



CHRONICLE

The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

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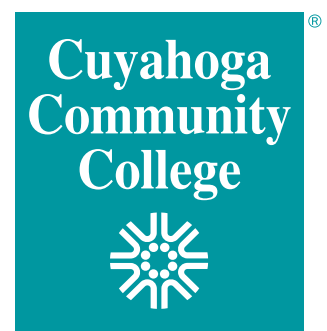
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BLIND NATION

How Ignorance and Arrogance fueled our Vietnam Involvement, by historian and writer Frank C. Nelson

For many years, *Dispatches*, by Michael Herr, was the best and most memorable book on Vietnam War. *Esquire* magazine assigned Herr to report on the war. He did much more than report. He went hand-in-glove with the Marines; slept and ate with them, pulled off leeches, popped anti-malaria pills, felt what every young trooper feels the first time hostile fire whistles overhead, dodged AK-47 rounds and saw, up close and personal, what damage booby traps could do. Herr's book led us through jungles, ambushes, river crossings, and showed us bodies being hoisted onto medevac choppers.

Now comes the second, important book on that war, *Blind Nation: How Ignorance and Arrogance fueled our Vietnam Involvement*, by historian and writer Frank C. Nelson. Nelson is a veteran; he served as a naval aviator in 1956-57.

Nelson looks closely at our involvement, watching American footprints replace those made by the French. The French were cruel, stupid, incredibly rapacious --- and unprepared for battle in Southeast Asia. They should have been. The French had been crushing the Viet-



namese under its boot for 80 years, always under the guise for 'educating' them.

No sooner than the din of France's last, unsuccessful effort drifted away, France was replaced by America, which told us it was the last chance to preserve democracy in Southeast Asia. Preserve democracy?

The 'domino theory' was presented as 'domino fact.'

We didn't much care, did we? Anti-communism had been ingrained in our minds, and we felt anything to damage the communists was worthwhile.

In Vietnam, if we were to have any

role, it should have been to repair the damage done by the French. Instead, we pretended our arrogance would be perceived as noble.

Nelson's book appears to be a book about history, and it is. Yet Nelson has an avuncular way of writing, and his writing is anything but stiff.

Blind Nation tells and shows us much more. Given Ho Chi Minh's education, patriotism, honesty, and demonstrated love of his country, how could America not admire and assist him?

I know: Ignorance. Pure ignorance.

Ignorance has a price and in this case, it was the lives of 58,000 young men, and uncounted thousands of boys who came home permanently changed.

Nelson details the workings of government, and it may be the most frustrating part of his book. Were politicians so stupid? Were they so unconcerned with human life? Were their loyalties with war profiteers?

Yes, yes, and yes.

Never again will I believe a politician, whether local mayor, senator, congressman, or the resident of the White House.

That makes me sad.

MAIL CALL

As a Vietnam veteran (1st Infantry Division, 1967-68), I'm afraid I have to take issue with Dale A. Drottar's claim that our military personnel "fight to keep us safe."

We heard the same nonsense during the Vietnam War when in reality neither the Viet Cong nor North Vietnamese Army posed any threat to our safety, security or freedoms.

Similarly, what our military is doing in the Middle East is infinitely counterproductive. When we kill people and destroy property with our air strikes and Predator drone strikes, we generate fresh hatred for the United States among the survivors and provide terrorist leaders with opportunities to recruit new

jihadists. As I said to veteran television journalist Katie Couric when we talked on East Fourth Street during the RNC, what we are doing in the Middle East is like "trying to put out a fire with gasoline."

State and local police, the FBI and the CIA are the entities truly keeping us safe. To illustrate, several years ago those law enforcement authorities thwarted terrorist plots to kill soldiers at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and blow up jet fuel pipelines running under densely populated neighborhoods in New York City, with their terminus at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

*Louis H. Pumphrey
Shaker Heights*

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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.

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First all-women Veterans' Honor Flight

By Jennifer Sardam

Honor Flights from across the country bring Veterans to Washington, D.C., several times a week.

But Sept. 10, the Honor Flight Columbus organization out of Ohio sent the group's first all-women Veterans' Honor Flight to the nation's capital. While there, 81 women — Veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War — visited their monuments.

The trip to Washington kicked off with a hosted event at the Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, and included stops at a number of sites: the Iwo Jima Memorial, the U.S. Air Force Memorial and the memorials for World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught — one of the most decorated women in U.S. military history — was among those who greeted the group at the WIMSA Memorial; in 1966, she was also the first woman to deploy with an Air Force bomber wing.

"It means so much to see this

group of women come in and see what the memorial means to them, because it does mean something to them," said Vaught. "It is seeing their service to our country paid tribute to by the nation. And yet with it all, there comes laughter and joy, and that's the way it ought to be about serving our country."

As the pioneers of their times, these women blazed a path that until then was only traveled by men. Despite their contributions, they weren't readily accepted as equals.

"My career field was supposed to be aerospace jet mechanic," said retired Air Force Veteran Phyllis Collins, who goes by the nickname, Sunshine.

"And the guys didn't like me there ... I was supposed to be working on a dead battery. They hooked it up, and I got zapped," she said. "So I changed my career field real fast. I became a military cop."

Decades later, there are female Army Rangers, and

the U.S. military continues the push to fully integrate women into front-line and infantry units.

