O’Reilly.

Respectfully,  
Thos. F. Galwey  
15 West 123rd St.  
New York City

Author’s Note: Both Butler and Galwey relocated to New York City. Butler became keeper of General Grant’s Tomb. It is believed that upon his death Galwey was buried in St. John’s Cemetery, Woodland Ave., Cleveland.

## Baldwin Wallace University Student Brings Military Discipline, Camaraderie to Academic Life

by Jerri Donohue

Former soldier Laketta Agee has no problem identifying fellow Baldwin Wallace students who served in the armed forces. One or more seem to turn up in each of her classes.

“It’s so weird,” Agee said. “Most of the time I can tell by their demeanor, even their walk. The way they talk.” She explained that a certain vocabulary and expressions like “squared away” signal military service.

Agee looks forward to participating in Baldwin Wallace’s new organization for veterans, where they will socialize over lunch and at other events.

“You appreciate that unity you just don’t get anywhere else,” Agee said of her three years in the Army. “There is a brotherhood. It’s a whole different world. That’s what I loved the most.”

Agee thinks this bond results from military discipline. In civil-

ian life, an employee might complain about an assigned task, or even refuse to do it. In the Army, that is not an option, even when personality clashes occur.

“You’re disciplined to help people you might not get along with or like,” Agee said. Soldiers must assist one another.

“In that situation, they’re like your family,” she said.

Agee felt an obligation to her comrades even after her discharge. When she returned to northeast Ohio, she lived near the airport. Soldiers on incoming flights sometimes called her at odd hours, looking for a ride. Despite the inconvenience, she complied.

These days, Agee carries a full course load while tending to the needs of a husband, a five-year old daughter, an eight-year old son, and two teenage stepdaughters.

In military service, she learned wise time management, but she also praised her husband and stepdaughters for tackling some household chores. In addition, the self-discipline she acquired in the

Army continues to serve her. For example, she doesn’t procrastinate on assignments.

“There is nobody who is going to tell you to get your work done,” she said.

Agee’s military experience led to

her current studies. She trained at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Later, the Army sent her to Fort Drum, New York. As a finance specialist, her many duties included processing travel vouchers and resolving pay problems. She helped soldiers going overseas complete paperwork, including reservists and National Guardsmen about to be deployed.

Agee found the experience rewarding. She also discovered her innate skill with numbers. These days, she is undertaking a double major in finance and accounting. On track to graduate in the spring of 2016, she chose Baldwin Wallace because of its excellent reputation and small class size. A self-described “social person,” Agee appreciates the fact that her instructors know her as an individual; she is not a number assigned to a desk in a large lecture hall.

“It’s been welcoming to me,” she said of the university.

**“There is a brotherhood. It’s a whole different world. That’s what I loved the most.”**

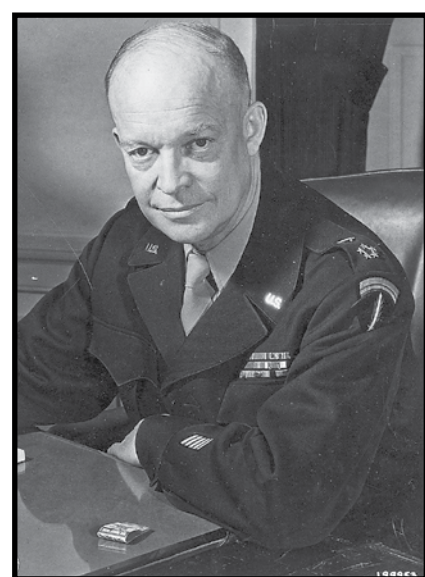
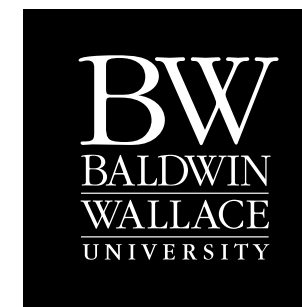
– Laketta Agee

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**“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron.”**

– Dwight D. Eisenhower



# “Doc” Richison Served Black, White Soldiers in Korea

by Jerri Donohue

Tony Richison bristles when he describes fliers dropped by the enemy on front-line African-American troops in Korea. The propaganda questioned why black soldiers were fighting there, when they suffered from race prejudice at home.

“We will treat you nice,” the fliers claimed. “Surrender to us.”

“I said, ‘Like hell! I love America!’” the Shaker Heights resident recently recalled.

