

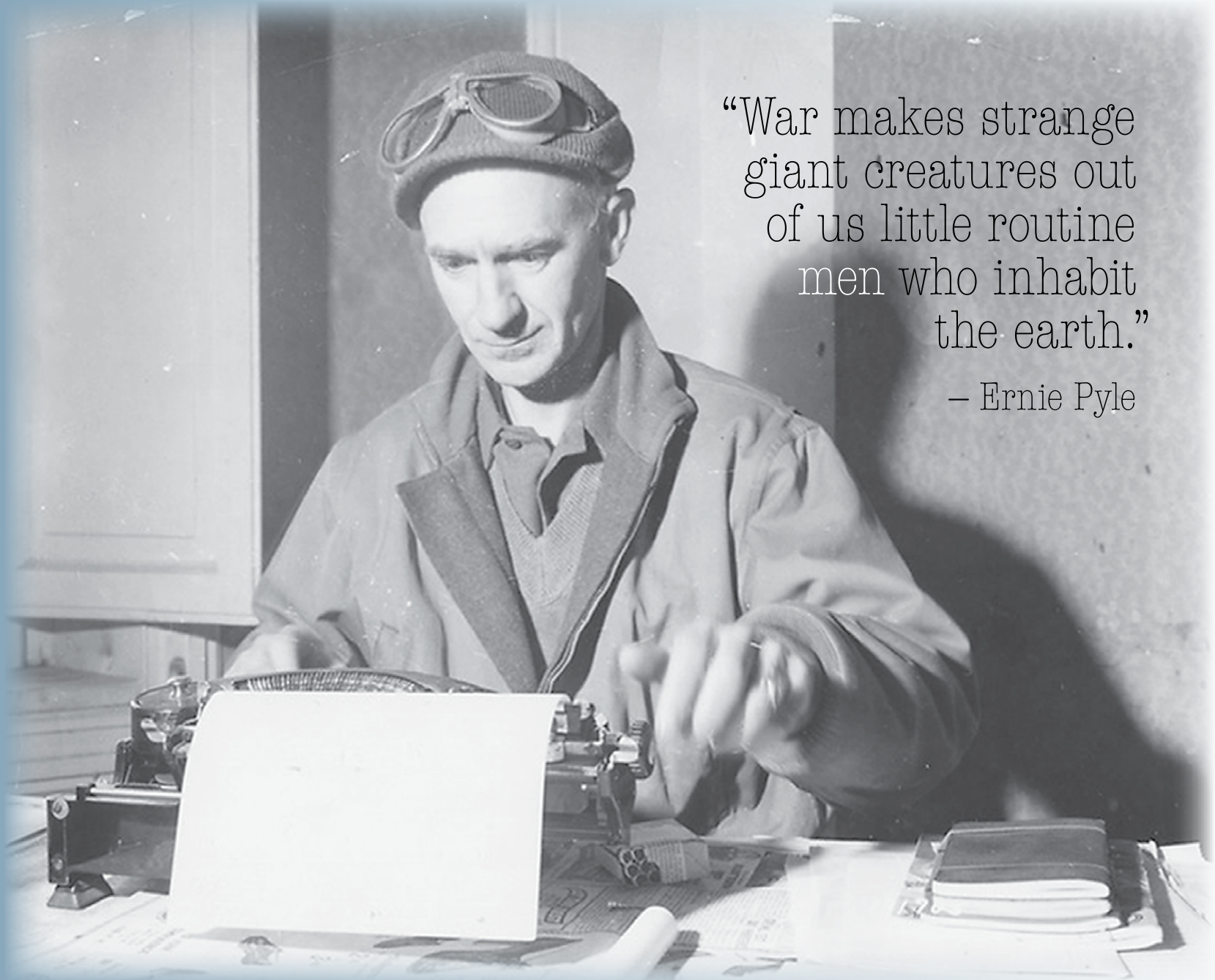


CHRONICLE

The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 4

MAY/JUNE 2018



“War makes strange
giant creatures out
of us little routine
men who inhabit
the earth.”

– Ernie Pyle

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Tri-C's Annual Memorial Day Remembrance Event

May 25, 2018

Western Campus
11000 Pleasant Valley Road
Parma, OH



This event is part of the Dominion Energy Ohio and Tri-C Military Community Outreach Series.

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



See Amherst Memorial p.10

UNIFORM OF THE DAY

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The Wages of War are Pain and Confusion.

Always have been, always will be. It's just the way we are.

Going to war has been man's unquenchable thirst for thousands and thousands of years; not likely it will ever end.

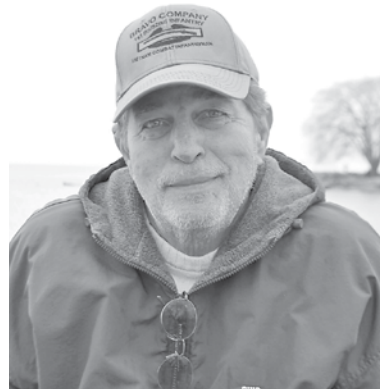
Given history and the present, it seems investing in companies that produce and profit from the engines of war is all the investment advice one needs.

The world even produced a rule book on behavior during war: The Geneva Conventions. It was not the first such attempt, but it was the most recent.

In Deuteronomy 20:10-12, the Israelites were told:

When you draw near to a city to fight against it, offer terms of peace to it. And if it responds to you peaceably and it opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall do forced labor for you and shall serve you. But if it makes no peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it.

A bit out of character – the Bible counselling military leaders. Just more evidence that war will always



be part of man's character.

If history, the Bible, and the Geneva Conventions accept war, who am I to believe in peace? The odds are clearly against me.

Often I wonder about dead troopers and their families. I am able to wonder, instead of remember, because my family has lost none to battle.

Who remembers a family member cut down on the field of battle, who will be forever young? And dead. Friends and families

of our dead never forget. A slash in every heart remains an open wound.

We accommodate war with gestures that are trivial and nonsensical: We provide military honors, a casket draped with our flag, military officers to comfort the survivors, the soulful rendition of Taps played on a single bugle, and present a folded flag to the weeping family.

The ceremony suggests dying in battle is a good and honorable way to leave Planet Earth.

The ghosts at the Wall disagree. Me, I believe when you are dead, there is nothing. Yet I believe in the many ghosts at the Wall. My first visit to the Wall proved it to me.

On first stepping onto the grounds, I began weeping uncontrollably. No thought, no memory. I believe with my first steps, the ghosts were putting their arms around me. I could not stop weeping. Neither could the ghosts.