Jennifer Sardam is a VA public affairs specialist and a U.S. Army Veteran who served as an Army journalist during Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. She retired in 2014 from the Maryland Army National Guard's 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, after 20 years in the Army.

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A Sad Day in Wadsworth: The First of Many

By Eli Beachy

Former State of Ohio Distinguished Scholar of History

The snow had just begun to fall as the stores closed up that Saturday evening in an ordinary town called Wadsworth, Ohio. The first day of the Christmas shopping season had come to an end. By the next morning there was enough snow on the ground and the temperatures cold enough to add a sleigh and a pair of ice skates to the Santa list.

All around town the population got ready for another ordinary day. There would be church, the Sunday dinner of pot roast and then a lazy afternoon with the newspaper, the radio on in the background. Just another Sunday in a world that would never change and then, at 2:30 that afternoon, that world turned upside down that Sunday, December 7th, 1941.

Not everybody in Wadsworth had a radio but the whole nation had heard the news by night. America had been attacked; thousands had

been murdered by a people we did not understand who professed a religion we could not comprehend. Almost as one the country rose up, not in panic but in patriotism, and looked for leadership. That next day, just after noon, that is exactly what they got.

It was FDR's finest few minutes, the speech that created the Day of Infamy. Americans in general, Wadsworthians in particular, knew exactly what had to now be done. To recruiting offices and war production facilities they would rush, so caught up in the excitement that they didn't notice the solitary figure peddling his bicycle through town.

His name was Joe Taylor, the 18 year-old messenger boy of the local Western Union office. Out of town, out to the burg called Western Star he peddled. Out to the Messam house. World War II had come

home even as E-4 Horace Messam, the ordinary aircraft mechanic at Hickam Field, never would again.

Wadsworth would send its sons and daughters to every branch of the service during World War II. They were at Bataan and the Bulge, Omaha and Okinawa and all places between. They carried a pack, they broke codes, they looked through periscopes and they battled Me 262's from the top turret of a B-17. They fought even as the folks back home were not to be denied their part in the cause of victory.

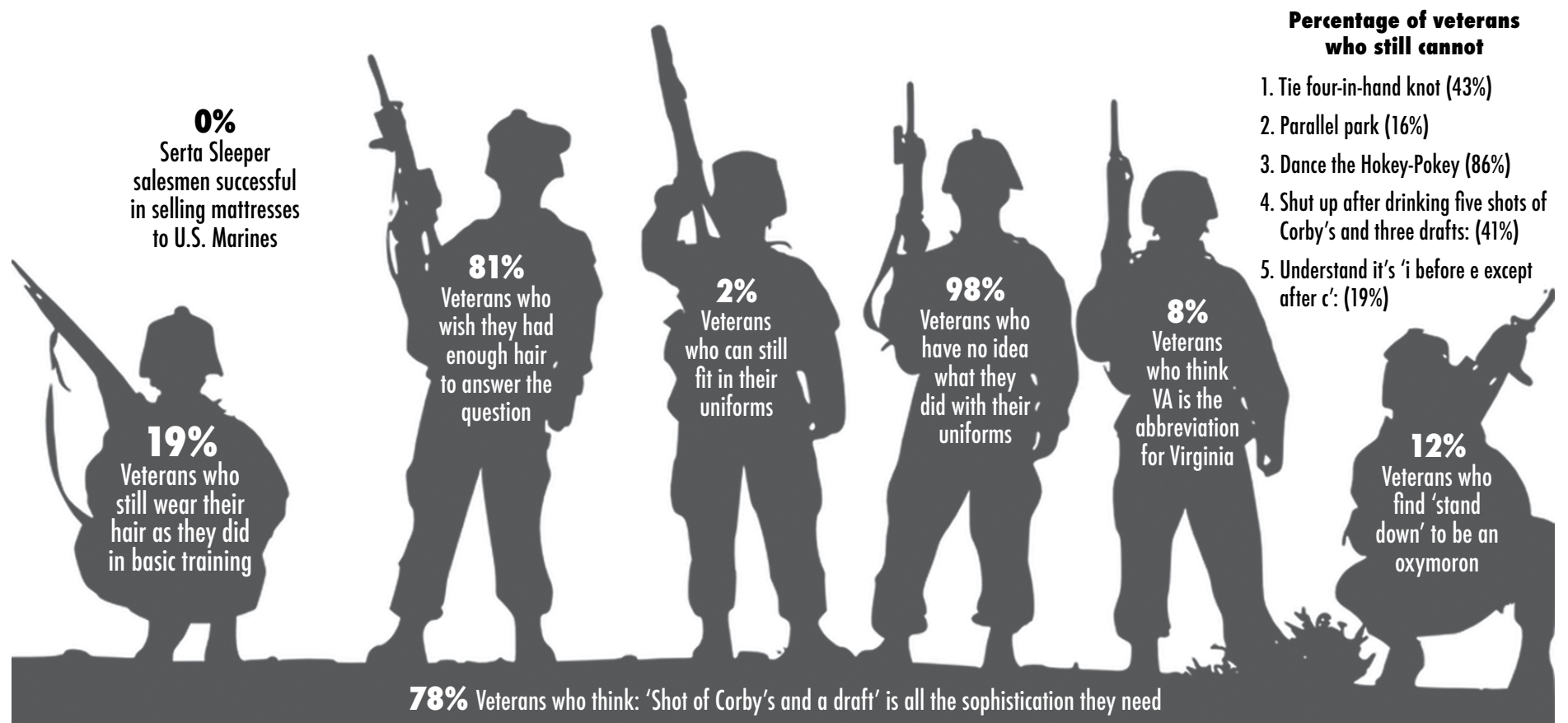
One would donate her hair in the ultimate secret known as the Norden bomb sight. Another drove ten miles each way five days a week to work in a machine shop that made curious stainless steel castings that would be the shell for the atomic bombs. They raised money through bond drives, they planted their vic-

tory gardens and they feared each time another messenger left the Western Union office ... and then one day it was over and they had won a war. Then they set out to rebuild the world.

