



CHRONICLE

*The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.*

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 4

MAY/JUNE 2017

# THE SILENT CELEBRATION OF OUR FREEDOM





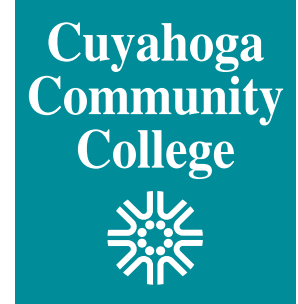
# We remember the fallen.

**Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) is committed to veterans.**

Whether you're a discharged veteran, a member of the Guard or Reserve or on active duty, you and your family are welcomed home at Tri-C.

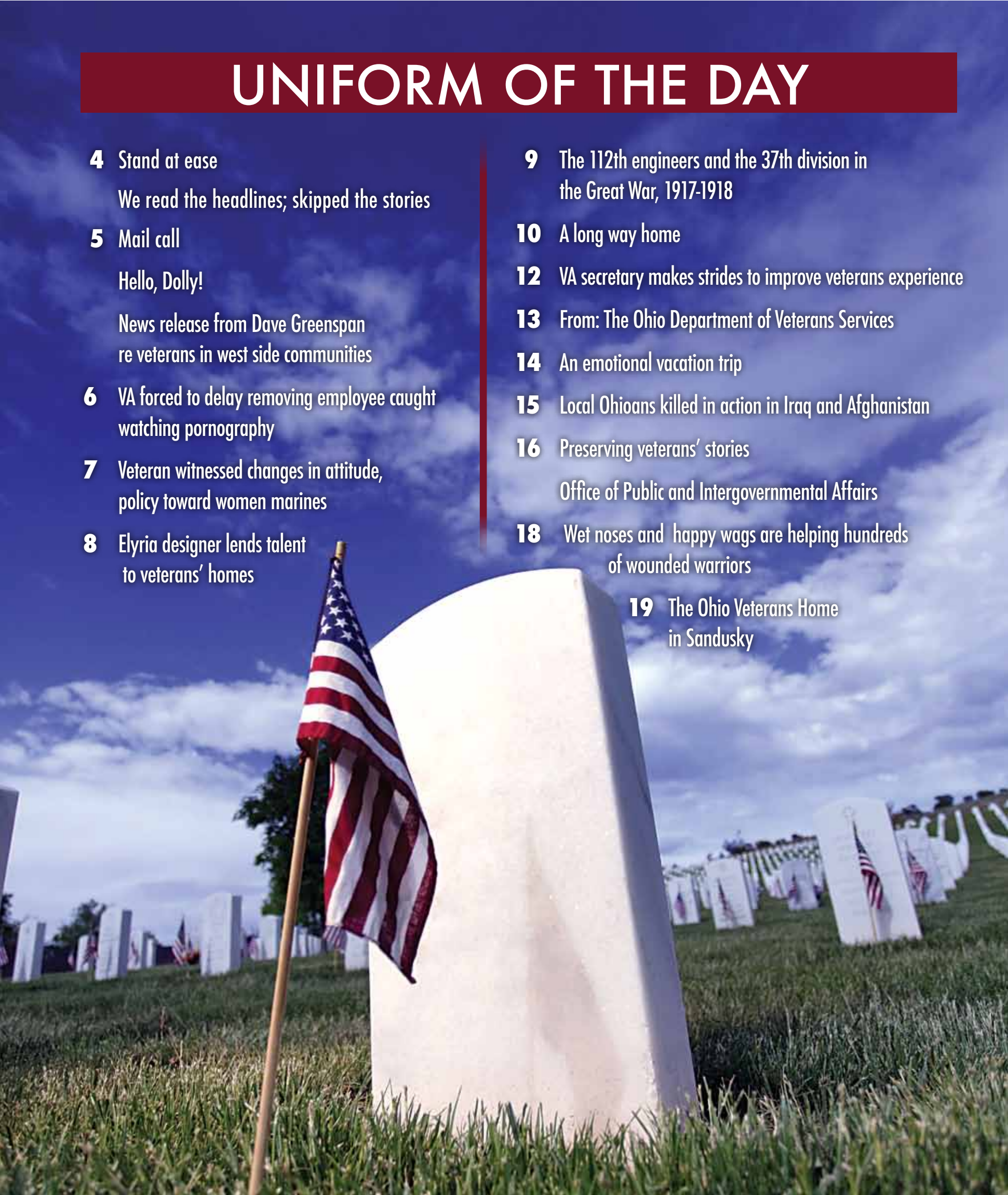
Visit our **new** Western Campus Veterans Center in Parma—opening May 26.

**tri-c.edu/veterans**  
216-987-3193



17-1288

## UNIFORM OF THE DAY

- 
- 4 Stand at ease  
We read the headlines; skipped the stories
  - 5 Mail call  
Hello, Dolly!  
News release from Dave Greenspan re veterans in west side communities
  - 6 VA forced to delay removing employee caught watching pornography
  - 7 Veteran witnessed changes in attitude, policy toward women marines
  - 8 Elyria designer lends talent to veterans' homes
  - 9 The 112th engineers and the 37th division in the Great War, 1917-1918
  - 10 A long way home
  - 12 VA secretary makes strides to improve veterans experience
  - 13 From: The Ohio Department of Veterans Services
  - 14 An emotional vacation trip
  - 15 Local Ohioans killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan
  - 16 Preserving veterans' stories  
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
  - 18 Wet noses and happy wags are helping hundreds of wounded warriors
  - 19 The Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky

## Saddle up!

**T**rigger, Kelso, Silver, Sea Biscuit, Mister Ed, and a whole stable filled with horses. Having a horse in the back yard was every kid's fantasy. (In Vietnam, when we were ordered to another location, the order was, "Saddle up!")

Horses do much more than fuel our childhood fantasies and lose money at the track. They weigh between 900 and a thousand pounds and more. Their height is measured in hands.

Horses take a great deal of care. They eat more than your Uncle Louie at Thanksgiving. They drink more than the members of Animal House.

For more wars than we can count, they have been the soldier's better half.

At Forever Amber Acres, in Medina, troops are again paired with horses, but this time it is for their mutual benefit. The program, Volunteer Equine Training (V.E.T.), creates a human-to-animal experience that seeks to create mutual trust and appreciation.

Forever Amber Acres was created by Michele D. Bolinger. She serves today as its executive director. She is also office manager for eleventy marketing group. (Don't call and tell me the name is confusing; I already know that, but it's the way the group spells it.)

The sanctuary spreads out over 11.5 acres and was created six years ago. A few years ago, it was given non-profit status.



*I bless the hoss from hoof to head -  
From head to hoof, and tail to mane! -  
I bless the hoss, as I have said,  
From head to hoof, and back again!*  
— James Whitcomb Riley

Ms. Bolinger brings a wealth of experience to the post. She has helped to rescue 45 horses and been a vital member of teams raising money for other animal rescue organizations. She has been a witness in animal abuse trials, including high-profile cases in West Virginia and Ohio. She brings more than a wealth of experience: She brings devotion and love to all animals.

"Our goal is to promote self-confidence, trust, and an enhanced sense of well-being in the company of our horses, while reinforcing the values and benefits of teamwork."

The veterans work side-by-side with other volunteers, and learn to feed, groom, and care for the animals. That means turning horses in and out each day; maintaining stalls and barn area; organizing tack and supplies; and more. Each task leads to greater understanding between horse and volunteer. There are few distractions at Forever Amber; the area is peaceful and natural. Mother Nature ensures the positive connections with horses, veterans, and Her beautiful outdoors.

