

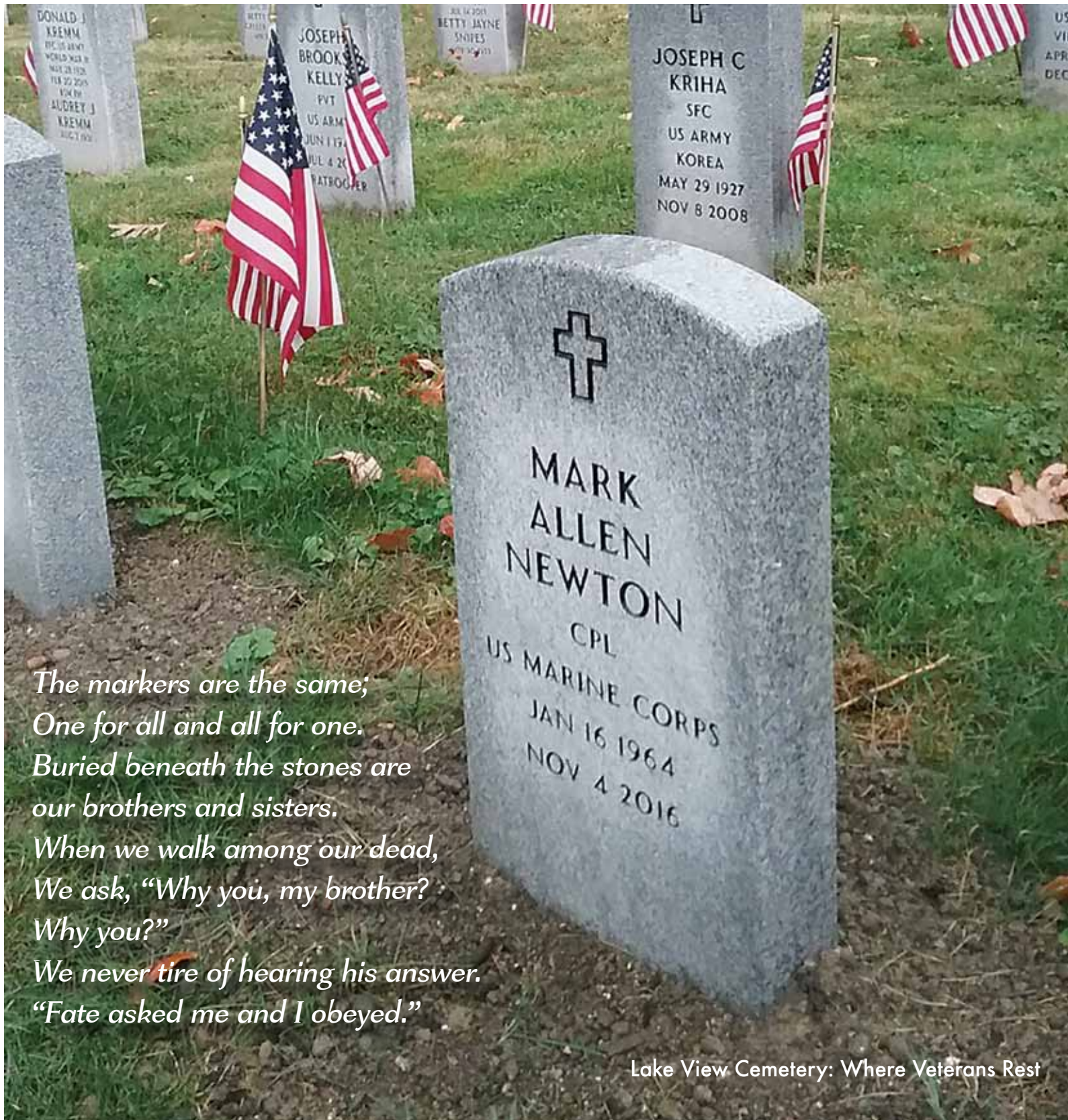


# CHRONICLE

The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 1

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017



*The markers are the same;  
One for all and all for one.  
Buried beneath the stones are  
our brothers and sisters.  
When we walk among our dead,  
We ask, "Why you, my brother?  
Why you?"  
We never tire of hearing his answer.  
"Fate asked me and I obeyed."*

Lake View Cemetery: Where Veterans Rest



# Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C)<sup>®</sup> is committed to veterans.

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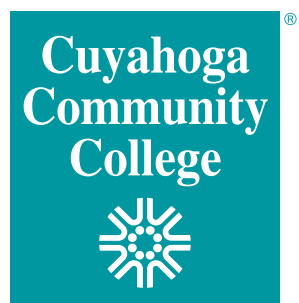
We offer fast-track certifications, degree and apprenticeship programs and support services.