Wadsworth of today is an ordinary town of 25,000 people. Only a dozen can remember where they were that one Sunday afternoon 75 years ago. The odds say in a year there will only be six. Before long there will be two and then one. One day, without any more fanfare than the news media will give this diamond anniversary of a life altering event, there will be none. All that will be left are the lucky ones who have had the chance to know them.

The ordinary people who did extraordinary things ... 75 years ago today ... the American heroes who saved the world ... fading but never, ever to be forgotten.

VETERANS BY THE NUMBERS By DD214 Chronicle Research Staff



Navy Wife, Navy Husband: "READY TO LEAD, READY TO FOLLOW, NEVER QUIT."

By Marina Ross, Navy Veteran and Baldwin-Wallace University Student

I joined the Navy excited to travel and see the world. The Navy had other ideas. At 22 years old, I headed off to boot camp and "A" school for undesignated seaman. I think that was the coldest winter Chicago had ever seen. Well, I might be exaggerating, but that's the way I remember it. I was sent to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland for my first duty station.

The "YP's" are the tiny "ships" that the Navy uses to train the midshipmen. My duties were to teach the midshipmen line handling skills, man overboard rescue and ship handling. Being a deckhand was fun, but not a long term career choice. I "struck" Legalman, and headed off to "A" school in Newport, Rhode Island. After school, the Navy sent me back to Great Lakes, Illinois to work in the Trial Service Office Great Lakes. I

worked for the JAG prosecuting attorneys and during court-martials, for the military judge as a court reporter.

Great Lakes is where I met my husband. He was a Master-at-Arms (Navy Police) and I met him driving through the gate. How convenient! Shortly after we started dating, he deployed. The day after his return we were married. We became pregnant with our first child about a month later. I chose to leave the Navy while pregnant in 2006. I was a Legalman Second Class one day and a dependent spouse the next. That certainly was an adjustment. I am thankful



Marina Ross

though, that it made my transition into civilian life easier than a lot of other veterans. My husband stayed in for eight more years. That is when I was finally able to travel and see another part of the world. We were sent to Naples, Italy and then to San Diego, California.

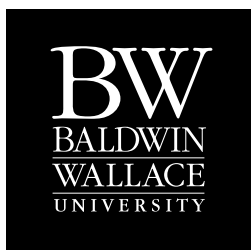
During this time, we had two more children. My husband separated from the Navy in 2014. In April of 2016, he went back into the Naval Reserves. When we got out of the Navy, I wanted to stay in San Diego. However, three kids and no college degree would make that very difficult.

San Diego, to me, is the most

perfect place on Earth, and this time, I am not exaggerating. But that perfect weather and coastline comes at a very steep price. We chose to come back to Ohio to be near family while we earned our college degrees.

I started at Baldwin Wallace University in August 2014. Baldwin Wallace University has such a small town feel. From day one, I was in love with the campus, the faculty and the staff. They do whatever they can to help students, believe me, I see it every day. The faculty and staff genuinely care about the success of students after graduation, especially active military and veterans. There is a wonderful group of veterans on campus who also look out for each other.

I will graduate May 6, 2017, with my Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and MBA in Accounting.



VETERAN + STUDENT



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Korean War Vet Recalls Sixteen-Month Captivity

By Jerri Donohue

Shortly after his capture, Lt. John Beers was riding in a truck full of Chinese soldiers when an American plane strafed them. "The moon was up," the Bath resident recalled. "It was a beautiful, big, bright moon. Thank heaven that driver was near a house and he put that truck right up against the house."

The attacking plane strafed through the top of the building and lit up the one across the street.

"What do you think of your air force now?" a Chinese soldier asked Beers.

The fighter pilot bit his tongue. For 31 missions, he had been the guy in a plane shooting or bombing targets on the ground.

On January 14, 1952, Beers bombed railroad tracks. As he flew back over the site, debris from the attack apparently set his engine on fire. He crash-landed in the Bay of Korea, and was captured by Korean

soldiers within 20 minutes. One of them assured his prisoner that he would soon be going home.

Beers spent the next 600 days in captivity. That winter day, Beers had dressed in layers of clothing because the night before he dreamed that

he was outdoors, walking ahead of two men. He was grateful for the extra clothes that night, when he walked for miles in freezing weather - trailed by two guards.

Beers' captors moved him multiple times, stashing him and other POWs in storage rooms of homes occupied by civilians.

By April 1952, everyone had dysentery. The Koreans transferred them to the Chinese and Beers re-



John Beers

covered in the Camp 5 hospital. His bed consisted of a plank placed on two sawhorses with a padded winter coat as mattress. It was the first time he didn't sleep on the ground since the crash.