*If you would enjoy contributing to this not-for-profit project, the address is:*

*Forever Amber Acres  
1133 Granger Road  
Medina, Ohio 44256*

*The email is foreveramberacres@gmail.com; web page is www.foreveramber.org, and phone number is (330) 618-6010.*

## We read the headlines; skipped the stories

• **Fetty Wap trashed surgeon's house with 'stripper underwear'**  
*There's a reason we read only headlines and not stories. This is it.*

• **"Here's what the Queen of England eats for breakfast, lunch and dinner"**  
*And here's what she doesn't eat: haggis, shepherd's pie, black pudding, barmbrack, or coddle.*

• **"This church wants to form its own police force"**  
*This has nothing to do with penance. I hope.*

• **"My mom was a porn star and it ruined me for life"**  
*Whaddya mean? Got you senior class president, didn't it?*

• **"Man accused of dismembering wife lived with corpse for a week: cops"**  
*Breakin' up is hard to do.*

• **"Bull gores 11-inch horn up matador's butt"**  
*Mess with the bull, you get the horns.*

• **"Astronaut who walked on moon says he knows the truth about aliens"**  
*Just increased the number of undocumented aliens.*



*The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.*

**PUBLISHER EMERITUS**  
Terence J. Uhl

**PUBLISHER AND EDITOR**  
John H. Tidyman  
(216) 789-3502  
forgedirons@yahoo.com

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Ann Marie Stasko  
(216) 704-5227

**ART DIRECTOR**  
Laura Chadwick

**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**  
JC Sullivan  
Eli Beachy  
Jerrri Donohue

**CHAPLAIN**  
Rev. James R. Mason

**DD 214 CHRONICLE IS PUBLISHED BY**  
John H. Tidyman  
3280 Glenbar Drive  
Fairview Park, Ohio 44126

**For subscription information**  
call (216) 789-3502

### Editorial Statement

DD214 Chronicle is committed to its readers: Veterans of every generation and all who love them. The printed newspaper is delivered across northern Ohio without charge: More than 60 libraries, colleges and universities that welcome veteran students, VFW and American Legion posts, city halls, Veteran Administration offices and health care facilities, organizations in support of veterans, advertisers, political offices, and Veteran Service Commissions. DD214 Chronicle also maintains dd214chronicle.com and DD214 Chronicle/Facebook.

The Chronicle would not exist without its advertisers. Make the effort to patronize them.

John H. Tidyman, editor  
198<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade  
American Division  
(216) 789-3502  
forgedironstidyman@gmail

## MAIL CALL

I recently read a copy of DD214 Chronicle (Volume 7, Number 3.) The Bible quote and the accompanying photos were wonderful. I am not a Veteran but would fall into the group, "... and all who love them." I have good friends who are Veterans and we socialize often.



I have sent you a prayer I composed after many conversations with Veterans who have experienced problems with memories of their time in the field. I gave copies to several of them and their response was favorable. I am hoping it can help others, if only in a small way.

I am not a professional writer and do not seek any notoriety or compensation. In fact, if you decide to put the prayer in DD214 Chronicle, please leave it as Anonymous for the author.

Regardless of your decision, I want you to know I heartily applaud your efforts to support our Veterans.

### Prayer of Veterans

*Lord, as a young person, I answered the call of my country.*

*In a foreign land and in vicious combat, I met my obligation as an American and my duty as a soldier.*

*I did what was necessary to survive and You were there to see it all.*

*Under your Providence I survived my time on the battlefield and You brought me home.*

*Now I ask You to be merciful to this warrior and remove from my memory those moments and incidents which torment my sleep and peace.*

*Free me of those dreams and thoughts which cause me anxiety, pain, and despair.*

*I will always remember my days in the fight, Lord, but spare me from reliving those horrible times which come to haunt me.*

*You know the ones I mean.*

*Be loving towards this old soldier who did the duty no matter how brutal the assignment.*

*And until that day when You return and call us all to muster, let me be at peace.*

*Your will be done.*

*Amen.*

*Author Unknown*

## Hello, Dolly!



Many of us were drafted, plenty more enlisted. Donut Dollies volunteered. More than 600 women, part of the American Red Cross, jumped on helicopters, trusted the pilots (and door gunners,) and flew over paddies and villes and brought us donuts and other treats.

Their uniforms were white and pale blue. When they clambered out, they had smiles that sparkled and hearts as big as all outdoors. They were our cheerleaders.

For them, it was an experience they will never forget. For us, it was better than mail from home.

## News release from Dave Greenspan re veterans in west side communities

State Representative Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) today announced that he has joined the Ohio House Veterans' Caucus, an informal caucus that meets to discuss veterans' issues and policies.

"It is my belief that by being a member of the Veterans' Caucus I can help advance the interests of those brave men and women who have dedicated themselves to the service of our great nation," Representative Greenspan said.

So far during the 132nd General Assembly, the Veterans' Caucus has met to discuss provisions in the state biennial budget, House Bill 49, that directly impact Ohio's veterans. The group's goal is to ensure that veterans' needs are addressed and taken care of through legislation over this term, and all House members interested in veterans' affairs are welcome to join the group.

Veterans in the cities of Bay Village, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Rocky River, and Westlake are encouraged to contact Rep. Greenspan's office in Columbus to raise awareness to the issues and challenges facing the veteran community.

## LEN LIEBER M.S.W

### Ordained Minister

- Nonsectarian Weddings
- Commitment Ceremonies
- Funeral & Memorial Services

**440-801-1209**  
llieber12@aol.com

## Elmwood Home Bakery



**We Specialize in Wedding, Anniversary, Birthday and Party Cakes**  
**216-221-4338**

15204 Madison Ave., Lakewood OH 44107  
elmwoodhomebakery@gmail.com

## CURRY COPY CENTER OF LAKEWOOD

(216) 521-5775  
Fax (216) 521-5880  
currycopylkw@aol.com

- DIGITAL COLOR & B/W COPIES
- OFFSET PRINTING
- BROCHURES • NEWSLETTERS
- FLYERS • BUSINESS FORMS
- BUSINESS CARDS • LETTERHEAD
- ENVELOPES • LABELS
- CUSTOM T-SHIRTS
- WEDDING INVITATIONS
- LAMINATING • RAFFLE TICKETS
- BOOKLETS • POSTCARDS

Dennis Little 14528 Detroit Avenue  
President Lakewood, Ohio 44107

## Lillie & Holderman

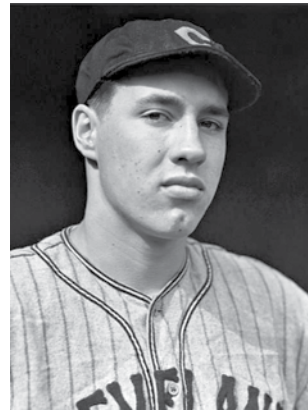
**Richard G. Lillie, Ph.D.**  
**Lawyer**

Specializing in the following:

- Grand Jury Defense and Investigations
- Criminal Defense
- White Collar Criminal Defense
- Commercial Litigation

**216-861-1313**

Email: rlillie@lillieholderman.com  
75 Public Square, Suite 213  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2011  
www.lillieholderman.com



**The soldiers that didn't come back were the heroes. It's a roll of the dice. If a bullet has your name on it, you're a hero. If you hear a bullet go by, you're a survivor.**

— Bob Feller

*We stare at the stone. Whose bones lie underneath, we'll never know. But we know this: He was one of us. He cared for us as we cared for him. We were from different parts of the country. Spoke different slang with different accents. Our faiths were different; we didn't care. In the screams and bloodletting of battle, one prayer is as good as another.*



## VA forced to delay removing employee caught watching pornography

VA SUPPORTS CONGRESS' EFFORT TO CHANGE LEGISLATION TO EXPEDITE PROCESS

**WASHINGTON** — After a thorough internal review of an employee of the Michael DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston caught watching pornography while with a patient, the designated proposing official recommended removal from federal service.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) immediately removed the employee in question from patient care and placed the employee on administrative duties. Due to current law, the deciding official cannot affect a final determination for 30 days from the date the proposal for removal was made. VA is committed to ensuring every

employee retains his or her right to due process while at the same time reducing the time it takes to remove employees who have engaged in misconduct.