Other resources include:

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- Veterans Club
- Assessment and Counseling
- Career Planning
- Scholarship Opportunities
- Distance Learning Opportunities
- Access to Community Resources
- Benefits Acquisition
- Education Access Program

For more information:

[tri-c.edu/veterans](http://tri-c.edu/veterans)  
216-987-3193



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# Headlines from across the country and comments from The Chronicle staff



The Newspaper for  
Veterans and  
All Who Love Them.

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3280 Glenbar Drive  
Fairview Park, Ohio 44126

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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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**1** Pumpkin spice air freshener prompts evacuation of school.  
*Finally – designer farts.*

**2** Half the universe's missing matter has just been finally found.  
*Under your bed.*

**3** Scientists discover how to make humans dream while they're wide awake.  
*Give them a desk job.*

**4** Ivana Trump: 'I was never happier in my life' than when Marla Maples got kicked off 'Dancing with the Stars.'  
*Now this chick is easily pleased.*

**5** Parolee steals girlfriend's pistol, trades it for crack cocaine, police say.  
*Bartering gone wild.*

**6** A state-run newspaper reports nearly 5 million people volunteered to enlist or reenlist in the Korean People's Army in the past few days.  
*Suddenly, shit-on-a-shingle doesn't sound so bad.*

**7** Odell Beckham Jr celebrates touchdowns by pretending to pee like a dog.  
*Class tells.*

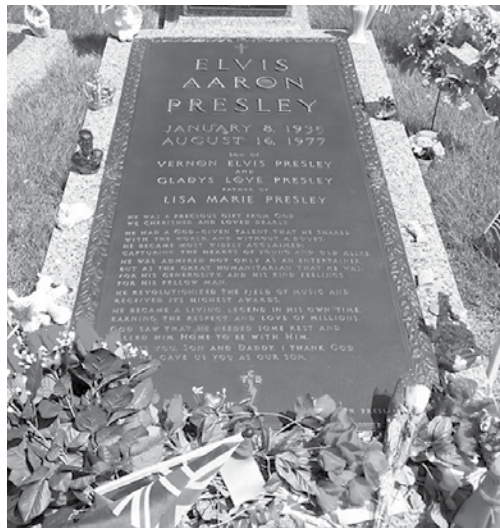
**8** Pet Owners Who Abandoned Animals During Irma Will Face Felony Charges.  
*Just me, but I think they should be executed.*

**9** Hackers could program sex robots to kill.  
*Can you program sex robots to kill hackers?*

**10** Teen found dead in walk-in freezer after hotel party.  
*Chillin' goes too far.*

**11** Elementary school bus driver gets lost for hours on first day.  
*Kept asking kids for directions.*

**12** Excessive masturbation is hurting China's military.  
*Making them blind.*



Elvis' grave, David Letterman and gizzly bear

**13** Grizzly bear mauls bow hunter, slashes open head.  
*Somedays you get the bear, some days the bear gets you.*

**14** Four-year-old steals car, runs over brother to get to Chuck E. Cheese.  
*Not likely Chuck E. Cheese will spotlight the four-year old in commercials.*

**15** Hef's son says it's 'tough to watch him struggle'.  
*That's why triple-strength Viagra was developed.*

**16** Your last chance to ever see David Letterman is approaching.  
*What does he know that we don't?*

**17** It costs \$28.75 to visit Elvis' grave.  
*And he'll sign your autograph book for an additional four bucks.*

**18** Dear Abby: Wife spends nights with her phone, not me.  
*For many men, that would be a dream come true.*

**19** Prison soon officially over for serial child molester Dennis Hastert.  
*Likely he'll miss the many friends he made.*

**20** Bill would give religious sects special treatment for gun permits.  
*Who's Bill and where did he get this loony idea?*

**21** Men tried to smuggle meth using penis-shaped candles.  
*Not any of my business, but where did they hide them?*

**22** Priest: I collected kiddie porn to spite God for poker losses.  
*God said, "Inside straight ... to hell."*

**23** Accused Kim Jong Nam assassins expected to plead not guilty.  
*If I were a betting man, I'd put my money on the prosecutor.*

# A Great Day for Veterans!

By Terri Kevany



**O**n Friday, June 30th, the Cuyahoga Land Bank officially transferred land to the Northeast Ohio VA Healthcare System for the construction of the Greater Cleveland Fisher House, bringing care and support for veterans and their families one step closer to becoming a reality.

City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County elected officials, including Mayor Frank Jackson, City Councilman Anthony Brancatelli and 28-year Veteran and County Councilman Jack Schron, who not only is a long time Fisher House supporter but also the early driving force for



Susan Fuehrer, Medical Center Director, Northeast Ohio Health Care System/Louis Stokes VA Medical Center and Cuyahoga Land Bank President Gus Frangos



Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Doug Harvey, Vice President of the Greater Cleveland Fisher House, and Cuyahoga Land Bank President Gus Frangos

the Cleveland Fisher House project in the County Council, all joined the Cuyahoga Land Bank, VA Hospital, Famicos Foundation and Fisher House leadership for a moving ceremony on the grounds of the future Cleveland Fisher Home site – once a series of vacant and abandoned properties. The Cuyahoga Land Bank worked to acquire the necessary parcels of land adjacent to the grounds of

the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in University Circle to make the project a reality.