The Chinese relocated the American to Camp 2 when he improved. They questioned him about participating in germ warfare. He had not engaged in biological warfare and refused to sign a confession. This battle of wills raged for months until the Communists gave Beers a 72-hour deadline. Still the pilot did not cooperate. The Chinese then confined him for 60 days to a space so small he could not fully lie down.

When the war finally ended, Beers

and hundreds of other Americans traveled by truck and then cattle cars to a tent city where the pilot showered, donned clean clothes and waited two weeks for a helicopter to fly him to Inchon. From there he sailed to the States.

Besides physical and psychological discomforts of his captivity, Beers recalls a touching incident that occurred on Easter. He led his fellow POWs in a religious service. At the end, they sang "God Bless America."

"Then the main compound, which was about 500 feet away from us, picked up the song," Beers said. "And down in the valley, a group of about ten or eleven sang, and then another group sang down there."

The Chinese suspected the men were communicating.

"I had to apologize to the commander of the camp," Beers said.

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Vietnam Veteran Received Navy Cross

A MARINE OF COURAGE, COMPASSION, AND DEDICATION

By Jerri Donohue

In Vietnam, Samuel Felton, Jr. saw a fellow Marine commit suicide, shot an American hijacking a helicopter, and survived an attempt by black soldiers to kill him because they considered him an "Uncle Tom." But the Lorain resident doesn't identify any of those incidents as his worst moment in Vietnam.

"For me, the worst is April 25, [1969] when Lt. Hartman got killed," said Felton, who was walking two men behind Hartman when a North Vietnamese sniper shot the officer in the head. "Everybody took it really hard," the veteran said. Felton had enlisted in the Marines straight out of high school.

"I went with a couple of friends," Felton said. "One of them was a white guy named Robert Witty, Jr. We went to boot camp together, came home on leave together and went to Vietnam together."

When they landed in Vietnam, the two agreed to reunite at the airport in 13 months, the tour of duty at that time. Witty did not show up on the designated day. Decades later, Felton discovered his friend's name on a memorial to Vietnam War dead.

"Everything just went black for me," the former Marine said. "I never knew what had happened to him." Felton received the Navy Cross during his first tour. In the early hours of June 11, 1969. North

Vietnamese forces attacked the sector his company defended. Felton wanted to retrieve three stranded Marines but a platoon leader claimed the Americans could not spare any manpower in the chaotic circumstances. Felton undertook the mission alone.



Samuel Felton, Jr.

He found one man with his abdomen open from a grenade, another Marine with shrapnel in his eyes and a third suffering from concussion. After patching up the most severely wounded, Felton carried him on his back while the other

two followed. North Vietnamese soldiers surprised them in the dark, shooting Felton in the shoulder before Felton killed them. He delivered the Marines to the aid station, and resumed fighting.

The next day, a helicopter evacuated the wounded, including Felton. After doctors on the USS Repose extricated the bullet, the Marine Corps sent him to leadership school while he recovered. Felton eventually rejoined his unit. He completed three

tours in Vietnam before leaving the Marines in 1972.

Today he is a tireless advocate for veterans, serving as chairman of Lorain County's Valor Home, a transitional facility for homeless veterans and those with addictions. He held three terms as president of Lorain Veterans Council, and leads DAV Louis Paul Proy Post 20. The local chapter of NABVETS (National Association for Black Veterans) is named for him. Felton kept in touch with Marines he befriended in Vietnam. When his wife died in 2009, several of them traveled to Ohio for her funeral. Felton did not expect them. "For me, that was the highest tribute of camaraderie and brotherhood I've ever experienced," the veteran said. "It chokes me up even now. What a wonderful, wonderful group of guys I served with. I'm thankful that I got to spend some of my life with them."



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THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, In a one-bedroom house made of plaster and stone. I had come down the chimney with presents to give, and to see just who in this home did live. I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots covered with sand, on the wall-hung pictures of far distant lands. With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sober thought came through my mind. For this house was different, In was dark and dreary. I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home. The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder, not how I pictured a United States soldier. Was this the hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight. Soon round the world, the children would play, and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, because of the soldiers, like the one laying here. I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry. The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice. I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life, my God, and my country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep. I kept watch for hours, so silent and still, and we both shivered from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark night, this guardian of honor so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over with a voice soft and pure. whispered, 'Carry on Santa, It's Christmas day, all is secure.'

One look at my watch and I knew he was right, Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night.



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A Peaceful Respite in a Time of War

By Rev. Edward J. Senko

Trench warfare. The Battle of the Bulge. The Chosin Reservoir. Vietnam. The Mideast.

War is often a game changer in history. Stories of incredible bravery and resolve, as well as indescribable pain. Confusion and panic. Art and architecture destroyed.

Still, there are no signs that peace is on the horizon, for America as well

as many countries around the world.

What to do? Every so often, I try to imagine a peaceful world, a world where kindness rules. It is the most pleasurable day dreaming. But I have to work on it. I plan a day and write it on my calendar. It is as important as any other appointment, though this is only for me.

The choices are many. Twice I have

walked around and through the Tremont neighborhood. What magnificent churches! A park where Civil War troops camped. All sorts of small bars and delightful restaurants.

The Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Again, it is akin to walking next to history.

Early in the summer, I went to Lake Anna, in Barberton. It is the most pleasant walk around the spring-fed lake, which was named for O.C. Barber, of Ohio Match fame. I happen to know, and happy to share what Mr. Barber's initials stand for: Ohio Columbus. Little wonder he went by O.C.