The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

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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.

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HEADLINES and CHRONICLE COMMENTS

Mike Pence Suggests Legal Abortions in U.S. Could End 'In Our Time'
Also suggests end of rock-n-roll, Facebook, high school proms, and fish fries during Lent.

Man convicted of killing carnival boss executed in Alabama
Sat on by the Fat Lady.

Dentist who killed Cecil the lion scared new book will make him a target
A good reason to visit this dentist with concealed carry.

Marco Rubio slams teens as 'infected' by arrogance and boasting as his approval ratings plummet.
Can you say, "Hubris?" I knew that you could.

Woman En Route to Her Wedding Arrested for DUI
Told the arresting officer that the chauffeur was too drunk to drive.



President Donald Trump Suggests Death Penalty for Drug Dealers
Stipulates that Botox is not a drug.

Vatican rolls out exorcism training course to counter rise in 'demonic possessions'
Scholarships available.

Famous women you didn't know were Girl Scouts
Caitlin Jenner?

Missouri defends 241-year prison sentence for 16-year-old
Argues that with good behavior she could get out in 120 years.

Judge admits to stealing neighbor's underwear
This was part of a plea bargain arrangement for also admitting he pissed his name in the neighbor's snow, wrote "Wash Me" on the rear window of neighbor's dirty car, and fed the neighbor's dog Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, "just to see what would happen."

"Faith is a Beam Radiating from the Face of God."
— St. John Paul II

Community West Foundation
2017 Annual Report

Extra! Extra! Read All About It! Announcing the Community West Foundation Annual Report

The Community West Foundation's 2017 Annual Report is complete and the publication takes a look back at our wonderful community that helped to shape its inspiring theme, Faith in Action.

There is nothing like putting your Faith in Action! Just ask the Foundation's many Faith in Action exemplars - from its donors, board members, nonprofit partners, volunteers, to the SocksPlus supporters, all uniquely impacting and serving our community in so many positive ways.

The report is packed with information about the achievements over the last year including the news that Community West Foundation provided a total of \$4.8 million in grants - \$2,991,167 to support our community, and \$1,852,790 for programs at Fairview Hospital, Lutheran Hospital, and Regional Hospitals.

In addition, the Donor Advisor family and agencies shared \$808,637 to benefit a wide range of charitable causes.

Thanks to the generosity of thoughtful donors and friends, in 2017 the Foundation raised \$10,791,473 in donations, which is a great testament to the faith of our community.

There exist many unmet needs, poverty and homelessness within our community, and these issues are at the forefront of concern and work at Community West Foundation to serve "the least of these."

The Foundation's focus continues to help our brothers and sisters in need, because behind every gracious gift they receive are the inspiring stories of Faith in Action.

Read All About the Community Foundation at www.communitywestfoundation.org/2017-annual-report



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Cuyahoga Community College: Where Veterans are Welcomed

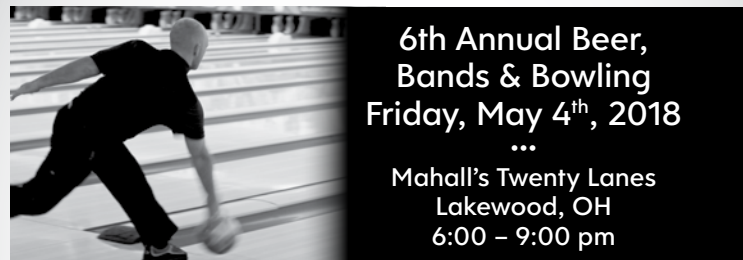
Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) has welcomed veterans and military affiliates for more than 50 years. More than 700 of these individuals are currently being

served at each of the College's four campus locations. Tri-C has been named a Military Friendly School for the ninth consecutive year, and it ranks



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All proceeds from the events support housing, job assistance, and personal support for Veterans and other men transitioning from poverty and homelessness to independence and self-sufficiency.



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second in the nation among community colleges. This honor is reflected in the services available for incoming student veterans, military affiliates and their families.

Veteran Services personnel are available to assist not only during the transition from military to civilian life, but also as veterans choose to further their education later in their careers. Support includes step-by-step guidance on enrolling at Tri-C and using GI benefits or other forms of financial aid.

In addition, the Veterans Education Access Program (VEAP) provides free opportunities for students to rediscover their academic skills. Some choose formal classroom experiences, while others opt for tutoring services. Either way, the program offers a chance to refresh skills and explore educational options from short-term workforce certifications to careers that require a two-year degree.

RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- Library on combat trauma
- Primary documents on 20th- and 21st-century warfare (both home front and battlefield)
- Bound multi-volume Cleveland Press clips on WWII
- Artifacts from WWI to the present

Visit www.tri-c.edu/crile-archive for more information.

Tri-C also hosts veteran-friendly events. VEAP holds monthly meetings at the Metropolitan Campus, where students are invited to interact with one another at "Lunch and Learn" educational seminars. Located in the heart of Cleveland, the campus is easily accessible by public transportation.

On May 25, the College will host its annual "Planting of the Poppies" Memorial Day event. Open to the public, the event takes place at the Western Campus' Veterans Garden.

After the formal ceremony, attendees can visit the Crile Archives — a rich resource for students, veterans and the community that showcases military history from WWI to the present. It was named in honor of George Washington Crile, a pioneering Army surgeon and founder of the world-famous Cleveland Clinic.

Legislators: A mixed bag of tricks

CHAKA FATTAH (D-PA) was convicted on 23 counts of racketeering, fraud, and other corruption charges. (2016)

DENNIS HASTERT (R-IL) Speaker of the United States House of Representatives pleaded guilty in court for illegally structuring bank transactions related to payment of \$3.5 million to quash allegations of sexual misconduct with a student when he was a high school teacher and coach decades ago. (2016)

MICHAEL GRIMM (R-NY) pleaded guilty of felony tax evasion. This was the fourth count in a 20-count indictment brought against him for improper use of campaign funds. The guilty plea had a maximum sentence of three years; he was sentenced to eight months in prison. (2015)

TREY RADEL (R-FL) was convicted of possession of cocaine in November 2013. As a first-time offender, he was sentenced to one year probation and fined \$250. Radel announced he would take a leave of absence, but did not resign. Later, under pressure

from a number of Republican leaders, he announced through a spokesperson that he would resign. (2013)

RICK RENZI (R-AZ) was found guilty on 17 of 32 counts against him June 12, 2013, including wire fraud, conspiracy, extortion, racketeering, money laundering and making false statements to insurance regulators. (2013)