Raising more than \$3 million over the past four years will enable the Fisher House Foundation to build not one, but two houses, to host over 30 families while their loved ones receive care at the VA hospital. Groundbreaking is expected to take place in fall of 2017.



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[www.cuyahogalandbank.org](http://www.cuyahogalandbank.org) OR CALL 216.698.8853



# James Banks, Ph.D., who shows us the hard-won souvenirs of war

By John H. Tidyman, editor

I'll tell you one of many things about James Banks. First, don't call him Doctor. You can call him James or Doc. Tell you another: Greater Cleveland is blessed to have him. One more: I've never seen the guy frown. I'm sure he has; I'm just telling you I haven't seen it.

He doesn't answer to Doctor, I think, because he is a modest man. We're lucky to have him because he's the guy who makes military history come alive. His museum at Cuyahoga Community College West is remarkable. The museum draws

you in and visitors slowly walk through, imagining the men and women who wore the uniforms and carried the weapons and either lived or died for us.

Doc's good friend Will Largent, contributed a souvenir of war: The dress dagger worn by a German POW camp commander. The two met after German anti-aircraft fire downed Will's bomber.

Will was able to bail and pull the



parachute cord. He broke a leg on landing.

French partisans couldn't keep him with such an injury and took him to a German hospital. The camp commander knew the war was coming to an

end. As he surrendered, the camp commander handed his dagger to Will.

As Will and Doc became friends, Will gave the dagger to Doc. The dagger is displayed in the museum.

This is a brief example of the dedication – even passion – Doc has for students and veterans.

So let us lift our glasses and toast Doc: "To the educator and historian who knows the value of education and history. To Doc, for his devotion to students of all ages, and especially to the men and women who risked, and sometimes lost, their lives for us. To Doc, a most generous man marked by modesty, a man who understands the value of history, and man who shares what he knows with us. Hear, hear!"

## MAJOR GEN. FREDERICK C. BLESSE

Major Gen. Frederick C. Blesse may not be well known by the general public, but in U.S. Air Force circles he remains something of a legend. With extensive combat experience and a pile of medals and awards, his place in U.S. Air Force history was already assured in 1955 when he wrote a fighter tactics manual called *No Guts, No Glory*. It is considered the Bible of air-to-air combat and has been used by a number of air forces around the world. "No Pain, No Gain" is a less dramatic, but more familiar variation of the phrase, which refers to the need for hard work in the gym.



## VA Expands Transparency Efforts, Detailing Secretary's Travel

BECOMES FIRST AGENCY TO POST INFORMATION ON SECRETARY'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL, USE OF PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT

**WASHINGTON** — Today, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking yet another step on transparency on its official actions, this time in the area of disclosing official travel by the Secretary.

Beginning today, the department is making public a list of Secretary Shulkin's official travel taken since Jan. 20. This information is posted at [www.va.gov/opa/secvatravel](http://www.va.gov/opa/secvatravel), and will be updated within five business days after the conclusion of an official trip.

The website lists:

- Use of private aircraft by the Secretary (none to date)
- Use of government aircraft by the Secretary
- Itineraries (key events) of official international trips by the Secretary
- Itineraries (key events) of official domestic trips by the Secretary (to be added by Oct. 15).

Secretary Shulkin pointed to the move as the fourth major step in long-sought transparency and accountability

actions at VA, and noted that VA is once again the first federal agency to make such data public.

Earlier this year, under the Secretary's direction, the VA began listing:

- Wait times and quality/satisfaction data at all VA medical centers (updated weekly)
- Adverse employee actions (updated weekly)
- Employee settlements (updated quarterly).

"Under this Administration, VA is committed to becoming the most transparent organization in government, and I'm pleased to take another step in that direction with this move," Secretary Shulkin said. "Veterans and taxpayers have a right to know about my official travel as Secretary, and posting this information online for all to see will do just that."

The information will also include what VA staff and spouses accompany him on each trip, if any, but for security reasons, members of the Secretary's security detail will not be listed by name or number.

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Dennis Little  
President

14528 Detroit Avenue  
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

# SocksPlus Program helps the homeless



Community West Foundation is a local philanthropic organization dedicated to supporting organizations that provide the basic needs of food, clothing, and medical care to the most needy in and around Western Cuyahoga County.

The Foundation approaches philanthropy with imagination and encourages efforts to strengthen the health and well being of our community by raising awareness of the issues that affect us all – including homelessness.

For many people in our community, homelessness is very real, and the largest growing segment is families with children who do not have a place to call home. The plight of the homeless is an issue that the Foundation cares deeply about and they have taken a proactive position in helping the least of our brothers and sisters.