"This is an example of why we need accountability legislation as soon as possible," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin. "It's unacceptable that VA has to wait 30 days to act on a proposed removal."

Under current law, VA must continue to pay employees who are in the process of being removed. During this advance notice period, at least 30 days from the date that the employee's removal has been

proposed, assuming there is no evidence that the employee has committed a crime, an employee must be paid. If the employee has been assessed as a potential danger to Veterans, the employee should be placed on administrative leave with pay. If employees do not pose an immediate threat to Veterans, they are typically placed on administrative duties, which limits their contact with Veterans and their families while ensuring they aren't sitting at home collecting a pay check without providing any services to the government.

VA is grateful that Congress has made employee accountability a

priority. VA has been working with Congress to ensure legislation would provide VA the ability to expedite removals while still preserving an employee's right to due process. Without these legislative changes, VA will continue to be forced to delay immediate actions to remove employees from federal service.

"Current legislation in Congress reduces the amount of time we have to wait before taking action," Shulkin said. "I look forward to working with both the Senate and the House to ensure final legislation gives us the flexibility we need."

## Veteran witnessed changes in attitude, policy toward women marines

By Jerri Donohue

**W**hen Elva Pounders and five other women Marines arrived in Iwakuni, Japan in 1967, Japanese civilians expected them to be 7-feet tall and built like sumo wrestlers.

Although male Marines had spread this rumor, the American women quickly developed a friendly relationship with the Japanese, and hosted picnics and volleyball games for them. The female Marines got along with their male colleagues, too.

"You had to show respect to get respect," Pounders said.

She ignored raunchy comments and she didn't laugh at off-color jokes.

"What you consider sexual harassment today is what we put up with all the time," Pounders said.

She never felt physically intimidated by her co-workers, who treated her like a sister.

Pounders had decided to enlist while living in St. Petersburg, Flor-

ida in 1960. When she called her parents in Akron to tell them, her father vehemently objected. He claimed that women in military service were "lesbians or prostitutes." Pounders, who didn't even know what "lesbian" meant, persevered with her intention to join the Marines.

She wasn't 21 years old, the required age back then for women to enlist without parental permission. The Marines sent a recruiter to her parents' home and her father wordlessly signed the papers.

Pounders described her physical training as "sissy boot camp" compared to today's standards. On the other hand, she learned a lot from long-time Marines of both genders.

"I had the good fortune of knowing the old NCO staff and officers, from World War II and Korea," she said.

The Akronite received a supply MOS and eventually attended

NCO school in Quantico, Virginia. At one time or another during her 30-year career, she was stationed at Camp Lejeune and in Philadelphia, San Diego, Albany, Georgia and El Toro, California. She always investigated local attractions and visited nearby cities.

"I wanted to see and do everything I could," she said.

On a visit to Los Angeles, she and some friends got trapped inside a celebrity mausoleum.

"I hadn't had map reading yet," Pounders said.

While stationed in Japan, she made two trips to Vietnam to deliver supplies. She was disappointed when she couldn't meet her brother, a civilian who was working there.

Pounders witnessed positive changes in the Marine Corps. When she enlisted, for example, women were discharged if they married. Later, married women stayed un-

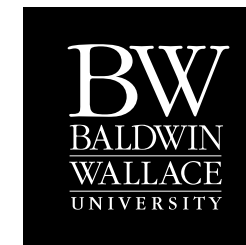
less they became pregnant. Male Marines claimed civilian wives as dependents, but women Marines could not claim civilian husbands. All that changed over time.

Elva Pounders retired in 1990. A 2008 Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame inductee, she has spent her retirement years visiting shut-in vets, serving on the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee on Women Veterans and volunteering at VA medical facilities and for Summit County's Stand Down for homeless veterans.

She doesn't regret her decision to leave the Marines to help her elderly, sick parents. They died within two weeks of one another.

By then, her father's attitude toward her military service had changed completely.

"My Dad was so proud of me," Pounders said.



## VETERAN + STUDENT



Are you ready to continue your education?

**BW offers a great adult learning community and all the resources of one of "America's Best Colleges."**

- Choose from programs for bachelor degree completion, accelerated BSN, Physician Assistant, MBA, or MAEd.
- Classes are offered in Berea and at Corporate College East. Some courses are available online.
- Your DD214 gives you up to 25 hours of college credit. Other military training and previous college credit may count toward degree requirements.
- **Post 9/11 Veterans:** BW is proud to be part of the Yellow Ribbon program. Your G.I. Bill benefits may make your BW education **tuition free!**

**Contact an admission counselor today!**  
Go to [www.bw.edu/military](http://www.bw.edu/military) or call 440-826-8012.

Baldwin Wallace does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, age, disability, national origin, gender or sexual orientation in the administration of any policies or programs.

## Elyria designer lends talent to veterans' homes

By Jerri Donohue

DesAnn Collins presented decorating tips on several Cleveland television programs. She addressed a national meeting of the Society of Professional Decorators, and her own house appeared in the pages of Christmas at Designers' Homes Across America by Katharine McMillan and Patricia McMillan.

But the owner of Design by DesAnn, a business specializing in design, home-staging and one-day decorating, cites a volunteer project among the greatest rewards of her career: she helped prepare homes for veterans in economically depressed Taylor, Michigan.

Collins had already worked with her friend, Terry Grahl, founder of Enchanted Makeovers, to transform shelters into beautiful, comfortable spaces. Then, in 2013 the mayor of Taylor and the Home Depot Foundation approached Grahl about refurbishing abandoned houses to accommodate two veterans and

their families. Collins, whose cousin was a radioman in Vietnam, agreed to be Grahl's assistant.

Home Depot employees tackled major jobs in the first house, such as roof repair and floor installation. Grahl already had many needed furnishings, and Collins controlled the Salvation Army and similar stores for others. When the team failed to find a business willing to donate mattresses, Collins and her husband bought them.

The night before the family saw their new home, Collins stayed up until 3 o'clock in the morning reshaping dining room chairs.

Despite her fatigue, the designer was thrilled the next day when she met the recipients - a decorated Vietnam veteran and his wife. The couple had raised four daughters,



DesAnn Collins

adopted two special needs children and been foster parents to 29 kids.

Collins cleared her schedule to return to Michigan and prepare the second house. As word spread, more people wanted to help however they could. Members of the carpenters union pitched

a garden center donated a lawn tractor and a woman sewed an exquisite quilt.

"What we saw was that so many people want to do something," Collins said. "But no one's ever asked them."

The team learned about the recipients, a former Marine who had served in Afghanistan, his wife and daughter. To personalize the house as much as possible, they blended in the décor the wife's fascination with owls and the veteran's admiration for Ronald Reagan.