JESSE JACKSON, JR. (D-IL) pleaded guilty February 20, 2013, to one count of wire and mail fraud in connection with his misuse of \$750,000 in campaign funds. Jackson was sentenced to two and one-half years' imprisonment. (2013)

LAURA RICHARDSON (D-CA) was found guilty on seven counts of violating US House rules by improperly using her staff to campaign for her, destroying the evidence and tampering with witness testimony. The House Ethics Committee ordered Richardson to pay a fine of \$10,000. (2012)

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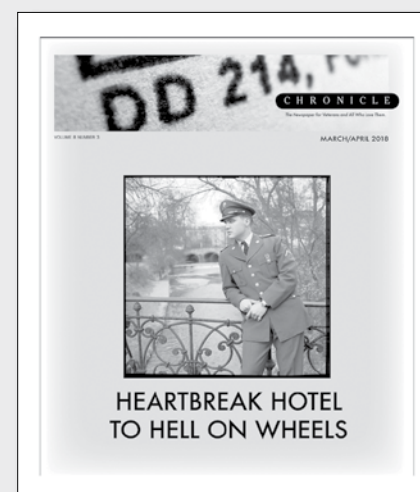
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Marine's Parents Help Others Through Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

By Jerri Donohue

The veteran's mother could barely walk or talk when she came to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) care group Bob and Marla Derga facilitate at Cornerstone of Hope in Independence.

The woman suffered from a life-threatening illness as well as the memory of her son's suicide. Plagued with PTSD, the young man had brandished a gun one day, ignored her frantic pleas, and shot himself in front of her.

The mother was mired in a pit of sorrow when the Dergas met her.

Marla Derga recalled thinking, "This grief she is carrying is so deep, I fear for her life."

But Bob Derga maintained contact with the woman between meetings, and group members gently reminded her of reasons for living. They felt relieved when she related a happy memory of her son months later.

"She has clawed her way out of that hole," Marla Derga said.

The Dergas know that grief doesn't end.

"But you get stronger," Bob Derga said.

After Bob's son, Corporal Dustin Derga, USMC, was killed in Ubaydi, Iraq in May 2005, the Uniontown couple became acquainted with

other Gold Star parents who understood their heartache.

"Our society gives us three days, two weeks at most, and then 'get over it!'" Marla Derga said. "Well, you can't."

The Dergas found additional help at a TAPS weekend retreat at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. There they met Bonnie Carroll, who founded the non-profit organization after her husband, Brigadier General Tom Carroll, died in a 1992 plane crash.

The Dergas began attending TAPS annual meetings and they assisted other survivors as "peer mentors," in a



project that pairs individuals who experienced similar losses. A parent of a suicide, for example, helps another parent whose child died by suicide. As Dustin's

stepmother, Marla supported a woman whose stepson also died in Iraq.

When TAPS created ongoing regional support groups four years ago, Cornerstone of Hope offered its space, the only bereavement center in the country to do so.

The Dergas went to Washington DC to train as volunteer facilitators. Rebecca Laracuente, a VA counselor they praise as "insightful and compassionate", usually assists them.

TAPS is free and open to individuals who lost a military loved one,

whether to combat, illness, suicide, or accident. The Dergas, who remain in touch with Dustin's buddies, know that service personnel mourn their comrades; they encourage veterans to join them.

Each month, Bob Derga distributes materials helpful to survivors. Participants also discuss their concerns. First time attendees often feel too anguished to speak, but they listen to others.

"There are so many commonalities," Bob Derga said. "People sharing their fears or their heartaches, their frustrations or their anger."

He said TAPS helps individuals process grief in their own way, in their own time.

"Just know that you are not alone on the journey," Derga said.

TAPS meets from 10:00 to 11:30 on the first Saturday of each month at Cornerstone of Hope, 5905 Brecksville Road in Independence. Registration is not necessary. For more information, contact Bob Derga at rderga@gmail.com or at (330)904-7511.

Bob Greene's war stories reveal spirit of America

By Barry Goodrich

Each Memorial Day, Bob Greene's thoughts drift back to the people and places he wrote about in each of his three military-themed books: "Homecoming: When the Soldiers Returned from Vietnam" (1989), "Duty: A Father, His Son and the Man Who Won the War" (2000), and "Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen" (2002).

Greene, the Columbus, Ohio native who gained fame as a nationally-syndicated columnist for the Chicago Tribune and a regular contributor for Nightline, Esquire, CNN and the Wall Street Journal, has always been drawn to the inspirational stories and sometimes heartbreaking stories which often accompany wartime.

"I remain very proud of those books," said Greene, currently at work on two new projects. "What connects them is the idea of being forgotten. Obviously, Vietnam vets felt totally forgotten in every sense of the word but you wouldn't think Paul Tibbets (pilot of the Enola Gay) would be forgotten. But he was will-

fully forgotten by a country that just didn't want to talk about Hiroshima."

The origin of Greene's "Homecoming" was a column he had written about Vietnam vets who had been spit on upon their return from the war. "A deluge of letters came in," said Greene.

"There was a sort of purity to their voices; it was almost cathartic for them. It was a terrible way they were treated. It was quite an emotional experience. I honestly read every one of the letters that came in."

For the book "Duty," Greene told a dual narrative which chronicled



the final days of his dying father and the story of Tibbets, the man who organized and flew the first atomic bomb mission. "My father always called him 'the man who won the war,'" said Greene. "I had been trying to

meet Tibbets for 30 years and finally did when I was in Columbus to see my father.

"Tibbets was a monumental figure in history," added

Greene. "When he would make appearances at air shows, soldiers would come up to him with tears in their eyes. He was more than a war hero, he was a savior. Because those bombs were dropped, there was no

land invasion. Tibbets had one goal - to end the war. He knew how many lives his mission had saved."

In "Once Upon a Town," Greene wrote of Nebraska's North Platte Canteen, where soldiers traveling across the country by train were provided with coffee, food and gifts from the town's women volunteers. "I still think that's the best story I've ever told," he said. "For 10 minutes, these guys felt loved. The women would use their own ration coupons to make food for the soldiers."

Greene was able to interview people who had been involved with the canteen and tracked down some of the soldiers who had passed through the town. "Some of them would weep. Many said no one had ever treated them like that before. You think about how this country is now and then you think of these people in the middle of the country in 1941-45.

"When you see a soldier, you should thank them," he said. "Be mad about the wars; don't be mad at the warriors."

LORAIN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE



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- Non-service Connected Pension for Wartime Vets (Aid & Attendance/ Housebound Pension, and Survivors Pension).
- Service Connected Compensation.
- Ohio War Orphans Scholarship.
- Notice of Disagreements & Appeals.