After learning that socks are the most requested item among homeless people, the SocksPlus Program at Community West Foundation was created. The project collects socks, plus many of the other necessities that our homeless neighbors need most.

SocksPlus has evoked emotion, impact, and action. It has grown from an idea into a community movement. A network of “Tribes”

have believed in and supported this effort to provide for our homeless neighbors. Hundreds of people have joined Community West Foundation – our neighbors, community partners, businesses, faith-based organizations, schools, civic organizations, and so many more.

A gift of just \$10.00 will help purchase 10 pairs of socks. A larger donation provides socks PLUS gloves, hats, shoes, boots, backpacks, and other necessities that are so desperately needed. And when you support SocksPlus, 100 per cent of your donation is used immediately to provide caring assistance to our struggling neighbors.

The call to love our neighbor is universal and those facing homelessness desperately need our help – not only at the holiday season, but all year round. You can become part of this movement to bring hope and comfort to the homeless. Start your own tribe or donate today. Learn more about SocksPlus at [www.communitywestfoundation.org/events/socksplus](http://www.communitywestfoundation.org/events/socksplus).

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

### Veterans Service Center

at Lorain County Community College

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

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

- Learn how to maximize your veteran's benefits
- Learn about other scholarships available
- Talk with a Veterans Certifying Official
- Meet with a Counselor
- Explore all that LCCC has to offer

Call LCCC's Veterans Service Center at 440-366-7685  
or visit [www.lorainccc.edu/veterans](http://www.lorainccc.edu/veterans)  
or email our office at [veterans@lorainccc.edu](mailto:veterans@lorainccc.edu).



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

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



*Lorain County  
Community College*

# Agent Orange: The U.S. weapon that made millions for war profiteers

## IT KEEPS ON KILLING

War profiteers at Monsanto and other chemical companies sold the poison to the U.S. Armed Forces. Twenty million gallons of the poison covering six

million acres. In addition to taking out vegetation used as cover for enemy forces, it crippled and killed U.S. forces as well as the enemy. While Monsanto's version of the

poison was the most potent, other U.S. companies produced Agent Orange as well: Uniroyal, Hercules, Diamond Shamrock, Thompson Chemical and TH Agriculture. Dow Chemicals produced Agent Orange and added napalm to its annual reports. *Internal Monsanto memos show that Monsanto knew of the problems and covered it up.*



Responsibility for building the infrastructure needed in South Vietnam was given over to the largest construction entity ever, the RMK-BRJ (Raymond International, Morrison-Knudsen, Brown & Root, and J.A. Jones Construction).

Which was more important: the lives of veterans here and in Vietnam, or the billions of dollars Monsanto and other American companies could put in its profit statement? Me, I'd call them traitors.

Spraying this poison began in 1961 and lasted until 1971. Operation Ranch Hand was responsible for cancer, rashes, birth defects, neurological and severe psychological problems for the Vietnamese as well as the Americans. And death.

We can assign blame, but blame is an idea, nothing more. Equally culpable were the U.S. Armed Forces, the White House and Congress.

They committed war crimes; not likely they will ever be brought to justice.

Emergency 24-hour Service  
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 Lakewood, OH 44107  
 216-221-0310

## Honoring Our Veterans

**AT HOSPICE OF THE WESTERN RESERVE, WE HONOR OUR VETERANS EVERY DAY.** Through our *Peaceful & Proud* initiative, hospice veterans can receive care from staff members trained on how the unique life experiences of veterans shape end-of-life preferences. Through specialized, quality care, patients and families live their lives with dignity.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with a chronic or serious illness and you need help, **insist on Hospice of the Western Reserve.** Your journey to compassionate care begins at [hospicewr.org/veterans](http://hospicewr.org/veterans).

NORTHERN OHIO'S HOSPICE OF CHOICE | 800.707.8922 | [hospicewr.org/veterans](http://hospicewr.org/veterans)



# LORAIN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

1230 N Abbe Rd., Elyria, OH 44035 • [www.LorainCountyVeterans.com](http://www.LorainCountyVeterans.com)

## VA CLAIMS ASSISTANCE

Our Veterans Service Officers (VSO's) serve as a liaison to the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA). VSO's advise and assist Vets and their family members of their rights and/or obtaining possible benefits through the VA, the State of Ohio and Lorain County.

### Services include processing claims for:

- 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:

- Military Awards and Medals.
- H.S. Diploma for Wartime Vets.
- Upgrading Discharges.
- Requests for Discharge (DD 214).

### Benefits may include but not limited to:

- Education Benefits
- VA Home Loan
- Burial Benefits



## VETERAN ID CARD

**ID CARDS are ISSUED ON THURSDAY & FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

### • REQUIREMENTS •

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

**440.284.4625**



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Temporary financial assistance may be available to Veterans or their widow who show a need and meet eligibility requirements.