Collins also made uniform-size copies of photos borrowed from relatives. She placed these pictures of the little girl within "frames" created by an old ladder hung horizontally above the sofa. When the family entered the house for the first time, the child's mother gasped when she spotted this special touch.

Since that project, Collins has continued in her role as chapter leader for Enchanted Makeovers in the state of Ohio, delivering pillowcases, handmade dolls and capes to shelter residents here. In addition, she promoted Habitat for Humanity's Restore by exclusively using its merchandise in one of the organization's houses.

Collins described her daily wake-up ritual.

"I asked God to help me help somebody that day," she said. She hopes this will lead to assisting more veterans in the future.

"I have been wanting to do so much here," Collins said.

## The 112th engineers and the 37th division in the Great War, 1917-1918

By JC Sullivan

"On board the U.S.S. Leviathan 5th day out of Brest, France. Due to land Friday, April 25th, 1919. I will send a telegram if I get a chance so you will no doubt know of my arrival by the time you get this card. The Statue of Liberty sure will look good."

The Red Cross supplied the postcard to Corporal John Francis Adams, 112th Engineers, 37th (Buckeye) Division on which he wrote the above note. He would be finally be home at last after having survived the terrible heat at El Paso, Texas on the Mexican Border and the trenches of World War One in France and Belgium.

The 37th had initially sailed on the \*U.S.S. Leviathan out

of Hoboken, New Jersey on June 15, 1918, debarking in France on June 23rd. When they moved to the front it was to the Baccarat Sector and 'No Man's Land' where patrols captured Germans and built Observation Posts for sniping. The tranquility in this so-called "quiet sector" consisted of barages against attacks and fighting them off with machine gun fire, automatic rifle fire, bayonets and hand grenades. Daily reconnaissance flights by German planes were combated with anti-aircraft artillery.

The 112th Engineers "built dugouts, observations stations, wire entanglements, dug trenches, constructed machine gun emplacements and a myriad

of other activities, constructing fifty-seven in all.

On August 6th they suffered their first casualty. Sergeant Frank I. Knack was "killed by fire from machine guns while making a personal reconnaissance of a trench." He was their first casualty but not their last.

Although the war had raged in Europe for many years before Americans arrived, our participation was during 1917-1918. In the period of September 22 to November 18th the Division lost 3,305 casualties in the Avocourt Sector, Meuse-Argonne and Ypres-Lys offensive.

In 1919, with much excitement and anticipated joy upon seeing him again, the Sullivan and Adams families gathered at

the Union Depot railroad station for the return of Clevelanders and other returning 37th Division soldiers. As the throng of happy families thinned out, Corporal Adams was nowhere to be found. Both families were to learn he was in a Virginia hospital recovering from pneumonia, a possible survivor of the Great Flu Epidemic of 1918-1919 that killed an estimated 675,000 Americans. One of its victims was six-year old Catherine "Kitty" Sullivan, Corporal Adams niece.

Sullivan, a widely-published writer, is a regular contributor to DD 214 Chronicle, and a U.S. Army 2nd Armored Division veteran who served stateside and in Europe. He resides in Northfield Village.



## LORAIN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

### 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, and food or personal items.

The commission considers household income, living expenses, available assets, medical expenses, and the special needs of each applicant when determining eligibility.

The Veteran must have been discharged under honorable conditions and must have served on active duty for purposes other than training. Applicant must be a resident of Lorain County for 90 days prior to application.



### TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided to and from the VA Medical Facilities in Wade Park & Parma and the VA Clinic in Lorain. Availability is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

A morning shuttle is available to Wade Park & Parma. The wheelchair accessible van and home pick-ups are provided for appointments at the VA Clinic in Lorain ONLY. **CALL 440.284.4624**

### VETERAN ID CARD

THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS • 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

• REQUIREMENTS •  
HONORABLE DISCHARGE or  
UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS  
RESIDENT OF LORAIN COUNTY  
DD214 • VALID STATE PHOTO ID

**440.284.4625**

### VA CLAIMS ASSISTANCE

Our Veterans Service Officer's hold accreditation through the Ohio Department of Veterans Services and the National Association of Veterans Service Officers. They are the duty experts on the claims process and serve as your liaison to the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

VSO's also assist Veteran's in obtaining their DD 214 (discharge papers), applying for reissue of medals and a high school diploma for wartime Veterans.

The Veteran must provide their DD 214, proof of residency and other vital documents such as marriage and birth certificates, divorce decree, custody papers, verification of household income as required for financial assistance and VA claims assistance.

[www.LorainCountyVeterans.com](http://www.LorainCountyVeterans.com)



## 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).



800.707.8922 | [hospicewr.org](http://hospicewr.org)

# A long way home

“We love all the guys here,” said James Johnson, Program Director at Community Service Alliance, “but there is nothing we love more than a success story. Michael Gaines is that success story.”

Michael is like any of us, he is originally from Toledo. He describes his upbringing as a comfortable one, where he was spoiled rotten as an only child. Michael had a good career as an Army medic stationed in Hawaii, but he got divorced the same year that he got out of the service. A number of personal problems and a battle with alcohol caused Michael’s life to spiral out of control until he found himself at 2100 Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry’s Men’s Shelter.

“I knew of James Johnson, when I was down at 2100 Men’s Shelter,” says Michael. “I wanted to take the accelerated course so I could be moved through much faster. But, James stuck to his guns and I was placed on a list for housing, and had to prove myself first.

“Community Service Alliance gave me my life back at a pace that allowed me to take the time I needed to work on many other issues in addition to substance abuse – including child support, financial issues, and emotional issues, too.

“I was offered a place at Fulton house for Veterans where I lived for close to a year. It was comfortable and felt like home. Then I moved to Sandy’s House and I knew it was



Tim Gleason, Executive Director, Community Service Alliance, James Johnson, Program Director, Community Service Alliance and Michael Gaines. The support and understanding Michael received at Community Service Alliance changed his life.

going to be the right place for me while I continued with my recovery.”

“The whole program is designed to help men transition out of homelessness who have baggage, and work with them individually and allow them, at their pace, to rebuild and realize their potential,” said James Johnson. “A lot of these gray hairs belong to Michael. We would have many conversations, and our plan and God’s plan is entirely different. To me, watching an individual with the desire to change and the willingness to do what it takes to achieve it, is courageous. You just get out of the way and watch the miracle happen.”

Michael said he received lots of encouragement and felt that the staff had a genuine interest in his

well-being and cared about him. “I’ve seen first-hand the difference the right support can make. This is the best place that I know in the city of Cleveland to give a guy a chance, to work at a gradual pace to get himself back together. While living here, I met some amazing people, and we were all on different journeys with different experiences but together, we became our own sort of family and it became our home. I am an only child, so I look at these guys like older brothers. We always looked out for one another. This was family.”

Tim Gleason, Executive Director at Community Service Alliance said, “We provide housing. And, we have three houses. But when we look at it from the men’s prospec-

tive, from the guys who live here, it’s not a house, it’s a home. When I think of home, I think of warmth, comfort, nurturing, safety and all those things that define a real home. The one word that Michael used was family when he spoke of his experience here. At all three of our houses, we have families that are living in a home. They care for one another, they support one another. Living at Procop House, you have 21 other brothers, at Fulton House you have 12 other brothers, and at Sandy’s House you have five other brothers. And, as Michael said, they care for one another, they look out for one another, they help one another. At the end of the day, from my perspective, that’s all that matters. That’s what makes what we do so valuable.”