VSO's also submit application for:

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- H.S. Diploma for Wartime Vets.
- Upgrading Discharges.
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Muralist Memorializes Lorain County Men Killed in the War on Terror

By Jerri Donohue

Young, healthy and strong, the soldiers, Marines and lone airman cluster on or about a Humvee, peering at passersby from the wall of a single-story office building in Amherst.

Artist Mike Sekletar hasn't quite finished this tribute to Lorain county residents who died in the War on Terror. As he was rushing to complete the mural at 248 Park Avenue for Veterans Day last year, families of another two men decided to participate. The artist was relieved that all 12 servicemen would be featured, but he couldn't paint the last two before his deadline.

"I committed to add those two guys this spring," Sekletar said.

Barbara Smith, a member of the 9-person mural committee, researched the Lorain county residents who died in Iraq and Afghanistan and then she contacted their relatives. Sekletar based each man's likeness on a favorite photo provided by his spouse or parents. The families responded positively to the result.

"As you can imagine, it was kind of emotional," Sekletar said. "They were [both]

happy and sad. . . Everyone was very thankful."

A graduate of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Sekletar works in graphic design and produces indoor murals for bars and restaurants in Cleveland and northeast Ohio.

He began his 4-section tribute to American veterans in 2011. At various times, fellow artists Ryan Shannon and Brian Goodwin helped him.

In the first mural, Sekletar depicted the flag-raising on Iwo Jima, a subject most people easily identify with World War II.

"Everyone knows the Iwo Jima photo," Sekletar said.

"It's the most reproduced photo in history."

He later painted a map of Korea and surrounded it with a montage of military scenes, including Lorain veteran Lou Repko driving a jeep.

To represent the Vietnam War, the artist copied "Reflections," Lee Teter's painting of a man visiting the Vietnam Wall. Sekletar purchased the right to reproduce it

from Vietnam Veterans of America in Cumberland, Maryland.

"We ended up making friends with these people from Cumberland who are really proud of it," Sekletar said.

The artist used a projector to place each image on the brick wall.

"We get it to scale, sketch it in with black paint, a huge drawing basically," he explained. "Then we just paint it."

Preparation included finding a mason to repair mortar joints and careful priming of the surface.

Nobody commissioned Sekletar to paint the memorial.

"I wanted to do it and it worked itself out," the artist said. "Sherwin Williams donated products. The VFW here in Amherst and the American Legion were very supportive and they gave me money to do the project."

Sekletar said he wants the veterans murals to show that civilians care.

"I wanted to pay my respects and say 'thanks,'" Sekletar said.

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Small Burial Squad Provides Huge Service

By Jerri Donohue

None of the color guard members of Firestone VFW Post 3383 had ever met Jessie Thomas "Tom" Staggers, but they gathered on the cold, windy morning of April 6 to provide the one-time Army corporal's graveside honors.

Staggers was the 32nd veteran the 8-person team had honored since New Year's Day.

Unlike military organizations that only conduct funeral protocol for their own members, VFW Post 3383's squad supplied a chaplain, bugler, and riflemen for 128 deceased veterans in 2017. Year after year, they offer military honors in heat, rain and snow at all cemeteries in Summit County and in Canton's Sunset Hills.

Team member Holly Ann Grubaugh said she could not perform this final service for her friend, Jason John Hernandez, who died in Iraq on his 21st birthday.

"I did wear my Class A uniform to his funeral," Grubaugh said. "I really wanted to be on Jason's rifle team, but I couldn't pull myself together to do it."

A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Grubaugh is the only



female on the squad and its youngest member. She found a babysitter for her 2-year old daughter in order to participate in Staggers' service.

"It's my way of paying respects to all those who have come before me," Grubaugh said.

Former Marine Richard Fogle's late father-in-law recruited him for the honor guard in the early 1970s. These days, Ladies Auxiliary member Barbara Fogle (Fogle's wife) serves as liaison with the funeral home whenever a veteran's relatives request military honors.

Richard Fogle then contacts the team, which includes veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. They represent all branches of the service with the exception of the Coast Guard.

The group's diverse composition results in ongoing, good-natured ribbing. Grubaugh enjoys swapping stories with her older peers.

"We were all trained in a certain way, and we just get each other," she said.

Over the years, Fogle participated in committal services for numerous strangers, including veterans of the First World War, and a

survivor of the sinking of the USS Indianapolis. Occasionally he knew the deceased.

"I buried a lot of good friends," Fogle said. "That's the toughest."

The Vietnam veteran noted that fewer mourners attend services for very old vets. One day the post's burial squad even filled in as pallbearers, removing the casket from the hearse because relatives could not do it.

"We've seen some strange things," Fogle said. "Once they had the cops there because of family fighting."

Health problems sidelined some of the team in recent months. With two or more burials a week, it is difficult for more than five members to perform their duties at any given funeral. They wish they had more help, but none plans to resign.

Although there is no charge for the color guard's services, appreciative relatives sometimes make donations to the post to help pay for uniforms and rifle maintenance.

The gratitude of veterans' families often touches Fogle.

"They want to thank you and thank you and thank you," he said.

Journalism legend Dan Rather to speak at Kent State

By Barry Goodrich

During the Korean War, Dan Rather enrolled and trained in the Army Reserve and enlisted in the U.S. Marines. He never revealed that he had suffered from rheumatic fever as a child, which would have instantly disqualified him from service.



In his new book, Rather addresses the importance of service as a key element of patriotism, particularly in the wake of the Depression. "It is perhaps not surprising that Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan looked at a nation so traumatized and felt they could defeat us," he writes. "Of course, history turned out differ-

ently. The same generation that had been driven to such despair in the 1930s rose up to push back the forces of totalitarianism. Perhaps those authoritarians, who felt no empathy for their own people or those they conquered, underestimated the strength of our empathy.

"We live in debt to those who have served and died, a debt tallied in blood. And too often our political leaders who commit our young men and women into war do not take this truth into account."

The 86-year-old Rather has interviewed every president since Eisenhower and was a key element of such seminal news shows as "60 Minutes" and "48 Hours." He was one of the first network journalists to report from Vietnam, an assignment that remains vivid to this day.

"I felt honored – and I use that word measuredly – to cover American men and women in combat in Vietnam," Rather told the My Vietnam Experience blog. "It may have been the wrong war and the wrong place at the wrong time for the wrong reasons...but the Americans who went there, went there for the right reason. They went there because they loved their country and their country had asked them to go."