Before the Korean War, the Army sent Richison to Germany with an African-American unit of combat engineers. By the summer of 1952, however, he had trained as an aid man and was assigned to the integrated 25th Infantry Division, 27th Regiment, 3rd Battalion in Korea. He observed no discrimination in combat, where men depend on one another for survival.

As King Company’s medic, “Doc” Richison sprayed soldiers with DDT to kill their lice, distributed their anti-malarial medicine and provided them with clean drinking water.

Most of all, Doc Richison tended the wounded and evacuated the

dead. Early on, he stopped wearing his medic’s armband - it made him an easy target for an enemy who did not honor the Geneva Convention. He treated wounds from bullets, mortars and booby traps. To avoid detection by North Koreans, he once crawled in a creek to reach GIs calling for help.

King Company fought at Bloody Ridge and later marched in sub-zero temperatures to replace troops whose position had been overrun in Kumwha Valley. The enemy had bayoneted Americans struggling to get out of their sleeping bags. Other GIs died because their frozen carbines wouldn’t fire. Few fighting men remained.

“It’s hard to talk about what we found there,” Richison said. “I’d rather not remember.”



Despite the hardships he endured at the front, Richison protested a transfer to battalion and he stayed with King Company for 12 months.

“They were my family,” the veteran said.

The aid man will never forget a tragedy that occurred on one of his 72 night patrols. A young African American soldier stepped on an anti-personnel mine. “The boy’s name was Benny Johnson,” Richison said. “He was from Jersey City, New Jersey. He was due to go home in about three weeks.”

Richison’s hands filled with blood and tissue as he examined Johnson’s wound; the explosion had shredded the GI’s buttocks and genitalia.

Richison administered morphine, but the soldier died soon after. As he prepared the body for evacuation, Richison found a photo of John-

son’s family in his buddy’s helmet. Richison has carried that memory for more than 60 years.

The medic returned home shortly before the Korean War ended, and he remained in the Army until 1959. Today he feels disgust for Americans too apathetic to vote, a freedom other men fought and died to ensure.

“If I had my way, every person who turns 18 or graduates from college would have to do two years of service,” he said.

For his part, Richison continues to help former servicemen and women. He founded Veterans of Ohio Non-Profit Service Organization to assist veterans of all ages with disability claims. The octogenarian devotes countless hours to their cases, often working in the wee hours when he has insomnia.

Veterans of Ohio Non-Profit Service Organization is conducting a free veterans benefits workshop with multiple presenters on Friday, May 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Warrensville Heights Civic & Senior Center, 4567 Green Road, Warrensville Heights.

## Otto Moser’s: Raising the Curtain on a Century of Serving Theatergoers

By Jack Haynes

I’m old enough to remember Otto Moser’s when it was on East Fourth Street, its original home. It was a shot-and-beer-and-corned-beef-sandwich place, and was well over 100 years old, which I am not.

The original Moser’s was a delight. High ceilings, real wood tables and chairs, a long bar, a moose’s mangy head on one wall, and hundreds of pictures (often autographed) of stars from an earlier era that included vaudeville.

One of Cleveland’s theaters, the Cleveland Opera House, was right across the street, and performers would race across East Fourth Street, from the stage door to Otto’s. A quick bite, maybe a sip of booze,

and they raced back to work.

Ah, but time waits for no changing neighborhood. As new and hipper restaurants crowded the old neighborhood, owners Dan Bir and Steve Dimotsis focused on Playhouse Square. A good move because Otto’s is once again in the theater district.

The ceiling is higher, the place it twice as large, the bar is longer, and the menu expanded. The collection of pictures went with Otto’s to its new location, but they were obviously hung by men. They’re too high to grab one’s attention. At the old place, most were at eye level, easily enjoyed.

Women understand that for a

picture to be enjoyable, it is properly hung at eye level. I mean, who wants to crane a neck to see an old black-an-white? My point exactly.

Cleveland’s current version of a theater-district deli, this Playhouse Square/East Fourth Street staple has been entertaining arts lovers, theater patrons, and downtown workers for more than 100 years.

Today its cast of characters is large, with soups, salads, steaks, chicken, and stacked-up sandwiches, many — like the W.C. Fields and Fanny Brice — named in honor of old-time stage stars. Dinner hours vary with the theaters’ schedules; calling ahead is always a smart move.