Assistance may be given for rent, mortgage, property tax, utilities, car payment, insurances, and food or personal items.

Household income, living expenses, available assets, medical expenses, and the special needs of each applicant are considered when determining eligibility.

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

## TRANSPORTATION

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

A morning shuttle is available to Wade Park & Parma. Home pick-ups are provided for appointments at the VA Clinic in Sheffield Village.

Wheelchair accessible service is available.

**TO SCHEDULE A RIDE CALL 440.284.4624**

## WADE PARK & PARMA SCHEDULE

Departs LCVSO ..... 7:15 a.m.\*1  
 Departs JFS..... 7:30 a.m.\*1  
 Departs Valor Home ..... 7:45 a.m.\*1  
 Departs Elyria ..... 8:00 a.m.\*1  
 Arrives W/P..... 9:15 a.m.\*2  
 Departs W/P ..... 3: 00 p.m.\*3  
 Arrives LCVSO..... 4:30 p.m.\*3

## PICK-UP & DROP OFF LOCATIONS

**LCVSO:** 1230 Abbe Rd., Elyria

**JFS:** 42495 North Ridge Rd.

**Valor Home:** 221 W 20th St., Lorain.

**Elyria:** Admin. Bldg., 226 Middle Ave.

\*1 May depart earlier if all riders are present.

\*2 Approx. time, add 20-30 min. if shuttle goes to Parma.

\*3 May depart earlier if all riders are done with their appts.

*Thank You for Your Service!*

## RESOURCE ROOM

Clients are welcome to utilize the printer and computers (with internet access). We also send faxes and have a notary available for our Veterans.

**SERVICES ARE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE TO VETERANS OF LORAIN COUNTY ONLY**

# Clearview H.O.P.E. Offers Women Vets Support, Friendship – and Golf

By Jerri Donohue

When PGA Hall of Famer Renee Powell founded Clearview H.O.P.E. (Helping Our Veterans Everywhere) at Clearview Golf Club in 2011, she knew a lot more about golf than she did about women veterans.

Little by little, their stories came out. “Most of the women in my program are dealing with PTSD,” Powell said.

A few deployed multiple times. A couple received Purple Hearts. Some were raped by fellow servicemen.

“We have all grown together and support one another,” said retired Army warrant officer Barbara Hickman, unofficial president of the 70 past and present Clearview H.O.P.E. participants. “We are there for each other, and that’s all because of Renee. She has enough heart and soul to care for each one of us.”

When the VA Suicide Hotline put a Clearview H.O.P.E. veteran on hold, the woman telephoned another member of Powell’s program for help. Hickman recalled a gathering in the pro shop during which four or five veterans announced that Clearview H.O.P.E. had saved their lives.

Powell couldn’t predict her golf classes would become the informal support group it is today. When approached by the PGA (Professional Golfers Association), she agreed to offer female veterans five weeks of instruction. That humble beginning immediately morphed into year round activities, ranging from a family cookout in September (Powell flips the burgers) to an indoor clinic in February with Wii Golf and putting contests.

The program is cost-free to veterans. Powell raises funds and provides everything from instruction to

equipment. For Women’s History month in March, she brings a speaker to Firestone Country Club, an ideal location for veterans traveling from Cleveland, Akron, or Canton. This year’s keynote speaker was Suzy Whaley, first female president of the PGA.

Other women golfers purchase tickets for such events, but Powell taps businesses and organizations to cover the cost of the veterans’ tables.

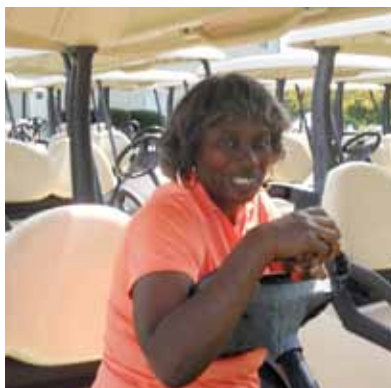
To help pay for everything, she sells a \$5 instructional booklet she wrote for new golfers, and she raffles baskets in Clearview’s Club House throughout the year.

Clearview Golf Club also has a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable foundation in which contributions can be designated for the veterans’ program. For two consecutive years, Timken’s Women of Steel held golf outings as a fundraiser for Clearview H.O.P.E. Another year, an organization of Vietnam Veterans donated \$1,000.

Powell is grateful for other kinds of assistance, too. Until she moved to Colorado, Kirsten Eckley, a PGA member from a Marine family, helped Powell teach the women. Now golf coaches from local colleges are stepping up.

## GRATITUDE AND GRIT

Powell’s late father, William Powell, was captain of his high school golf team. While he was stationed overseas



Renee Powell

during World War II with the Army Air Force, Scottish civilians lent the American golf clubs so he could play there.

When he returned home, however, the black veteran was barred from local courses. Realizing discrimination also existed against women and young people, he deter-

mined to build a course where anyone could play.