A long trip was to the Columbus Zoo. Magnificent animals, including endangered species, are there and appear to be well cared for. I was both fascinated and sad. Fascinated that God could create life in so many beautiful forms. Sad as well, because these magnificent

animals are not in their natural habitats.

I love Blossom Music Center. It is rare that I'm familiar with the music, but how you not be overwhelmed by the Cleveland Orchestra? We spread our blanket, open the picnic basket, and indulge our appetites as well as our deeply-ingrained desire for art, this time created by the Orchestra. (I enjoy telling out-of-town friends that I sit in front of the Cleveland Orchestra and enjoy a picnic while it delights the ear.)

When was the last time you sat and watched a Little League game? Want to see sheer joy as well as confusing disappointment on the face of a child? It is here.

There are more places I've enjoyed and more to come. But you have your own list, don't you? My prayer today is that you're able to find time and use it to bless your own heart.



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



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Blue-Eyed Female Soldier Trained Iraqi Police

By Jerri Donohue

Training policemen in Baghdad presented unusual challenges for Stephanie Bacskay. Even though she was a team leader with military police, she was also a blue-eyed American female.

"A lot of the Iraqi people we were dealing with weren't used to seeing women in such a role," the Elyria resident said. "Carrying a weapon, wearing body armor, trying to train and teach things we thought they could implement with their police force."

The experience occurred in 2002, early in the 17 years Sgt. Bacskay has spent in the Army National Guard. Soon after its arrival, her team needed to design ways to take roll call, establish accountability and maintain order at police stations.

Iraqi trainees ignored her and other female soldiers.

"There was no respect," Bacskay said. "A lot of times they would not answer our questions."

On the other hand, Bacskay sensed admiration from Iraqi women who worked for the Americans. Women college students conducted body searches on female civilians and served as interpreters. They quizzed Bacskay about her life in America and her job in the military.

Bacskay rotated between police stations, patrols, and security at the compound, working each assignment a month at a time, typically from six o'clock in the evening until six

o'clock in the morning. Her duties included planning routes and reconnaissance. She had no means to

communicate with other American units, only her own command.

"This was all so new," Bacskay said. "They just scrambled all these units – Marines, active duty Army and the Guard – we all came together to do this job."

The lack of communication presented problems. "One night there was so much gunfire," Bacskay said. "I was trying to figure out what I should do – go towards it because maybe some of ours are in trouble, or away from it because I don't want to put my team in jeopardy."

After radioing several times for

information, she finally learned that an Iraqi soccer team had won a championship and the locals were celebrating by firing tracers and



Stephanie Bacskay

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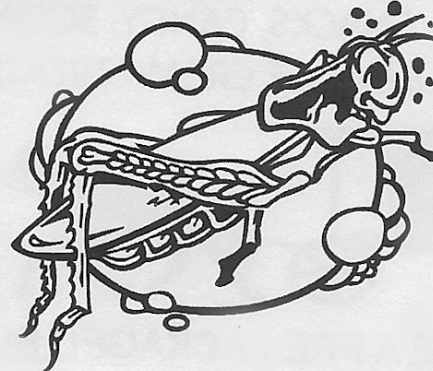
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In her maternity uniform, she was proof that women could have both a military career and a family.

"I would always say, 'I feel like such a strong woman to throw a rucksack over one shoulder and a diaper bag over the other,'" she said.

After eight years as a recruiter, Bacskay wanted a change. She finished her degree in business management, getting many college credits for training she had received in military service. She also returned to the military police, and she now is preparing for another deployment. She will leave her

hundreds of rounds into the air.

Bacskay worked full time as a recruiter for the National Guard when she came home. Meanwhile, she married another veteran and had three children, including a set

children, but she thinks someday they will understand why their Mom chose to serve.

"They're going to learn about the war on terror in school, in their history books," Bacskay said.



VA Awards FrontLine Service \$2.2 million for homeless veterans in Cuyahoga County

By Michelle Senko

FrontLine's services include Operation Cleveland Home Front, which serves homeless veterans and their families in Cuyahoga County.

The grant was among \$300 million the Veterans Administration announced through its Supportive Services for Veteran Families program.

VA Secretary Robert McDonald said his agency's Housing First strategy - which helps low-income Veteran families around the nation find permanent housing - has cut veteran homelessness nearly in half since 2010.

"Housing First is why 360,000 Veterans and family members have been housed, rehoused or prevented from falling into homelessness over the last five years," said a statement from McDonald.


LORAIN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

<p>FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Like us on facebook</p>	<p>TRANSPORTATION</p> <p>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</p> <p>VETERAN ID CARD <small>THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS • 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</small> • REQUIREMENTS • HONORABLE DISCHARGE or UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS RESIDENT OF LORAIN COUNTY DD214 • VALID STATE PHOTO ID</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">440.284.4625</p>	<p>VA CLAIMS ASSISTANCE</p> <p>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.</p> <p>www.LorainCountyVeterans.com</p>
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From Legacies: Stories from the Second World War

By Tom Swope



I interviewed Harry Dombroski in 2003 and nearly 60 years after the war, he was still suffering from PTSD.

“I seen that tank coming up the hill there and it was as big as a mountain. Holy, Jesus. And he was firing his machine gun like crazy, and that gun turret was busy. Between the machine gun and his gun, he just played hell with our men. I turned around and I looked at our men running up the hill, and how many of those men got tracer shells in their back. Oh, Jesus. And..., of course, I couldn't stop to think about it, but I thought why couldn't we help them? But we couldn't, no, no.”