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Veteran journalist reflects on May 4 tragedy at Kent State

By Barry Goodrich

On May 4, 1970, Cleveland Plain Dealer reporters Michael Roberts and Joe Eszterhas were headed out to lunch when they were tracked down by the paper's city editor.

"He told us there was a shooting down at Kent," said Roberts. "Over the weekend, the paper hadn't staffed what was going on at Kent State, which was a major, major mistake."

Roberts and Eszterhas soon found themselves in the middle of what would prove to be one of the darkest episodes in the nation's history. Shortly after noon that day, National Guardsmen had fired 59 shots, killing four and wounding nine. The 30-year-old Roberts, who had just recently returned from covering the Vietnam war, and the 25-year-old Eszterhas would end up spending months on the story.

"I had some knowledge of the military and Joe was more of a rock and roll guy," said Roberts. "So I interviewed members of the Guard and he interviewed the students."

On their way back to Cleveland later that day, Eszterhas informed Roberts they already had a book deal. That book turned out to be *Thirteen Seconds: Confrontation at Kent State*, the paperback version of which is available through Cleveland's Gray & Company.

With the scene a mass of confusion and rumors abounding, it was not an easy story to chronicle for the two journalists. "Everybody was in shock," said Roberts. "People were milling all over the place. You



could tell by the Guardsmen's faces they were dumbstruck. As I look back, there wasn't much they could say. Most of them didn't know what the hell happened."

At one point during the day, Roberts cornered Gen. Robert Canterbury, asking if there would be a press conference. "I told him that in a few hours he was going to have every newspaper in America here. I

just about had him convinced and here comes a helicopter. Dorothy Fulheim gets out, walks up to the guy and says 'How many children did your men murder today?' And that was the end of that."

To this day, conspiracy theories continue to surround the events of May 4, many of them involving radical organizations such as The Weathermen and the SDS. "After all

these years, there has been very little change in the facts since we wrote the book," said Roberts. "If the government could have blamed this on someone they would have."

Roberts is now retired and working on a memoir. Eszterhas, who went on to write for Rolling Stone and became the highest-paid screenwriter in Hollywood history, lives in Bainbridge and is currently working on a pair of new scripts.

"I've always characterized Kent as the end of the sixties," said Roberts. "Those shootings let the air out of the Sixties movement."

In his preface to the new edition of *Thirteen Seconds*, Eszterhas wrote, "One of the great lessons of the horror at Kent State is that inflammatory, political rhetoric, divisive and polarizing propaganda, can lead to violence and death. I think it is worthwhile to keep that lesson in mind."

Navy Veteran Seeks New Challenge: Congress

When Ken Harbaugh was 10 years old, his dad did the traditional take-your-son-to-work day. Except Ken's dad was an Air Force vice wing commander of an RF4 Phantom jet reconnaissance group, the workplace was a bunker 100 feet below ground in Germany, and the work was a simulated missile attack by the Russians.

"I remember the organized chaos of eight and a half minutes of preparation," Ken recalled. "Then there was an eerie calm. I turned to my dad and said 'Now what?' and he said, 'Now we wait. Because even 100 feet of concrete and steel won't protect us if a Russian missile makes a direct hit.'"

That sort of awareness was just part of growing up in the Harbaugh family. Born in Colorado, Ken's family moved to Texas, England, Germany, Belgium, back to Germany, London, northern England and Alabama — all before he started high school.

Even with all that military background, Harbaugh went to Duke University with his sights set on becoming a civilian attorney. He was studying abroad at Oxford University when he had an epiphany.

"What really drove me to join the military was the realization that I had done nothing in life to deserve the privileges I was enjoying as an American," he said. "The very week I got home, I walked into a recruiters office and said 'I want to do something. I want to sign up.'"

After college graduation in 1996,

Harbaugh was off to boot camp and graduated from Navy Flight School in 1998. He flew an EP-3 signals intelligence aircraft and collected intelligence on U.S. adversaries.

"As an EP-3 aircraft commander and a signals intelligence missions commander, I flew missions over the Middle East and off North Korea," he said. "I went every-

where our military, our government, our president needed intelligence."

After his stint as a pilot, Harbaugh taught naval history at The Citadel. He left the Navy after nine years, he said, because of "a little girl."

"I had a two-week-old at the time," he said. "I had to make the toughest professional decision I've ever had to make. I had to decide whether to stay in or get out and be there for the first year of Katie's life. I made the gut-wrenching decision to get out and go back to school."

Harbaugh graduated from Yale Law School in 2008 with a focus on constitutional law. But his next career choice presented itself when he visited some wounded Marines at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

"I had a moment of realization when a young Marine said to me,



'I lost my legs but that's it. I didn't lose my desire to serve my country or my pride in being an American,'" he said. "That diverted me in an instant from whatever legal track I had been on."

"We needed to do something for this generation of veterans coming back," he added. "And I also realized we had a small window of opportunity, one that we missed badly and at great expense when the Vietnam generation came home. I was determined we wouldn't make that same mistake again."

Team Rubicon began as eight veterans who went to Haiti to provide medical relief after the 2010 earthquake. The non-profit group continued to grow and encouraged veterans to serve their country as disaster relief volunteers. In 2013, Harbaugh became Chief Operations Officer of Team Rubicon USA. The organization expanded to Team Rubicon Global in 2015 with Harbaugh as president, launching international chapters in Australia, Canada and Norway. Team Rubicon has more than 50,000 volunteers worldwide.

Then the 2016 election cycle happened and Harbaugh had his next epiphany.

"I saw the division and the rancor in our politics," he said. "What I was seeing was not at all representative of the country I fought for. And it certainly was not living up to the memory of my buddies who I left behind."

His friends at Team Rubicon challenged him to run for office when he began talking about "the disasters he saw in his own back yard."

"For starters, I talked about the opioid crisis, which is tearing us apart here and has had no meaningful leadership, at least from the current representatives, to address it," he said. Harbaugh resigned his job with Team Rubicon Global in June 2017 and began to campaign for the 7th District of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"What I've discovered, by and large, is most Ohioans have a heck of a lot more in common than they have that divides them," he said. If you look people in the eye and have a conversation, they might disagree but they're respectful. We need to get back to respect in our politics and face-to-face conversations."

Harbaugh said his first priority is meeting the voters, hosting town hall meetings on average of once a week.

"We're knocking on doors every weekend and phone banking," he said. "We are reaching out to voters, not just to get the word out but listening and learning and trying to understand what matters to people across the district."