“Community West Foundation has been part of our success since our inception. We have benefited from your generosity and we couldn’t do what we do without you. We couldn’t be the home for guys like Michael without that support. So it’s unbelievably generous and we are so grateful,” added Tim Gleason.

Michael now lives in his own place, and he says, “It’s all thanks to the staff at Community Service Alliance for the belief that they put into people, like me, to rebuild our lives.” Michael now has a roof over his head and a place he can call home.

For more information on Fulton House for veterans, please call Community Service Alliance at 216-351-0655 or visit [comservealliance.org](http://comservealliance.org)

PLEASE SUPPORT  
OUR ADVERTISERS

They Support You



“In war,  
the heroes  
outnumber  
the soldiers  
ten to one.”

– H.L. Menken



## \$3 MILLION RAISED

For the past four years, the Greater Cleveland Fisher House taskforce has worked tirelessly to meet the \$3 million dollar fundraising goal in order to break ground on the very first Greater Cleveland Fisher Houses. At the very heart of our program, Fisher Houses offer a “home away from home,” a place where families can stay and support their loved ones – at no cost – while they receive specialized military hospital/VA medical care. These houses allow the patients and families to focus on what’s most important, the healing process. In addition to our houses, the Fisher House Foundation has several other initiatives including our Hero Miles program, Hotels for Heroes and providing scholarships to military children and spouses. Through your generosity, we are proud to announce that CLEVELAND, OHIO will be home to the next Fisher Houses, serving the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center. Thank you Cleveland, your generosity means bringing our heroes home.

We encourage you to find out more about the Fisher House program by visiting us online at [www.greaterclevelandfisherhouse.org](http://www.greaterclevelandfisherhouse.org) or by calling (440) 377-0067.



THANK YOU  
Cleveland

# VA secretary makes strides to improve veterans experience

SELECTS LYNDA DAVIS, PHD, AS CHIEF VETERANS EXPERIENCE OFFICER

**WASHINGTON** — In an effort to elevate the Veterans Experience Office (VEO), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David J. Shulkin, today announced the appointment of Lynda Davis, PhD, as Chief Veterans Experience Officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

VEO is dedicated to capturing, sharing and improving the experience of all those using the care and benefits of the VA. VEO listens to the voice of Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors — aimed at enhancing their access to care, benefits and services. The Chief Veterans Experience Officer advises the Secretary and other senior leaders in VA to ensure the unique needs of

Veterans and their families remain the ultimate focus of VA's modernization efforts.

"It is critical that we create a seamless Veteran experience across the entire organization," said Secretary Shulkin. "VA must proactively engage Veterans and their families to ensure their voices are heard. Lynda brings the energy and expertise to develop Veteran-centric solutions that will allow VA to build trust with Veterans and the American public."

Dr. Davis has a wealth of experience serving the nation's Veterans, their families, as well as caregivers and survivors. Before joining VA, she served as: deputy undersecretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy; deputy assistant secretary for Military Personnel Policy for the Department of the Navy; the designated lead for the joint Department of Defense and VA response to the recommendations of Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors under President Bush; and executive vice president of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, where she was executive director of the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network.

"It is an honor to continue my service to our Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors, as the leader of the Veterans Experience Office," Dr. Davis said. "As a former Army officer and the mother of a Veteran, I am thrilled to be able to support Secretary Shulkin's efforts to make VA the organization our Veterans and their families deserve. Through state-of-the-art technology and innovative solutions, we can ensure Veterans are consistently provided a high-quality experience that earns their trust."

Secretary Shulkin added, "We need fresh ideas and strong leadership throughout the organization to modernize VA. Lynda is a trusted leader in the Veterans community and will elevate the Veterans Experience office to a new level."

Secretary Shulkin added, "We need fresh ideas and strong leadership throughout the organization to modernize VA. Lynda is a trusted leader in the Veterans community and will elevate the Veterans Experience office to a new level."

Secretary Shulkin added, "We need fresh ideas and strong leadership throughout the organization to modernize VA. Lynda is a trusted leader in the Veterans community and will elevate the Veterans Experience office to a new level."

## Tri-C awarded federal grant to help train military veterans for jobs as commercial truck and bus drivers

COLLEGE PROGRAM IS ONE OF 13 IN NATION TO RECEIVE FUNDING

By John Horton

**EUCLID** — Federal transportation officials today announced that Cuyahoga Community College will receive a \$195,000 federal grant to help train veterans and their families for jobs as commercial bus and truck drivers.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) awarded nearly \$2.3 million to 13 technical and community colleges across the country. That's double the amount allocated in 2014.

"One of the most important, fastest growing employment sectors

is for qualified commercial vehicle drivers, and veterans bring invaluable experience to the industry and can enter the workforce quickly," U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said.

The funding is provided through FMCSA's Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training (CMV-OST) grant program, which was established in 2005 to help reduce crashes involving trucks and buses on U.S. roadways.

The grants go to a variety of educational institutions that provide truck driving training. Tri-C's Truck Driving Academy — located at Heritage Business Park in Euclid — was the only program in Ohio to receive funding this year.

Tri-C expects to graduate more than 140 students this academic year.

For more information on the program, call 216-987-3226 or visit [www.tri-c.edu/truckdriving](http://www.tri-c.edu/truckdriving)



Treating their wounded, enemy physicians and nurses worked under unimaginable conditions

# From: The Ohio Department of Veterans Services

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN VETERANS

### OUR MISSION

Since 1994, the Advisory Committee on Women has served to, "locate, educate, and advocate for all women veterans who served in the United States military."

The committee is dedicated to outreach through various initiatives including the creation of an informational web site, the organization of a statewide women veterans' conference, and the promotion of benefits and superior health care for women veterans.

The committee serves as a focal point of information for all women veterans. The committee acts as a liaison and advocate on behalf of

women veterans with state legislators, veterans affairs administrators and country veteran service offices.

Members of the committee ensure programs and policies of the Department of Veterans Affairs remain open to women and are mindful of those elements of the veteran experience unique to women.

### TOGETHER WE CAN ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS

The committee is made up of 13 women veterans representing all eras and branches of service. Each member is responsible for specific regions in the state and recruits volunteers to assist her in regional outreach.

### CONTACT

Ohio Department of Veterans Services  
Advisory Committee for Women Veterans  
77 South High Street  
7th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Email: [karen.kish@dvs.ohio.gov](mailto:karen.kish@dvs.ohio.gov)  
Phone: (614) 752-8941  
Fax: (614) 728-4809  
[www.ohiovet.gov](http://www.ohiovet.gov)

and address their concerns with committee members. Community outreach programs allow the committee to inform school children, business leaders, educators and legislators about the important role women play in our Armed Forces.

VA Hospital visits allow women on the committee to interact and network with VA women veteran program managers and get a first-hand look at the health care process.

If you are interested in participating in any of these events or volunteering to help with an outreach program in your region, please call our main office.

### THE OHIO WOMEN VETERANS ROSTER

There are more than 67,500 women veterans living in Ohio. An initiative of the committee is to identify by name and address as many women veterans as possible so information about benefits, conferences, and resources is readily available and accessible.

The Ohio Women Veterans Roster is an informational bridge connecting women veterans with the committee and its resources. The roster is strictly confidential and used solely as a link of information among Ohio's women veterans.

Committee members encourage women to identify themselves and to stand up to be counted for their roll in defense of this great nation.

Informational sessions and local town hall meetings allow women veterans to come together to identify

### We provide two basic services:

1. Temporary emergency financial aid and assistance to eligible veterans and family members who have demonstrated a need as set forth by the Commission.
2. Assist veterans, family members and survivors when applying to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for benefits.