The Veterans Administration and banks denied Bill Powell a loan, and so he bought 78 acres in East Canton with money he borrowed from his brother and two African-American physicians. He toiled on the golf course in the evenings after putting in an 8-hour day at his regular job, and opened the original nine holes in April 1948. He acquired more land and added the back nine in 1978.

Meanwhile, his daughter played golf from the time she was three years old. Renee Powell eventually became part of the LPGA tour.

She gave golf demonstrations to American servicemen for three frenzied weeks in Vietnam in 1971. After visiting a hospital, her U.S.O. group waited for a helicopter to take them to their next stop.

“This Chinook landed, and they were getting guys off on stretchers, covered with blood and mud,” Powell recalled. “They rushed them off, and then they rushed us on.”

Numb, she wondered if the soldiers

she had seen would survive.

Other times the golfers were already at the landing pad when they received word of a schedule change because enemy troops had attacked their intended destination.

Powell returned home from the U.S.O. tour exhausted but glad she had gone. She had agreed to participate because she saw it as a way “to give back.” The tables were turned in 2012 when three vets who had seen her at Firebase Sherman contacted her. They thanked her “for coming to Vietnam at a time many of our soldiers thought the world had forgotten them.”

The vets and their families subsequently joined Powell and her USO roommate, Texan Mary Lou Crocker Daniels, at Clearview for a reunion. Clearview H.O.P.E. participants took the visitors sightseeing.

## CLEARVIEW H.O.P.E. TODAY

Powell witnessed the women grow in confidence as they learned to play golf. Acquiring this new skill prompted some to try other things, like going back to college. Powell now takes a veteran with her on speaking engagements because it’s educational for her audience and a confidence builder for the vet.

The mutual respect and affection that developed between Powell and the veterans impacted the golfer’s life, too.

Even though she served as a golf ambassador around the world and started golf programs for inner city kids, Powell names Clearview H.O.P.E. as her most rewarding project.

“I’ve done so many things over the years, so many different programs,” Powell said. “This is the best program I’ve done. Ever!”



## He served his country with honor, now he needs your help.

Community Service Alliance serves northern Ohio veterans emerging from homelessness. These veterans need our support.

This holiday season, help a veteran by donating to Community Service Alliance. Your gift is 100% tax deductible.

**No veteran should be homeless.**

Community Service Alliance  
Fulton House  
3387 Fulton Road  
Cleveland, OH 44109  
216.351.0655  
For more information or to  
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[comservealliance.org](http://comservealliance.org)



## \$3 MILLION RAISED

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

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



THANK YOU  
*Cleveland*

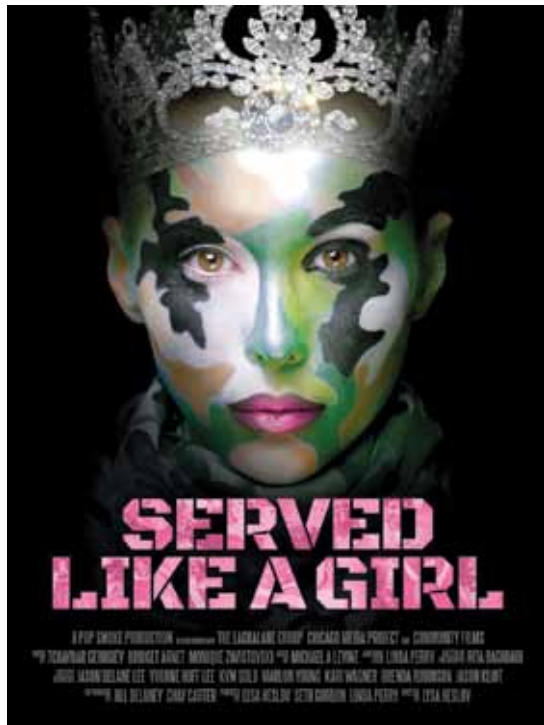
# Film documents personal challenges of women veterans

By Barry Goodrich

The plight of struggling veterans has been well documented in recent years with one glaring exception – the women who have served the country and returned to face the same, if not more, challenges as their male counterparts.

The documentary film *Served Like a Girl* is helping to change all that. The film premiered at the South by Southwest festival in March and had its theatrical release in August. A DVD of the film is available Nov. 7 along with a companion CD of original music from and inspired by the documentary.

Directed by Lysa Heslov, the film follows several women who were wounded in action and are now making the transition from soldier to civilian following their service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Coping with PTSD, homelessness, broken families, divorce, illness and military sexual abuse, the women are forced to adapt to economic and social challenges but are able to spotlight those issues by competing in the annual Ms. Veteran American competition.



The event, founded by Major Jas Boothe, allows the women to regain the identities and lifestyles sacrificed by their service. More of a profile in courage than beauty pageant, the Ms. Veteran American competition helps to raise funds

for homeless women veterans.