“I saw the bodies of dead Americans run over by tanks. And you talk about a bloody sight. Did you ever see a human being flat as a pancake? I've seen several of them. My heart went out to them, and still today it lays in my guts what they done to us.”

“And I still remember. I have one boy with me right now. He lives with me (tapping his head). He's a 14 year old kid. He's a German soldier. I had to annihilate him with a piano wire. I put it around his neck and that was it. He was walking by me and he spotted me and I was faster than him, I guess. He's still with me.”

If he wants to hear the truth, I would be glad to send a copy of this interview to Mr. Trump.



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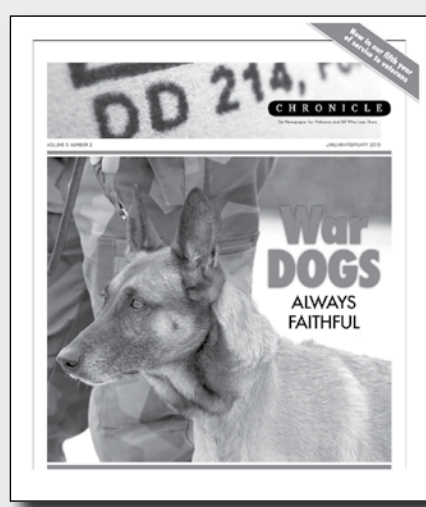
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VA Announces \$3.4 Million in Funding to Help the Homeless

FUNDS WILL ENHANCE SERVICES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS HOMELESS VETERAN.

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald announced the award of \$3.4 million in grant funding offered through the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program to 16 community agencies that provide enhanced services for homeless Veterans with special needs.

The GPD Program promotes the development and provision of supportive housing and services to help homeless Veterans to have stable residences, increase their skills and income, and achieve independence. Specifically, GPD special need grant funding assists with additional operating costs of transitional housing and services for special need groups such as women, chronically mental ill, frail elderly, terminally ill, and those with minor dependents.

“GPD Special Need Grants exemplify VA’s response to the wide range of needs of subpopulations of homeless Veterans,” said VA Secretary McDonald. “These 16 grants strengthen the continuum of VA services to help the most vulnerable Veterans become stably housed and achieve greater self-determination.”

As a result of these and other efforts, the number of U.S. Veterans experiencing homelessness has been cut nearly in half since 2010.

As of September 16, 2016, 29 communities and two states have con-

firmed and publicly announced that they have effectively ended Veteran homelessness, serving as models for others across the nation.

More information about VA’s homeless programs is available at www.va.gov/homeless. Community organizations seeking details

and/or more information may visit VA’s National Grant and Per Diem Program website www.va.gov/homeless/GPD.ASP

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Tri-C Plans Veterans Services Center at Western Campus; Thank You, Kisco Foundation

KOHLBERG PRIZE FROM KISCO FOUNDATION HELPS LAUNCH PROJECT

Cuyahoga Community College has been awarded \$80,000 to help establish a Veterans Services Center at Western Campus and expand and bolster services for those who served the nation.

The Kisco Foundation named Tri-C a recipient of its Kohlberg Prize, given annually to increase support for veterans attending community colleges. The grant was announced during a recent ceremony at the White House in Washington.

“This support from the Kisco Foundation will have a major impact on the lives of thousands of veterans,” said Alex Johnson, president of Tri-C. “The Kohlberg Prize enhances the College’s ability to help more veterans secure rewarding careers and position themselves for successful futures.”

The new Veterans Services Center at Western Campus in Parma will offer a full array of support services to help veterans reach educational and career goals as they transition from soldiers to civilians and become contributors to the economic vitality of Northeast Ohio.

The renovated space will include an area for academic advising and counseling; computer access to enable veterans to participate in online learning courses and services; meeting space; and a resource area providing information on veteran programs.

Plans call for the new center to open in spring 2017. The project currently is entering the design phase.

More than 90,000 veterans

live in Cuyahoga County. With the new center, the Tri-C Veterans Initiative estimates it will increase the number of veterans and their families served from 7,000 to 10,000.

The College also aims to increase veteran enrollment from 750 to 900 within the next two years. Veterans consistently rank among the highest achieving students at Tri-C.

Tri-C’s Veterans Initiative opens its doors at all veterans and their families, regardless of whether they are students at the College. The goal is for Tri-C to become a home base and beacon of hope for Northeast Ohio’s military community.

The new center will be modeled after the Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center at Tri-C’s Eastern Campus in Highland

Hills. The number of veterans and military family members served at Eastern Campus has increased 15 percent since the center opened last year.

The College also operates Veterans Services Centers at Metropolitan Campus in Cleveland, Westshore Campus in Westlake, Brunswick University Center and the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in Cleveland.

The Kisco Foundation was established by businessman and philanthropist Jerome Kohlberg. The World War II veteran used the GI Bill to attend Harvard Business and Columbia Law schools and later fought to ensure veterans continued to receive education benefits.

The Kohlberg Prize was awarded to Tri-C through the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation.