### Our assistance includes but is not limited to:

- Financial Assistance:
- Rent and mortgage payments
- Utilities: Gas, Electric and Water
- Food and personal Hygiene items
- Certain Medical
- Transportation to and from VA Medical Centers in Cleveland (Wade Park), Parma and Akron, Ohio
- Grave markers and flags
- Free Notary for Veterans & Families

### Service Assistance:

- Preparations of forms and paperwork
- Documentation of claims and pertinent data
- Proper submission of claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs thru a service organization
- Submission for awards decorations and medals
- Notary Public & DD 214 Certification

Watch us on YouTube

Our services are FREE of charge!

Like us on Facebook



We'd like to thank all of our Veterans and Military for their on-going sacrifices to ensure our way of life shall never perish from this earth. May God Bless you and may we remember those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice during this Memorial Day.

### Contact us:

210 Northland Dr. - Medina, Ohio 44256  
[veterans@medinacountyveterans.org](mailto:veterans@medinacountyveterans.org)  
[www.medinacountyveterans.org](http://www.medinacountyveterans.org)

**I Understand Your Benefits. Let's Get You A New Home!**


**Regan Longstreet**  
Army Veteran  
Mobile: 216-205-9973  
Fax: 440-331-2840  
[reganlongstreet@yahoo.com](mailto:reganlongstreet@yahoo.com)

**Rath Realtors**  
ERA REAL ESTATE


★  
WALSH UNIVERSITY

## FREE Tuition For Veterans\*


*Serving those that Served our Country*




**For Six Straight Years, Walsh Has Been Recognized as a Military Friendly School**




**Yellow Ribbon Program Partner**




**Military Tuition Discounts**




**Early Registration Options for Veterans**



**Book Vouchers**  
*(to help defray the cost of texts)*



**WALSH UNIVERSITY**  
*A Catholic University of Distinction*



*\*For those that qualify*

**For more information, contact Zachary Burkey at 330.490.7650 or [zburkey@walsh.edu](mailto:zburkey@walsh.edu).**

★

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**  
[facebook.com/DD214Chronicle](https://facebook.com/DD214Chronicle)

## AN EMOTIONAL VACATION TRIP

### This summer, I'm going to visit the Memorial. And I'll bring an extra handkerchief

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a 2-acre national memorial in Washington, DC. It honors U.S. service members of the U.S. armed forces who fought in the Vietnam War, service members who died in service in Vietnam/South East Asia, and those service members who were unaccounted for (Missing In Action) during the War. Its construction and related issues have been the source of controversies, some of which have resulted in additions to the memorial complex. The memorial currently consists of three separate parts: the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, completed first and the best-known part of the memorial; the Three Servicemen Memorial, and the Vietnam Women's Memorial. The main part of the memorial, which was completed in 1982, is in Constitution Gardens adjacent to the National Mall, just northeast of the Lincoln Memorial. The memorial is maintained by the U.S. National Park Service, and receives around 3 million visitors each year. The Memorial Wall was designed by American architect Maya Lin. In 2007, it was ranked tenth on the "List of America's Favorite Architecture" by the American Institute of Architects. As a National Memorial, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Mailing Address:** 900 Ohio Drive SW  
Washington, DC 20024

**Phone:** (202) 426-6841  
General Visitor Inquiries

## Local Ohioans killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan

**Army Sgt. Bryan W. Large**, 31, of Cuyahoga Falls, was killed in Iraq when a bomb exploded near his Humvee. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, based at Fort Bragg, N.C.

**Marine Lance Cpl. Brian Montgomery**, 26, of Willoughby, died in action with his sniper unit in western Iraq. He was assigned to the Headquarters and Service Company 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines based in Brook Park.

**Marine Lance Cpl. Jeff Boskovitch**, 25, of North Royalton, died in action with his sniper unit in western Iraq. He was assigned to the Headquarters and Service Company 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines based in Brook Park.

**Marine Lance Cpl. Thomas O. Keeling**, 23, of Strongsville, died in an explosion in Haqlaniyah, Iraq. He was assigned to the Marine Forces Reserve, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division.

**Marine Cpl. Brad D. Squires**, 26, Middleburg Heights, died in an explosion in Haqlaniyah, Iraq. He was assigned to the Marine Forces Reserve, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division.

**Marine Lance Cpl. Andrew W. Nowacki**, 24, of South Euclid, was killed by a roadside bomb while serving as a gunner on a Humvee that was protecting a truck convoy south of Baghdad. He was assigned to Marine Forces Reserve's 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, based in Erie, Pa.

**Marine Cpl. Timothy A. Knight**, 22, of Brooklyn (Ohio) was killed when his helicopter crashed in a desert sandstorm.

**Army Sgt. Michael C. O'Neill**, 22, of Mansfield, died of injuries received while preparing at Bagram Air Field for combat operations in Afghanistan. He was assigned to the Army's 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, based at Fort Benning, Ga.

**Army Staff Sgt. Elvis Bourdon**, 36, of Youngstown, died during a patrol when his military vehicle came under attack by enemy forces using small-arms fire and grenades. He was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas.

**Army Reserve Pfc. Devin J. Grella**, 21, of Medina, was killed when his convoy was struck by a homemade explosive device. He was a member of the 706th Transportation Company in Mansfield.

**Army Sgt. Daniel Michael Shepherd**, 23, of Elyria, was killed when his M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle hit a homemade bomb. He was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment.

**Army Spc. Joseph M. Garmback Jr.**, 24, of Cleveland, was killed along with four members of his unit during a mortar attack on Iraqi National Guard headquarters in Baghdad. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

**Army Pfc. Samuel Bowen**, 38, of Cleveland, with the 216th Engineer Battalion from Brook Park, was killed in Samarra, Iraq, when a rocket-propelled grenade exploded near his vehicle.

**Army Spc. Charles E. Odums II**, 22, of Sandusky, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. He was killed in Baghdad when a bomb exploded near the patrol.

**Army Pfc. Jesse Buryj**, 21, of Canton, died of injuries he suffered while trying to stop an attack on a checkpoint.

**Marine Cpl. Andrew D. Brownfield**, 24, of Akron. Brownfield, assigned to the Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, Twentynine Palms, Calif., died of injuries suffered in a mortar attack on Al Asad Air Base.

**Army Staff Sgt. Richard P. Ramey**, 27, of Canton. Ramey, assigned to the 703rd Ordnance Company, Fort Knox, Ky., was killed when insurgents attacked Army convoys with explosives in Mahmudiyah.

**Army Spc. Brett T. Christian** of North Royalton, with the 101st Airborne Division. He was killed in Mosul when his convoy came under attack by rocket propelled grenades.