“When I always thought of homeless veterans, mistakenly, I had always thought it was a man pushing a shopping cart,” Heslov told *People* magazine.

All of that changed as Heslov spent two years documenting the lives of the contest’s organizers and competitors, including Boothe (Army), Sergeant Nichole Alred (Army), Master at Arms First Class Hope Garcia (Navy), Lieutenant Commander Rachel Engler (Navy), Sergeant Andrea Waterbury (Army), Specialist Marissa Strock (Army) and Master Sergeant

Denyse Gordon (Air Force).

“To be able to tell their stories became a mission for me,” said Heslov. “We became a family.”

Boothe, a disabled vet and cancer survivor, is the founder of Ms. Veteran American and Final Salute,

which have combined to raise over \$2 million, assisting over 3,600 women veterans and children in over 30 states. Homelessness among women veterans has reached epidemic proportions and now stands at a staggering 55,000.

The film has drawn rave reviews from festivals across the country and has been nominated for a Critics Choice award for Best Documentary.

This month’s DVD release coincides with a CD of music that includes contributions from Pat Benetar, Christina Aguilera, Pink, and Gwen Stefani. Benetar’s “Dancing Through the Wreckage,” co-written by her husband and native Clevelander Neil Giraldo, serves as the end title song for the film.

“The film’s ability to showcase the hope and courage from these women sparked this song and their message is one that must not go unheard,” said Benetar.

More information on the documentary is available at [servedlikeagirl.com](http://servedlikeagirl.com) and donations to help support homeless women veterans can be made at [finalsaluteinc.org](http://finalsaluteinc.org).

## The War in the Mideast and the Volunteer Army

By John H. Tidyman, editor

The war in the Mideast has been going on so long, no medium deems it important. May not be important to many, but it is important to American defense contractors, families of troops, the U.S. economy, and U.S. status here and around the world.

Few of us could point out countries in the Mideast, where sides and territories are changed more often than a newborn’s diaper. How would we? The news media, to its shame, doesn’t find value in covering young troops in a land so hostile and dangerous; the Russians gave up and went home.

If a nation cannot win a war in five years, it’s time to declare victory and quit.

The all-volunteer Army, first created in the Nixon administration, is



a disaster. The military public relations staff would argue otherwise, but it is full of ham and lima beans.

Two reasons: Limiting enlistment to only those who want to

join results in a less-effective fighting force. The absence of a military draft results in far fewer men and women who could add to the manpower and brain power.

Reason number two is the deepening rift between the Armed Forces and U.S. citizens. Is this the

more serious of the two reasons? I think so. We fight far away and think, ‘Those troops wanted to go, so let them. Ain’t my problem.’

With a draft, we would all be

on the same page — if drafted young men were in uniform around the world, we would want to know what our politicians are doing, especially because their children wouldn’t be treated any differently than anyone else. Our troops would be our co-workers, neighbors, students, and family members.

We would demand to know what our government is doing with the lives of troops and which corporations are making the outrageous profits. (I wonder if a draft, newspapers would regain value.)

At present, the Armed Forces, Congress, and the Commander-in-Chief know exactly what they’re up to: Creating and growing ignorance among us. History shows us how well that strategy works.

# Rick DeChant: This Veteran Cares about All Veterans

DAY IN, DAY OUT, HE SHOWS IT. *By John H. Tidyman, editor*

See that blur? Kinda looks like a man, doesn't it? Then, whoosh! He's out of sight.

Allow me to introduce you to Rich DeChant, who serves our community as Executive Director for Veteran Services and Programs at Cuyahoga County Community College. If ever he slows down, I'll introduce you.

DeChant has been honored for his work before, but this honor is special: Induction to The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in Columbus.

The Hall of Fame is not a military hall of fame. Those selected for the honor are veterans who have honorably served their country and *who have continued to serve and inspire their fellow man with their deeds and accomplishments throughout their lifetime.*

The Hall was created in 1992. Governor George V. Voinovich sought to honor veterans for their civic and service-connected work after they left the service. Many veterans continue their service after



discharge, this time to their communities.

Members of The Hall don't shower themselves with honor and glory. As citizens in civvies, they seek to make their communities better places for us to live, work, and grow.

A committee of veterans serves as advisors for The Hall of Fame and selects up to 20 inductees annually. Nominations are solicited throughout the year from citizens of Ohio. Men and women chosen for this honor come from all eras, all branches of service, and all walks of life.

Charter members of The Hall include the six Ohio military veterans who were elected president of the United States and all Medal of Honor recipients from Ohio. DeChant will join an elite group of veterans and he is humbled.

He is also proud of the work he has done in our community and his work has been honored by many organizations.

As a Commander with the Coast

Guard, his combat tours included Middle East for Gulf War I and again in Iran/Kuwait in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As a graduate of John Carroll University, his understanding of veterans and the value of education, his skills are wide and deep. Eight years ago, he was instrumental in the launch

of DD214 Chronicle.