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WW II Veteran Remembers Teenager Prisoner, Hungry Civilians

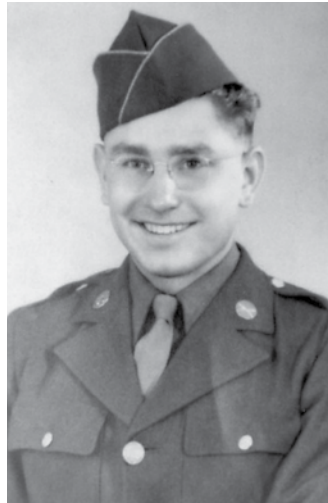
By Jerri Donohue

Brunswick resident Steve Jeziorski chokes up when he recalls a German prisoner in Bremen in the waning days of World War II. "He was about fifteen years old," Jeziorski said. "His legs were shot up and he was crying." A GI was taking the teenager to the aid station in a wheelbarrow. By then, Jeziorski had witnessed plenty of misery. The draftee had arrived in France with the 104th "Timberwolf" Division in September 1944. For most of the war, he drove a jeep, carrying a mortar crew and pulling their gun and equipment on a trailer. That October, the Timberwolves left France for Belgium where they relieved British troops and Jeziorski watched the British and American commanders in a heated argument. He fondly remembers mingling with Belgian civilians at a dinner dance and being treated to a home-cooked meal.

The 104th soon moved to Holland. Jeziorski flattened himself in a ditch when his convoy was caught in a barrage. As soon as it ended, a corporal leaped into the jeep and directed Jeziorski to a nearby farmhouse. Two enemy soldiers quickly appeared before the vehicle, hands raised. The corporal realized these men had been

bombarding the Americans just moments before. He forced them to remove their boots and stand in a freezing puddle until a truck picked them up.

In Germany, Jeziorski's unit traveled at night and happened upon a sight that has haunted the veteran ever since. "I recall going



Steve Jeziorski

in his jeep, curled in blankets, but in Eschweiler, he slept on the floor of a house. The soldiers also received a hot meal there. "After we were done eating, some of the German civilians, little kids and mothers - no men - came out with pots and whatever we had [left], we gave it to them," Jeziorski said.

up a hill and there was a whole line of jeeps and trucks and all the GIs in them were dead," Jeziorski said. "They were all slumped over." Shrapnel had killed some, but others had been shot. With no time to bury the men, the Timberwolves pressed on.

Europe suffered record-breaking cold that winter. The driver usually dozed

In Lucherberg, he and other GIs stayed in an abandoned German bunker. Jeziorski sat on a bunk bed, looking over souvenirs he had acquired. As he examined a prized German pistol, it discharged and the bullet narrowly missed another American. Shaken, Jeziorski put his head in his hands and the other soldier silently walked away. They never spoke of the near miss. Later, during the voyage home on the USS John Ericsson, two GIs accidentally shot and killed themselves with their souvenirs. Back in the States, Jeziorski made a smooth transition to civilian life. Since 1978, he has attended many of his division's national reunions. In September, the 91-year old joined 6 other Timberwolves in Washington, D.C. He tolerates the hassles of travel "just to meet my old buddies." "I should have started sooner," Jeziorski said.

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.

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- Learn about other scholarships available
- Talk with a Veterans Certifying Official
- Meet with a Counselor
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or visit www.lorainccc.edu/veterans

or email our office at 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

Twelve Health Resolutions for 2017

With the New Year, many people start thinking about things they would like to accomplish during the coming year. It is a time most of us think about changes we want (or need) to make. To help you, we have listed twelve resolutions for 2017 that may improve your health and promote wellness.

GET CHECKED

Part of your routine health care should be an annual check-up with your provider. Make the most of your visit by being prepared. It is important to talk with your provider. Take a list of questions you want to talk about. If you have a health concern make sure you let your provider know. Do not forget to ask if there is any screening test you may need, such as:

General: Colorectal Cancer Screening, Immunizations, Blood Pressure, Body Mass Index, Cholesterol

Women: Cervical Cancer Screen

Diabetes: Hemoglobin A1C, Foot Exam, and Eye Exam

During your visit make sure your provider does a Medication Check-up with you. This ensures that your provider knows about all your medications. What you take and how you take them. Tell your provider about any vitamins, herbals or supplements you take. Let your provider know about any medications that

other providers have given you and why. Do not forget to tell them how your medications make you feel.

EAT HEALTHY

Lose some of those extra pounds. The number of Veterans who are worried about weight gain continues to grow. It is not a surprise that one of the most popular goals for the New Year is to lose weight. To lose those pounds it is important that you set reasonable goals and track your progress. Start today!

GET ACTIVE

As the song goes, "Let's Get Physical." Becoming physically active has many health benefits. Just walking every day may help you lose weight and maintain weight loss. Physical activity can also improve a person's mood. It may help lower blood pressure and even improve blood flow. Before starting a workout program,

talk with your health care team about what is right for you.

QUIT SMOKING

If you use tobacco, the first step is the desire to quit. If you have tried before to quit and failed, do not let this stop you. The average person tries about four times before they finally quit. Also, talk with your health care team about aids to help you stop using tobacco. After you quit smoking you will probably start looking and feeling healthier. SmokeFreeVet can help you start today.

LIMIT YOUR DRINKING

Think about how much you drink. Take the Alcohol Use Screen to see how you handle how much you drink. If you have decided you want to stop drinking, it may be hard to make a change all at once. It is

important to talk with your health care team about steps you can take and what support is available to help you.

FIGHT THE FLU!