### Otto Moser’s

1425 Euclid Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
216-771-3831

Hours: Closed Sunday and all major holidays.

Opens at 11:30 a.m. Open Monday through Saturday, but that can vary, depending on the theater district’s schedule. When entertainers are playing Sunday matinees or evening performances, Otto’s is often open to serve the audience.

# Ah, New Choppers!

## Dr. Greg DeVor and His Magic Hands

By Jim Harrison

On your first trip to a new dentist, you can tell a lot from the behavior of the staff. If they are curt and unsmiling, they probably reflect the dentist’s personality and mood as well.

When a masked man (or woman) is going to jam his (or her) fingers in your mouth for a while, better to have a friendly, personable, professional.

MetLife and Delta Dental have created a dental plan with the Veterans Administration. Mine costs about fifty bucks a month.

While my original ivories served long and well, they were injured over the years by candy, cigarets, lack of flossing, and Scotch. Even teeth can take only so much.

Greg DeVor, DDS was the second dentist I went to. First one was good, but with his prices, my last days

would be spent in Debtor’s Prison. DeVor’s staff is professional and adds welcoming smiles to those, like me, who frighten easily.

Introductions and welcomes completed, the good doctor reviewed X-rays of my teeth. He agreed with me when I said the old teeth were so old and crippled, all should be sent to the Old Teeth Home, and replaced with fakes.

The first step is interesting. It’s a mold of your teeth and jaws. With those, technicians can create the new set that is available before the Novocain wears off.

You probably didn’t know, but there’s nothing new about the fakes. Seven hundred years before Christ, the Etruscans created false teeth. They were made of bone and ivory and then secured with gold

bridgework. Here’s something else I learned: the first local anesthetic was cocaine. The first pain suppressant was invented by a German chemist, Alfred Einkorn, and it was called Novocain. That was 1905.

We can assume Novocain costs less than coke.

Removing the teeth that are to be replaced might be the easiest part of the procedure. Once toothless, Dr. DeVor gave my mouth a thorough exam. He wanted to know if my gums were in shape for dentures and if there were any problems in my jawbone. I aced that test.

Some extractions call for stitching up the empty hole. I’m lucky; unless I’m shot or sucker punched, I bleed little. The extractions didn’t take long, eager as the teeth were to

be sent to the Old Teeth Home.

The new teeth were popped in and I was free to go. The anesthetic wore off and there was pain, but not enough to keep from showing off my new smile to drinking buddies, the mailman, family members, bill collectors, and the odd traffic cop.

For the first week, I’ve been taking them out in the evening and soaking them in a dental wash. Every day I can wear them a little longer.

I’ll see Dr. DeVor soon and get the dentures adjusted to my changing gums and by the Fourth of July, I’ll be enjoying grilled hamburgers, potato salad, and cold beer.

Greg DeVor, DDS  
(216) 221-1438  
13616 Madison Avenue  
Lakewood, Ohio 44107



“I’ve been to a number of places and seen for myself the caliber of people who are in the Navy today - in all the services for that matter. This is an altogether different bunch. These people of today are really bright, young, good people.”

— Ernest Borgnine

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# Clarence and Tom Swope: World War II;

## One an infantryman and one a historian

Tom Swope has interviewed more than 425 veterans of World War II — for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, and for his own, award-winning radio series LEGACIES: Stories from the Second World War.

After receiving many requests for a book of these stories, he chose eighteen of the best ones and published them in April, 2010, under the same title. Now, after two printings of the First Edition of the book, Swope has released a Second Edition of LEGACIES: Stories from the Second World War.

This edition is available in print through CreateSpace.com (at <https://www.createpace.com/3581583>) and in PDF through HamakuaPublishing.net (at <http://hamakuaPublishing.net/eBOOKS/buy-LEGACIES.php>).

One of the main reasons for Swope's interest in the stories of WW II veterans was his father, Clarence Swope. As a U.S. Army infantryman

in the War, Clarence was captured and held prisoner for five months by the Germans. Despite Army regulations to the contrary, Clarence kept a diary of his wartime experiences, and one of the most touching stories in the book is from his diary — his account of five months as a P.O.W.

Other stories are told by survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Bataan Death March, Iwo Jima, D-Day, Guadalcanal, Okinawa; and by Army nurses in Europe and the Pacific, an Army medic, a fighter pilot, a tail gunner, and others — all of whom were swept up by the War and propelled through adventures they could never have imagined.