Grant biography: riveting, revealing, redeeming

By Nancy Peacock

The shorthand version of American history has not been particularly kind to Ulysses S. Grant. Until Ron Chernow's biography of the 18th president was published last year, the conventional wisdom was that Grant was a reckless general, an incompetent president and a lifelong drunkard.

That is why Chernow's 959-page narrative Grant (Penguin Press) is such a welcome and entertaining journey back into a bygone era with surprisingly modern similarities. Grant was born into the distant world of rural southwestern Ohio in 1822. Grant's father was a relentless self-promoter who turned his overreaching tendencies into an appointment for his son to West Point.

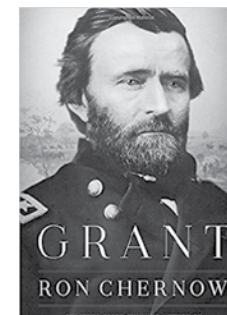
After an undistinguished four years at West Point — Grant graduated in 1843 and ranked 21st out of 39 classmates — he was posted to St. Louis. There he met the love of his life. Grant longed to settle into the quiet, obscure career of a college mathematics professor, but destiny had other plans. Serving under future President Zachary Taylor during the Mexican War, Grant learned the grim strategy

and tactics of warfare.

After the war ended, Grant married but stayed in the military and began reporting to a series of dead-end peacetime assignments. In northern California, far away from his wife and child, Grant began a life-long struggle with alcohol. Chernow provides a nuanced picture of the alcoholism against which, with few exceptions, Grant courageously held his ground.

When he was threatened with a court martial for drunkenness in 1854, Grant resigned his commission rather than allowing his wife to "know that he had been tried on such a charge." The gossip and shame now attached to his reputation hounded him for the rest of his military and political life.

Without his military career, financial hardship followed the Grant family. One poignant scene in the book depicts Grant in an old Army coat, selling firewood on a St. Louis street corner to make ends meet. It wasn't until the outbreak of the Civil War, when the quest for north-



ern military leaders nearly overwhelmed Abraham Lincoln, that Grant got his second chance.

Unlike the inexperienced civilians and politicians who were given officer appointments in the Union Army, Grant brought his West Point education and military experience to the job.

Seven years after he left the military in disgrace, Grant was back in uniform as colonel of the Twenty-First Illinois.

Chernow's narrative of Grant's successful rise to the head of the Union Army and his hard-fought victories is fascinating in its detail and clarity. In addition to his relentless attacks and eventual victory over the Confederate Army, Grant enthusiastically embraced Lincoln's mission to end slavery and reunite the country. During the tumultuous aftermath of Lincoln's assassination, the shambles of Andrew Johnson's short-lived administration, and his own two terms as president, Grant sent federal troops to thwart Southern vigilantes and the Ku Klux Klan from terroriz-

ing former slaves.

Unfortunately, politics is inherently dirty business. As Grant worked to restore the country, he appointed trusted friends and former military associates to his administration. But before the civil service system was perfected, the federal government was awash in political patronage. Grant made the situation worse by not comprehending the true intentions of many business tycoons and financial swindlers who sought his friendship.

Chernow's portrait of Grant is of a person who was, at the same time, profoundly talented in his understanding of military strategy and amazingly naive in his trust of people who used him for political and financial gains.

After Grant's funeral procession in 1885, Union General William Sherman and author Mark Twain sat down together over liquor and cigars and reminisced about "the mystery of Grant's personality," a source of never-ending wonder to both men. Sherman always insisted that Grant was a mystery even to himself, a unique intermingling of strength and weakness such as he had never encountered before."

VA Announces Changes to Improve Delivery of Specialty Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Services

WASHINGTON — With a commitment to ensure Veterans receive quicker access to specialty rehabilitation services and equipment, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently implemented a rapid response team to expand staffing and training, increase communication directly with Veterans and improve processes to reduce and eliminate the backlog of pending requests for prosthetic items and services.

To improve Veterans' access to specialty rehabilitation services, enrolled patients at VA medical centers can now schedule appointments directly with amputation care and wheelchair clinics, without having to first see a

primary care provider.

This means Veterans will not have to make an extra appointment and travel to a VA facility for a referral. Direct scheduling is currently available at 137 VA facilities for amputation care and at 124 VA facilities for wheelchair clinics.

Additionally, same-day access for orthotist/prosthetist clinical services is available at 141 VA facilities.

"The dedication and support of the multidisciplinary team of VA employees who are implementing these improvements demonstrate their commitment to do the right thing for our Veterans," said Robert Wilkie, Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "We are focused on implementing the

best solutions to modernize how we deliver rehabilitation and prosthetic services across all VA medical centers — ensuring Veterans nationwide are receiving timely and integrated health care and support."

As the largest and most comprehensive provider of prosthetic devices and sensory aids in the country, VA Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service currently averages 638,000 new requests monthly across its health-care system for such items. The service provides a full range of equipment and services to Veterans, including artificial limbs and bracing, wheeled mobility and seating systems, sensory-neural aids (e.g., hearing aids,

eyeglasses), implants and devices surgically placed in the Veteran (e.g., hips and pacemakers), and home respiratory care.

VA is working to ensure Veterans are receiving their medical items, equipment and supplies sooner. Since June 2017, the total number of requests for prosthetic items pending for more than 30 days has been reduced by 72 percent.

As VA continues to look for modern, simple ways to improve care for America's Veterans, additional process improvements for prosthetic and specialty rehabilitation services will be fully implemented at all VA medical centers in 2018.



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Ernie Pyle: Eyewitness for America in World War II

By Nancy Peacock

The face of war has never been easy to define. But during World War II, a middle-aged journalist from Indiana gave the American people an intimate portrait of what it was to be a foot soldier.

In some respects, Ernie Pyle was the least likely to end up as a war correspondent. In his book *Ernie Pyle's War*, author James Tobin describes Pyle as a life-long hypochondriac: "Ernie was perpetually on the verge of an illness, in the middle of an illness or getting over an illness."

From childhood, Pyle was acutely sensitive to cold with chronic headaches and stomach pain. But he pushed past his physical ailments in his quest to see the world. Pyle dropped out of Indiana University during his senior year, worked four months at a small daily newspaper in LaPorte, and then jumped at the chance to join the *Washington Daily News*, an 18-month-old newspaper in Washington, D.C.

His editors soon noticed his speed and skill at writing and copy editing. But his exceptional abilities were matched by a tendency to burn out quickly on whatever assignment he tackled. Before he had completed one year at the *News*, he left for a stint as a seaman on a ship to Puerto Rico and Panama. He returned to the *News* but by the end of his second year, Pyle announced he was burned out again and took a two-month leave to go home to Indiana and recuperate.