**Army Master Sgt. Robert J. Dowdy**, 38, of Cleveland, with the 507th Maintenance Company.


*Source: U.S. Department of Defense*

# ATTENTION

## VETERANS & DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS

### You May Be Eligible For ASSISTANCE with...

- VA Claims • Disability/Widow Pensions
- Military Records • Memorial Affairs
- Social Work • Rent/Mortgage
- Utility Bills • Food • Clothing and Hygiene
- VA Medical Transportation



**CUYAHOGA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION**

1849 Prospect Ave., Ste 150 | Cleveland, OH 44115

**CALL TOLL FREE: 1-866-915-8387**

1291 PROOF

### DD 214 SUBSCRIPTION FORM

### IF YOU LOVE A VETERAN, GIVE HIM THE GIFT HE DESERVES

<b>1 year</b> (6 issues)    \$12.00		<b>Lifetime</b>
<b>2 year</b> (12 issues)    \$20.00		<b>\$55.00</b>

Send DD 214 Chronicle to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

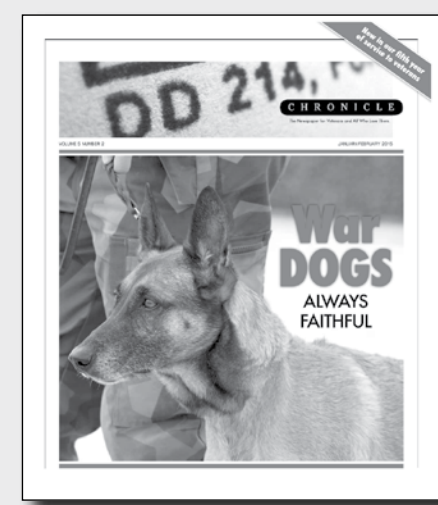
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Send check made out to:

J.H Tidyman  
3280 Glenbar Drive,  
Fairview Park  
Ohio 44126





# Preserving veterans' stories

By Jerri Donohue

Canton resident Robert Weintraub enlisted with two friends the day after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Bob served with the Army Air Force in Africa and Italy. When he returned to the States, this Bronze Star recipient had to stand on a crowded bus from Pittsburg to Canton; no civilian would offer him a seat.

More than 10 years ago, I recorded Bob's experiences for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP). The first veteran I interviewed, Bob is the only one to ask how many interviews I'd already conducted!

Today Bob would be surprised to learn the tally stands at 227 soldiers and sailors, fliers and Marines, submariners and PT-boat skippers, scouts and combat engineers, tankers and truck drivers, nurses and medics, former POWs and downed

airmen who evaded capture. Most were World War II vets.

VHP sets rules and guidelines but volunteers supply their own equipment and locate interviewees. I attended numerous reunions around the country after discovering that being with other veterans calls buried memories to the surface. It is telling that at two separate reunions in 2008, every single man struggled to maintain his composure at some point during the interview. These interviews

Collecting the memories of individual vets serves another worthy purpose. As any wise spouse, parent or friend knows, listening is one of the most loving acts any person can do for another. What better way to acknowledge a veteran's wartime contribution than to request he record it to share with other Americans in a prestigious archive?

In 2009, I interviewed Louis Shearer, a 91-year old who had traveled from Michigan to South Carolina for his first (and only) reunion with members of the 30th Infantry Division. Candid and self-effacing, the draftee gave a memorable interview. His nephew later confided that the highlight of Louie's trip was the knowledge that his recollections went to the Library of Congress, an institution that has existed since 1800. Louie is gone now, but you can still hear him relate his story on the LOC website.

In Buffalo, Philip Fink described his life on the run after being shot down in France. He dodged the Germans with the help of the underground and made his way over the Pyrenees. When Phil died, his family asked me to speak at the memorial service. Then his daughter read

from an autobiography Phil wrote as a grade school student in the 1930s. I cried when I learned Phil had concluded with a wish that one day his story would be in the Library of Congress. How grateful I am that I could help Phil obtain that childhood dream!

These incidents illustrate the real rewards for a volunteer undertaking that has been expensive, time-consuming and often emotionally taxing. Most of all, it has been a labor of love that enriched my life with unexpected friendships. And I will never weary of the memories of these good folks.

You probably wouldn't either, if you're still reading this. Please browse among the hundreds of veterans' interviews at [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets). Your fellow Americans will astound you.

## Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs

### News Releases

VA Modernization Initiative Reduces Processing Time for Veterans' Claims, Saves Future Taxpayer Dollars - WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently started digitizing older, inactive paper records, which will save taxpayer dollars through reduced, leased office-space that currently houses these records. (4/21/17)

VA announces new partnership with Veterans Ambulatory Center Development Corporation (VACDC) - The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is changing the way it does business, demonstrating how government can better meet the needs of Veterans while saving taxpayer dollars at the same time. Instead of moving forward with an out-of-date plan developed in 2011 to build a \$560 million facility, VA will instead be partnering with the Veterans Ambulatory Center Development Corporation (VACDC), a nonprofit based in Omaha, Nebraska, to construct a much needed ambulatory care center (ACC) at the current Omaha VA Medical Center

campus. (4/19/17)

VA explores new Veteran-centric treatments through Center for Compassionate Innovation - WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the launch of the Center for Compassionate Innovation (CCI), which will explore emerging therapies that may enhance Veterans' physical and mental well-being. (4/18/17)

VA Announces Internal Review of Caregiver Program - Today the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that, effective April 17, it has suspended revocations initiated by VA medical centers based on eligibility for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) for three weeks. (4/17/17)

VA Doctor Honored as Chiropractor of the Year by Professional Association - WASHINGTON — Dr. Anthony Lisi, national program director for Chiropractic Services at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), was recently named Chiropractor of the Year Award for 2017 by the American Chiroprac-

tic Association (ACA). (4/13/17)

UPDATE to VA Responds to IG Report on Health Care Inspection at D.C. VA Medical Center - Col. Lawrence Connell U. S. Army (Ret) has been named the Acting Medical Center Director for the D.C. VA Medical Center. (4/12/17)

VA Responds to IG Report on Health-Care Inspection at D.C. VA Medical Center - WASHINGTON — Today, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) released an interim summary report titled Healthcare Inspection – Patient Safety Concerns at the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center (VAMC), Washington, D.C. (4/12/17)

VA Makes Wait Times for Patients Transparent for Veterans: New online tool is first of its kind - WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking unprecedented steps to increase transparency. Today, VA launched a new Access and Quality Tool that provides Veterans with an easy-to-use, easy-to-understand way of accessing patient wait time and quality of care data. This tool not only provides Veterans with

more information about VA services, it increases accountability and ensures VA is held to a higher standard. (4/12/17)

VA Establishes Commission to Recommend New Under Secretary for Its Veterans Health Administration - WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today the establishment of a search commission to help identify candidates for the position of Under Secretary for Health of its Veterans Health Administration (VHA). (4/10/17)

Navy Members Can Now Manage Life Insurance Online - WASHINGTON — Navy members now have the opportunity to enroll or change their Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) online. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) began enrollment for Navy members in the SGLI Online Enrollment System (SOES) on April 5. (4/6/17)

VA Secretary Praises Congress for Extending Choice Program: Calls legislation major step toward increasing access to care - WASHINGTON — Today, following the

*continued on page 18*

# It's Your Future. Get Started Now!

## Veterans Service Center

at Lorain County Community College

The Student Veterans and Military Members Center at LCCC assists all veterans, guardsmen, reservists and their dependents transitioning to a successful educational career. You've done your duty, now let us help you prepare for your future.

LCCC's Veterans Service Center is a one-stop shop where you can:

- Learn how to maximize your veteran's benefits
- 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).



"LCCC was my best choice because I knew there was a military and veterans presence here."

Anna Lupson, Navy veteran and LCCC psychology student who is using her veterans benefits to attend school. She plans to continue her education through LCCC's University Partnership program.

 Lorain County Community College

## A PROUD SUPPORTER OF OUR VETERANS...

The Mission of the Community West Foundation is to advance the health and well being of our community.

JOIN US.