One of the most impressive things

in all these stories is the down-to-earth, understated way in which even the most horrendous experiences are described. It seems that the ability of simply accepting them in this understated way — and even finding humor in the darkest of situations — may have been a crucial element in surviving them. And it really puts into perspective the frivolous and hyperbolic nature and the shallowness of our present-day culture.

LEGACIES: Stories from the Second World War (Compiled and Edited by Tom Swope / Radio Stew Press / Cleveland, Ohio / 187 pages) is now available at <https://www.createpace.com/3581583> and will be in major bookstores soon. An autographed

copy, plus a free CD of one of the award-winning LEGACIES radio programs, can be had by emailing Tom Swope / [swopetunes\(AT\)juno\(DOT\)com](mailto:swopetunes(AT)juno(DOT)com). But what they had done on Okinawa was they took and concentrated their troops on the southern end of the island and there they had caves in these cemeteries and they used to hide in them. And what would happen is they'd let us get through and then hit us in the back. I think — I think — I was scared to death. I was just a 17-year-old kid. I turned 18 on the 3rd of April. But if you want to know how I was feeling - it was fear. That was — that was the ultimate thing. I was scared to death — the nights especially. Nights were scary. I didn't sleep good. We tried to have two people to a foxhole, you know, so the one could sleep and the other one kept an eye open. But you're always thinking geez, don't let him fall asleep, too, you know. That's what goes through your mind."



### Movies that help explain the Mideast Wars

- The Hurt Locker
- No End in Sight
- Turtles Can Fly
- Control Room
- The Messenger
- The War Tapes
- My Country, My Country
- The Ground Troops



**"When I lost my rifle, the Army charged me 85 dollars. That is why in the Navy the Captain goes down with the ship."**

— Dick Gregory

## War as Profit: Making Guns

From percussion muzzle-loaders to drones; arms manufacturers know there is money in wars.

There is nothing new about creating weapons with which to kill men, women, children, livestock, heads of state, and oneself.

When one nation declares war on another, body counts and land taken

matter. Whichever kills more and takes more property usually wins. Often, the side with the better weaponry wins, but not always.

The first firearm was invented in 1364. By 1380, handguns were manufactured in Europe, and in the 1400s, the matchlock gun reared its murderous head.

Over the centuries, technical and manufacturing advances meant killing was easier and faster.

By the time Union and Confederate troops battled, gun designers and manufacturers competed for contracts. Likely there is more money in the pockets of weapons manufacturers than in the U.S. Mint.

### Here are some of the many weapons used in the Civil War:

Spencer rifle	Model 1822 musket	Model 1795 musket
Colt revolving rifle	Model 1816 musket	Charleville musket
Greene rifle	Model 1817 rifle	Brown Bess
P53 Enfield	Springfield Model 1812 musket	Kentucky rifle
P51 Enfield Musketoon	Model 1808 Contract musket	Ferguson rifle
M1841 rifle "Mississippi Rifle"	Harper's Ferry Model 1803 rifle	

Some of the most profitable defense companies today are United Technologies, L-3 Communications, Finmeccanica, EADS, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, General Dynamics, BAE Systems, Boeing, and Lockheed Martin.



## Army Vet charts new course for future with Lakeland Community College

Matthew Barham was a combat medic with the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, serving 6 months in Iraq.

Now a civilian, he's a student at Lakeland Community College where he's pursuing an associate degree in geospatial technology.

Geospatial technology is a fast-growing, dynamic field that's particularly well-suited for veterans like Barham who

have vast experience using GPS technology, mapping and satellite imagery.

As a student, he's also gaining real-world, hands-on experience through several projects. He worked with the city of Mentor to help update trail maps for their Mentor Marsh property and has helped Lake

Metroparks place an observatory tower and track invasive plant species at Lake Erie Bluffs.



**"I can't see myself being parked in an office,"** said Barham. **"There are a lot of different opportunities available in geospatial technology – from developing new apps to finding cleaner ways to obtain fuel."**



Matt Barham  
GIS Student

### Map Your Future

#### About our Geospatial Technology Program

Lakeland Community College offers two educational tracks in geospatial technology: an Associate of Applied Science degree in geospatial technology and a technical certificate for students who already have a degree in a related field and/or are looking for career skills. Both curricula prepare students for an exciting career in geospatial technology.

Find out how you can apply your military experience to a high-demand career in geospatial technology and geographic information systems.

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