He married in the summer of 1925 and the next spring, he and his wife Jerry took their savings and headed out west on an extended camping trip. When the money ran out, the couple spent a short time in New York City. Pyle eventually returned to the *Washington Daily News* as a copy editor with the agreement that he could write a column on aviation. Pyle's column began 10 months after Charles Lindbergh's historic flight across the Atlantic in 1927 and aviation was the hot topic, especially in the Washington area.

Pyle knew that readers were interested in the human side of this new craze and he wrote about everyone from crop dusters and mail carriers to test pilots and barnstormers. His focus on the everyday aspects of flying made him popular with pilots who shared their insider stories.

He soon became a full-time aviation columnist and then the aviation editor for the entire Scripps-Howard newspaper chain. His four years on the aviation beat were happy times and he



counted well-known pilots like James Doolittle and Amelia Earhart as friends. But when offered the prestigious job of managing editor, Pyle accepted it -- and soon grew to hate it.

After another bout of illness, he took a recuperative trip out west and wrote 11 short columns about it. The columns were so well received that Pyle convinced the editors to let him drive around the country, writing six columns a week, as an experiment. The experiment lasted almost seven years and in that time, he developed the narrative voice readers came to know as Ernie Pyle.

"In 1935, Pyle was merely a skilled newspaperman," Corbin writes. "By 1942, he had become a consummate craftsman of short prose and simultaneously shaped a mythic role of himself: An American Everyman ready for war."

In August 1940, Germany began bombing England. By December, Pyle was in London.

"It seemed to me that in London there was occurring a spiritual holocaust -- a trial of souls -- that never again in our day could be reenacted," he wrote.

On Dec. 29, Pyle was in his hotel room in London when 130 German bombers attacked in one of the largest incendiary raids of the Blitz. He described the pyrotechnics as "the monstrous loveliness."

"For on that night this old, old city -- even though I must bite my tongue in shame for saying it -- was the most beautiful sight I have ever seen."

Vivid descriptions like that created a popular following that stunned him when he returned stateside in March 1941. A New York publisher turned his British columns into a book entitled *Ernie Pyle in England* and he was soon buried in fan mail. But his celebrity was tempered with a failing marriage and his own struggle with depression.

He returned to England to write columns about the American troop build

up and when American forces landed in Morocco and Algeria in November 1942, Pyle followed two days later.

When a missing bomber returned from its mission, Pyle was there to describe the dead pilot being lifted from the cockpit:

"Everybody knew the pilot. He was so young, a couple hours ago. The war came inside us then, and we felt it deeply."

These vignettes were visual depictions of war long before the age of 24/7 news coverage. Pyle provided the color and detail that were otherwise unavailable in that era. When he began writing in North Africa, 42 newspapers carried his column. Eight months later, his column was running in 149 newspapers.

Cleveland Press editor Louis Seltzer wrote to Scripps-Howard headquarters: "In all my newspaper experience I have not heard anyone so widely discussed and such extravagant praise heaped upon a man or woman for an outstanding journalistic job."

Pyle was featured in *Look* magazine and a collection of his columns titled *Here Is Your War* was published with an advance of \$5,000 -- nearly half of his annual salary. Then movie director Lester Cowan won the rights to make a movie based on his book. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt invited him for tea at the White House.

Then it was back to the front in Italy, where Pyle wrote some of his most memorable columns. "The Death of Captain Waskow" is considered a masterpiece. The *Washington Daily News* printed it in large type across the front page. Radio hosts read the column on air.

"You feel small in the presence of dead men and ashamed of being alive, and you don't ask silly questions," Pyle wrote.

Seventy-four years later, the column is still reprinted in anthologies and commemorative anniversaries of the war. In May 1944, Pyle won a Pulitzer Prize for his dispatches from the front.

The Allies landed on the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944 and Pyle came ashore early the next morning. His column describing the experience was printed on front pages across the country and inserted into the *Congressional Record*.

Pyle remained with the troops pushing toward Paris, and on August 25 he joined the soldiers who marched into the liberated city. But while he was still in France, he decided he needed to go to the Pacific and cover that theater of war.

In January 1945, Pyle took a short rest in Hawaii before flying on to Guam, then Saipan. His nephew Jack Bales was stationed there and warned his uncle: "You stick your nose in this stuff, you're gonna get killed. For Christ's sake, you've written enough and done enough for the war effort. Turn around and go home."

"I owe it to these guys," Pyle told his nephew.

On April 18, Pyle was traveling with the Army's 77th Division on the tiny island of Ie Shima, a few miles northeast of Okinawa. He was away from the fighting, riding in a jeep with a colonel, when a Japanese machine gun sniper shot at the vehicle. They jumped out, and took shelter in a ditch. When Pyle raised his head, he was hit in the left temple just below his helmet.

By the time his body was brought back to the command post on the beach, an Associated Press reporter had already sent the first bulletin of his death.

COMMAND POST, IE SHIMA, April 18, (AP)—Ernie Pyle, war correspondent beloved by his co-workers, G.I.s and generals alike, was killed by a Japanese machine-gun bullet through his left temple this morning.

The bulletin was sent by radio to the ship, then to the United States, then on to Europe. In Germany, General Omar Bradley was reported to have "heard the news and could not speak."

One of Pyle's editors spoke on the radio of "that strange and almost inexplicably intimate way in which Pyle's readers had known him. Indeed, people called newspaper offices all day to be sure Ernie Pyle was really dead. He had seemed so alive to them."

Letters from WWII Troops; "Love, Harold"

November 24, 1944

Dear Mother & Dad,
I received my first letters from you yesterday since I've been over seas. There were three of them, 2 v-mail and 1 airmail. I'm glad you finally sent me Rum's address. Now I will be able to write to him.

Yesterday was Thanksgiving. We had the turkey and all the trimmings. Most of the doughboys had turkey also. It's amazing when you think of all of us, so far from home, observing still in the midst of a battlefield, Thanksgiving. I'm sure there were many who gave thanks to God today. I was sure one of them.

I recently was able to see some of the dead boys they had just taken off the battlefield. If some of the men back home, whom of personal ambition attempt to prolong the war, could see them--I'm sure the war would soon end. When you look at them you can't help but think--why are they dead! Just a year or so ago they were either going to school-working-married and now their dead. Many among them had ambition—all looked forward to the future—Now they're dead. It keeps shooting thru your mind-again and again-why have these men died? I know why we fight-I know of the values we're trying to secure. I hope these men have not given their lives for empty words.