Get a Flu shot. Having the flu can cause serious problems. People with lung disease, heart disease, asthma, and diabetes, those pregnant, or 65 and older are more likely to have problems if they get the flu.

KNOW YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE

Watch your blood pressure. High blood pressure can put you at risk for heart disease, stroke, and kidney problems. Check your blood pressure at home and each time you have a clinic visit. If your blood pressure is high, talk with your health care team about what you can do to lower it.

WATCH YOUR CHOLESTEROL

Get your Cholesterol checked. Think about Cholesterol being like



Support Groups for Suicide Survivors and Mental Health

Seek knowledge and healing with a group of caring people from Lorain County. Connect with others who have lost a fellow soldier, colleague, friend, or loved one to suicide, or who are struggling to support family members with mental illness. Various local communities and organizations offer support groups. To learn more and connect to the group that is right for you, visit the Lorain County Board of Mental Health online at www.lcbmh.org/support-groups.

To find mental health services, call the Lorain County Navigator at 440-240-7025 or visit www.lcbmh.org.



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the stuff that clogs up your sink at home. Cholesterol clogs up blood vessels in your body. Clogged blood vessels may affect the blood supply to your heart and brain. This can cause heart disease, stroke, and memory problems. If your cholesterol is high, talk with your health care team about what you can do to lower it.

STAY SAFE

Make your home safe as possible. Check your home for dangers that might make you trip or fall. This can be poor lighting, throw rugs, electric cords, pets, non-skid shoes, a wet floor or things on the floor or stairs.

Some medications can make you unsteady on your feet. If you take four or more medications, your balance may be upset. Illness can affect your strength and balance. These things can put you at risk for a fall. Let your health care team know if you think your medication is making you feel dizzy.

Seat belts save lives. Each time you get into a car, make sure you and those you care about buckle up. It takes less than a minute to be safe.

GUARD YOUR EYES

Take care of your eyes! Protect your eyes from sun rays, eye strain and injury. When going outside, wear sun glasses that block ultraviolet A and ultraviolet B rays from the sun. Wear safety glasses when working with power tools or chemicals. Wash your hands before touching your eyes. Avoid eye strain by looking far away every 20 minutes when reading a book or working on a computer.

HELP OTHERS

Take time to help others. When you want to help others there are things you can do beside give money. You can spend a few hours working (volunteering) at your VA Medical Center or community clinic. You can help out with a fund raiser or community project. Give your extra clothes, food or goods to a charity. You can send a greeting card to a service member. There are people everywhere who could use your help.

Thank you for your service!

A Tribute to Aggie Hoskin



William Oatey, Chair of the Community West Foundation Board, Aggie Hoskin, 2016 Art of Caring Award Recipient, and David T. Dombrowiak, President and CEO, Community West Foundation.

This year's Art of Caring Award recipient, Aggie Hoskin, has a selfless heart for helping others. She is a great asset to our community and has touched the lives of countless children through the Jennifer Fund, a Donor Advised Fund at the Community West Foundation.

This compassionate and caring woman came from very humble beginnings. Aggie was raised in Scotland, Indiana, one of five children.

Her parents taught Aggie and her siblings an important lesson - by sharing with others you realize just how much you have. There was nothing as important to them as family.

In the summer of 1964, during her sophomore year at St. John's College, Aggie became involved in social activism in earnest. She traveled to Alabama for a World Campus Project and witnessed first-hand the difficult challenges and injustices faced by many people during the civil rights struggle.

She was committed from that day forward to advancing social equity, justice, and opportunity for all.

Aggie was and continues to be a champion of peace.

Aggie graduated cum laude from

Cleveland State University's College of Urban Affairs. She also holds a master's degree in Russian and Latin American history from the University of Akron, and has had post graduate studies at the Maryknoll School of Theology and Boston College.

In 1966, Aggie married her husband, Tom Hoskin. He joined the Army Reserve in 1964 and was called up in 1968. He served in Vietnam in 68-69. At 26, he was the "old man" at Bien Hoa air base. Sadly, he passed away in 2014, and is missed yet today - he was Aggie's right hand and many of the projects were truly joint ventures.

They were the parents of three children, Jennifer, Christopher, and Elizabeth, to whom she was ever devoted.

Over the course of her career, Aggie's community and social service work included: coordinator of Clergy and Laity Concerned, staff worker at the Salvation Army Women and Children's Shelter, and the Associate Director of Women's Concerns for the Commission on Catholic Community Action. She was appointed as Director of the Diocesan Office on Women in Church and Society, the first office of its kind in the country.

This is a brief list of her work and education.

Aggie retired to turn her attention to help her daughter, Jennifer, who had been diagnosed with breast cancer. Sadly, in 2007, Jennifer passed away.

After Jennifer's death, Tom and Aggie wanted to celebrate her life and honor her memory. During her life, Jennifer had a special place in her heart for all children, and in her honor, her parents created "The Jennifer Fund," a Donor Advised Fund at the Community West Foundation, to benefit children in poverty.

The fund is leaving its mark with area nonprofits - The Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center, Greater Cleveland Foodbank, Lakewood Community Services Center, Malachi Center, St. Paul's Community Church, St. Colman Church, West Side Catholic Center, Denison Avenue United Church of Christ, Collinwood Neighborhood Catholic Ministries, and many more. If you want more information on starting a Donor Advised Fund, visit CommunityWestFoundation.org or call (440)360-7370.

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