 Community West Foundation  
Illuminating Hope

440-360-7370

[www.communitywestfoundation.org](http://www.communitywestfoundation.org)

# Wet noses and happy wags are helping hundreds of wounded warriors

By Glen Miller

Jason Arnold is among hundreds of veterans wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. He battles PTSD and hypervigilance, and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

He's not alone in his battle. Two dogs, Demon and Mongo, are on his side, and between the three of them, the tide of battle turns. His injuries were sustained in combat and can cause him to become preoccupied with his surroundings. He looks for threats that don't exist.

When it happens, Demon and Mongo gently nudge him, bringing him back to reality.

Arnold is among nearly 400 veterans whose specially-trained dogs have graduated from Wags4Warriors, a non-profit organization started by Army Veteran Frank DeLorenzo and his wife, Jen.

Wags4Warriors started six years ago in the basement of Brecksville American Legion Post 169.

Relocated to a larger Broadview Heights building last year, its mission is to help veterans suffering from PTSD and traumatic brain injury (TBI) sustained in combat. They match veterans with dogs trained to help.

"In a sense, they are rescue dogs for veterans who need rescue from what the horrors of war have done to them," says Jen, who explained



Jason Arnold, Jon Yovanno and Bella, and Dennis Fertelli and Lucy

about 90 percent are canines that themselves have been rescued from shelters.

Wags4Warriors began in 2011, after Frank, an Army veteran suffering from PTSD and TBI, was told he would have to wait three years before he could get a service dog prescribed by a Veterans Administration doctor.

"He was frustrated because there was no service dog organization in the area - nothing," says Jen, who oversees Wags4Warrior's administration.

She feared the dog Frank would bring home might prove suitable for him, but not the DeLorenzo family.

A former firefighter, Frank took a job post with an east side Cleveland veterans service center before being hired as the Army's Wounded Warrior Advocate at the Wade Park VA Medical Center. He soon began looking for a puppy to adopt and bring home.

He also found a service dog trainer for his dog, or so he thought.

"But they ended up training me to train dogs, which was good because that led to what we have now," Frank says.

The DeLorenzo eventually found Sophie, in Richfield, a dog liked by the whole family.

Frank began training her every day after work.

Not long afterward, VA doctors and other veterans started asking Frank about his service dog.

"They welcomed this because, not only was he the first veteran at Wade Park with a PTSD service dog, he was also the first employee to have a service dog," explains Jen. "Higher up VA officials were recommending service dogs, but until then, nobody at Wade Park had any first-hand knowledge or contact resources."

Frank has since left his VA post to concentrate on Wags4Warriors, which serves Ohio and out-of-state veterans. The veterans take adopted dogs through training.

The DeLorenzos work with several local animal rescue groups. They first seek compatibility between dogs and veterans.

There is no charge to a veteran. The cost of paying for training, equipment, rent, and other expenses is paid for by donations.

The DeLorenzos say the cost of training service dogs elsewhere can be more than \$30,000, but with donations, Wags4Warriors volunteer trainers can train a dog for as little as \$2,500.

For information on donations, contact Wags4Warriors.org

continued from page 16

U.S. Senate's passage by unanimous consent last week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that extends the Veterans Choice Program (VCP) until the funding dedicated to the program is exhausted. The VCP is a critical program that increases access to care for millions of Veterans. Without this legislation, the ability to use VCP funding would have ended abruptly on Aug. 7 of this year. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin released the following statement of support: (4/5/17)

VA Secretary Makes Strides to Im-

prove Veterans Experience: Selects Lynda Davis, PhD, as Chief Veterans Experience Officer - WASHINGTON — In an effort to elevate the Veterans Experience Office (VEO), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David J. Shulkin, today announced the appointment of Lynda Davis, PhD, as Chief Veterans Experience Officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). (4/4/17)

VA national cemeteries to commemorate World War I centennial - WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) announced its cemeteries will

host wreath-laying ceremonies the week of April 6 to commemorate the 353,082 World War I Veterans interred in VA sites across the country. (4/4/17)

VA REACH VET Initiative Helps Save Veterans Lives: Program Signals When More Help Is Needed for At-risk Veterans - WASHINGTON — Suicide prevention is one of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) highest priorities. As part of VA's commitment to put resources, services and all technology available to reduce Veteran suicide, VA has launched an innovative program called Recovery Engage-

ment and Coordination for Health - Veterans Enhanced Treatment (REACH VET). (4/3/17)

VA Awards Grants to Develop Technology to Help Veterans, Service Members Modify Homes - WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today the awarding of \$599,802 in Specially Adapted Housing Assistive Technology (SAHAT) Grants to eligible individuals, researchers and organizations to develop new technology that may enhance Veterans' and service members' ability to live in a specially adapted home. (4/3/17)

# Ducks, geese, and peacocks (no kidding) roam the grounds

THE OHIO VETERANS HOME IN SANDUSKY

By John H. Tidyman, editor



There are a couple Ohio Veterans Homes, one in Sandusky and one in Georgetown, outside Cincinnati. We don't know about the Georgetown facility, but we know plenty about the Sandusky home because we've been there many times; visiting friends and relatives. (We believe the Georgetown facility is every bit as good as the one in Sandusky.)

Do you know about it? We knew very little until a brother moved there. A nerve disease took his mobility and he used a wheelchair the rest of his life.

Brother Robert was the right person to talk

with about the Home. He was grateful the Home was there, and so pleased with the services, he bragged about the staff. The friends he made there grieved when he left for the Big Barracks in the Sky.

Little wonder. He fixed their computers, discussed everything from Plato to Nixon, represented them as an elected member of council, and smiled far more often than he frowned.

He enjoyed the food served there, but every so often, he drove his electric wheelchair across the street and

grabbed a pizza.

When I visited, he would bring out his humidior and we would enjoy cigars in the smoking room.

He loved visits from his three boys, his five brothers and sisters, and friends. He hosted a Thanksgiving dinner every year.

His favorite brother? That would be Sweet Baby James, who built a computer desk in Robert's room. Sweet Baby lived in Vermont and at night the two chewed the fat on Skype.

Some background on the Home should be a

source of pride for all Buckeyes. Established in 1886 first as the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, local leaders such as Commander R.B. Brown; Isaac Mack Foster, editor of the Sandusky Registrar; and Ohio Governor Joseph B. Foraker helped to establish the Home to support an aging Civil War veteran population.

August Spies, who chronicled its history through photography in the early 20th century, said the Home was "not necessarily a home for paupers, but [made] for those who at a time of dire need, extended their help, lives and heroism."

**To be eligible for admission into the Ohio Veterans Homes, the applicant must meet the following criteria:**

1. The applicant must have been a resident of Ohio for one year during their lifetime.
2. The applicant's most recent discharge must show that he/she is an honorably discharged or separated under honorable conditions veteran of the United States Armed Forces.
3. The applicant must have served on active duty (other than for training) during a period of war or declared armed conflict or have been a recipient of the Purple Heart, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Vietnam Service Medal.
4. The applicant must have a disability due to disease, wounds or otherwise, and are, by reason of such disability, incapable of earning a living.

# GROWING STRONGER COMMUNITIES.



We're putting down deep roots and giving  
back to the communities we serve.



We think it's only natural to cultivate meaningful relationships in the communities where we live and work. And at Dominion, that means we do more than write checks. So while we're very proud to invest more than \$20 million in our communities annually, we're even prouder of Dominion's employees for

volunteering over 130,000 hours of their time. From refurbishing homeless shelters to replenishing local food banks to cleaning up parks to helping soldiers and their families, we're donating the most precious resource of all: our energy. Learn more by visiting [dom.com/foundation](http://dom.com/foundation).