I'm sorry I went up on on slight philosophical side. But I had to air out some of my thoughts.

Love, Harold

Dear Mother & Father,
I hope we will be together next year to observe New Years. Tonight I am going to services at the chapel, conducted by a Jewish minister.

I certainly enjoyed that pass I had in New York. I never saw crowds on State Street that could compare with those on 7th St. I plan to contact Dave or Fannie on my next pass.

(The next paragraph was cut-out by censors)

I experienced part of that hurricane which swept up the New England states. The winds were of terrific velocity. One could jump into the air and then be carried several feet by the wind's force.

Mom, send some news about the other boys. I'm curious to know how there making out.

I will write as soon as possible.

Love, Harold

Dear Mother and Dad,
This is my second day in the Q.M.C. of the 104 Division. It seems like a dream more than anything else. I expect to awaken any time now and find myself asleep in a fox hole. After living in the mud for two months and eating "C" and "K" rations for so long my present status seems unbelievable. I'm now eating good food and sleeping in a warm dry room. I'm sleeping in a kitchen with four other fellows. This might seem like crowded conditions, but its nothing compared to the times when I've slept in trains half the size with three times the amount of men.

My transfer to the Q.M.C. is one of those things you always read about but never happens to you. I had arrived at rear echelon of the 104 a few evenings ago after being assigned to it by a replacement depot. I slept over night in a pup tent with one of my buddies and expected to be assigned to and infantry regiment the next morning. The next morning a rooster was read to the group I came with, assigning them to their new infantry units. My name was not on the list. I thought that I would be on the next list of replacements to infantry outfits. Suddenly a list came out assigning me and four other fellows to this Quarter Master outfit. We all were somewhat dazed. We all had been in the infantry up to this time and knew of no personal abilities the Quarter Master would desire.

I know how happy you will be when you receive this and my previous letter. Its something we've all wished for such a long time. As you always said, mom, "Fate will take its own course". I, however, hope it's on the right course.

A lot of the men around this outfit were formerly in A.S.T.P. One of them attended the University of Illinois, but I don't know him.

Love, Harold

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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.

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Westlake Porter Library Wants Our Stories: LET'S TELL THEM

In the year 2000 the United States Congress created the Veterans Oral History Project.

Administered through the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress this project has the goal of



collecting, preserving, and making accessible the personal accounts of America's veterans.

So far the Veterans Oral History Project has collected interviews, letters, diaries, and pictures from over 104,000

veterans and continues to add more each month.

The Westlake Porter Public Library is proud to be a participant in this project and is seeking out veterans from the Northeast Ohio region to participate.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VETERANS FROM ANY BRANCH OF THE MILITARY WHO SERVED DURING ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CONFLICTS:

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- Vietnam War, 1961-1975
- Grenada—History—American Invasion, 1983
- Panama—History—American Invasion, 1989
- Operation Restore Hope, 1992-1993
- Persian Gulf War, 1991
- United Nations Operation in Somalia
- Haiti—History—American intervention, 1994-1995
- Operation Allied Force, 1999
- Peacekeeping forces—Bosnia and Hercegovina
- Operation Joint Guardian, 1999-
- War on Terrorism, 2001-2009
- Afghan War, 2001-
- Iraq War, 2003-2011

The only requirements are that the veteran is currently not on active duty and, using the Department of Veterans Affairs Definition: "A person who served in the active military service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable."

If you would like to participate or would like to learn more about this program please call or email Chad Statler, the Local History Librarian at the Westlake Porter Public Library. His phone number is (440) 250-5486 or email him at Chad.Statler@Westlakelibrary.org.

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Korean War Vet's Short Enlistment Leads to Decades of Volunteerism

By Jerri Donohue

Richard France surveyed the elegant restaurant in San Francisco's historic Sir Francis Drake Hotel. Although restricted to quarters because he was shipping out the next day, he had slipped away to have a farewell dinner with his fiancée. Now he saw that he was not alone in his disobedience.

"There were all kinds of officers sitting there," France said.

The next day, his future bride, Cecelia, stood on the Golden Gate Bridge and watched troop ships sail beneath it. She knew that he was on one of them.

France's ultimate destination was Korea, but he received his only "service-related injury" while waiting in Sasebo, Japan.

He was standing guard duty alone one night when a man approached in the dark. France ordered him to advance and be recognized.

It was the officer of the day, who always carried a jockey's riding

crop. He drew near to France, growled "Don't you recognize me?" and jabbed the soldier in the groin with the whip.

"I suffered!" the 89-year old recalled.

France went to Korea soon after and served in the 14th Port Battalion. A supply sergeant with Headquarters Company, he slept on a bunk in a storage barn with his weapon at hand. He never knew

whom to trust. Two English-speaking Korean teenagers helped him with odd jobs. When they abruptly disappeared, France heard they had gone north.

Night after night in the fall of 1950, the USS Missouri shelled inland territory from Inchon Bay.

"It sounded like boxcars going



overhead," the veteran said. "It really devastated a lot of places."

France saw the aftermath first hand. He became close to two drivers who volunteered to deliver supplies to the front. Young and curious, he sometimes rode with them, and witnessed the ravaged countryside.

He is still appalled by the scene of an atrocity they

passed one day.

"I can vividly see GIs that were shot with their hands tied behind their back," France said.

While still in the States, the young soldier had spent six months on escort duty, accompanying repatriated remains of men killed in the Pacific

theater back to their hometowns. It was a sad task, but nothing compared to the grisly sights he experienced in Korea.

When American forces withdrew from Inchon in 1951, they blew up the docks and destroyed supplies rather than let the enemy use them.

"Everything was going up in flames," France said.

In Pusan, he completed his tour and then headed home to be discharged.

In the years that followed, France dedicated countless hours to veterans' organizations and successfully campaigned for the erection of a monument to vets in Garfield Heights. He was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 1997.

Despite his age, France serves as current commander of Catholic War Vets Post 1812 and he produces its newsletter. For Memorial Day, he will lead a small team in decorating the graves of 15,000 veterans buried in Calvary Cemetery.

"I do what I can," France said.



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 (Louis Stokes Hospital), Parma and Akron CBOC's, 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



Our services are FREE of charge!



Our Pledge

When you come into the County Veterans Service Office you will be assisted by one of our knowledgeable associates. The people that work in the Medina County Veterans Service Office have a compassionate understanding of the problems which confront veterans, widows, widowers, and their families.

Sincerely,
Veterans Service Staff



Contact us:

210 Northland Dr. - Medina, Ohio 44256

veterans@medinacountyveterans.org
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