Not just experience and education. DeChant puts both in action on behalf of our communities, education, and veterans.

Induction to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame is an honor richly deserved.

Congratulations and thank you, Commander.



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# Ken Burns

## LESSONS FROM VIETNAM

That does it for me. Two episodes of Ken Burns' series on Vietnam were enough. Many of us watching are suddenly pushed back to the impenetrable jungle, malaria and leeches, warm sticky blood, R & R, Bob Hope, ambushes and booby traps, C-rats; for the presidents and Congress on both sides of the aisle, the only solution seemed to be drafting and sending more young boys, more ammunition, more Purple Hearts, PTSD and suicides, more body bags, and uncounted millions stuffed into the bulging wallets of war profiteers.

That was a solution for a problem that didn't exist. War profiteers including RMK-BRJ (Raymond International, Morrison-Knudsen, Brown & Root, and J.A. Jones Construction). Calling it, "The Vietnam Builders."

I don't know who greased the palm of Congress, but the contracts were let without bidding.

Draft evaders, anti-war demonstrators, young men who would permanently give up their U.S. citizenship rather than become part of a war machine out of control.

Young men who would come home, and yet, never leave those killing fields.

Department of Defense? No, it's the Department of War.

And now we celebrate Peace with Honor? If there were no honor in going, no honor in retreating, there isn't anything honorable about the peace.

The Tonkin Resolution to Peace with Honor. The Tonkin Resolution was an act of Congress, which had little to lose, and Peace with Honor was Nixon's lie about the end of the war.

A Congress that would have nothing to do with truth? Rich kids with deferments? A draft lottery? I've long opined if we go to war, we all go.

How ignorant could military leaders be? They refused to learn the history, the culture, the language, the fighting strategy of the former French colony.

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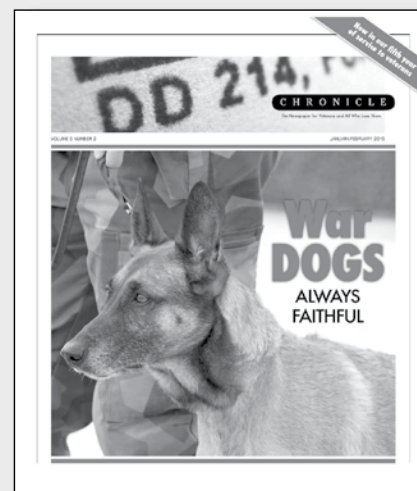
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## AMERICAN LEGION (AND OTHERS) DEDICATE MEMORIAL PARK IN NORDONIA HILLS

By Capt. David Pristash, US Army (ret.) Commander American Legion Post 801

In January, 2015, Carl Quesenberry of American Legion Nordonia Hills Post 801 presented to the Post a request that a memorial to honor veterans should be erected in the Nordonia Hills community. The Post agreed to take on the project.

Tom O'Brien, Post Chaplain, and active in the City of Macedonia, lobbied then-Mayor Don Kuchta to permit the Memorial to be erected in the Veterans Park that had been donated in 1928 by Col. E.C. Peck.

Mayor Kuchta and the City Council enthusiastically agreed and renamed the site Veterans Memorial Park and dedicated it to all veterans.

In 2016, Mayor Joseph Migliorini suggested the project should not stop but that the entire Park should be refurbished to properly honor them.

With that, at the request of Post 801, the Advisory Planning Committee was expanded to include the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6768.

The plans for the park went through many suggestions and design changes before being finalized. To complete Phase One in time for the September dedication ceremony, many hours were put in by Macedonia's Service Department, Dan Davis (101st Airborne in Vietnam) of Post 6768, Frank Posar (Army Security Agency, Vietnam era) of Post 801 and Dave Pristash (5th Special Forces in Vietnam) of Posts 801 and 6768.

Dan, Frank and Dave were on their knees from sunup to sundown to install over 3,600 pavers in the plaza.

**Phase One** was completed in time for the dedication held on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Phase One consists of the Memorial flanked by the VFW Post 6768 and American Legion Post 801 granite benches, the main Archway, the War on Terror and the Vietnam War Monuments, each flanked by a donated bench, three flagpoles, and the inscribed pavers donated to date.

The monuments, pavers, website and dedication ceremony were created and managed by Jim Krasnicki (Convoy Commander on Thunder Road in Vietnam) of Posts 801 and 6768 and his wife Kathy.

A lot has been done but a lot more is to be done to complete the entire vision for the park. When completed, there will be a special spot for the names of Nordonia Hills' veterans who were killed in action (KIA).

In addition, eight smaller monuments with a brief history of each of the major conflicts since the Revolutionary War will be added.

The Memorial from World War I and

the cannon that were originally in the park will be returned after being refurbished. Handicapped accessible picnic tables and benches will be placed throughout the park, along with cement walkways.

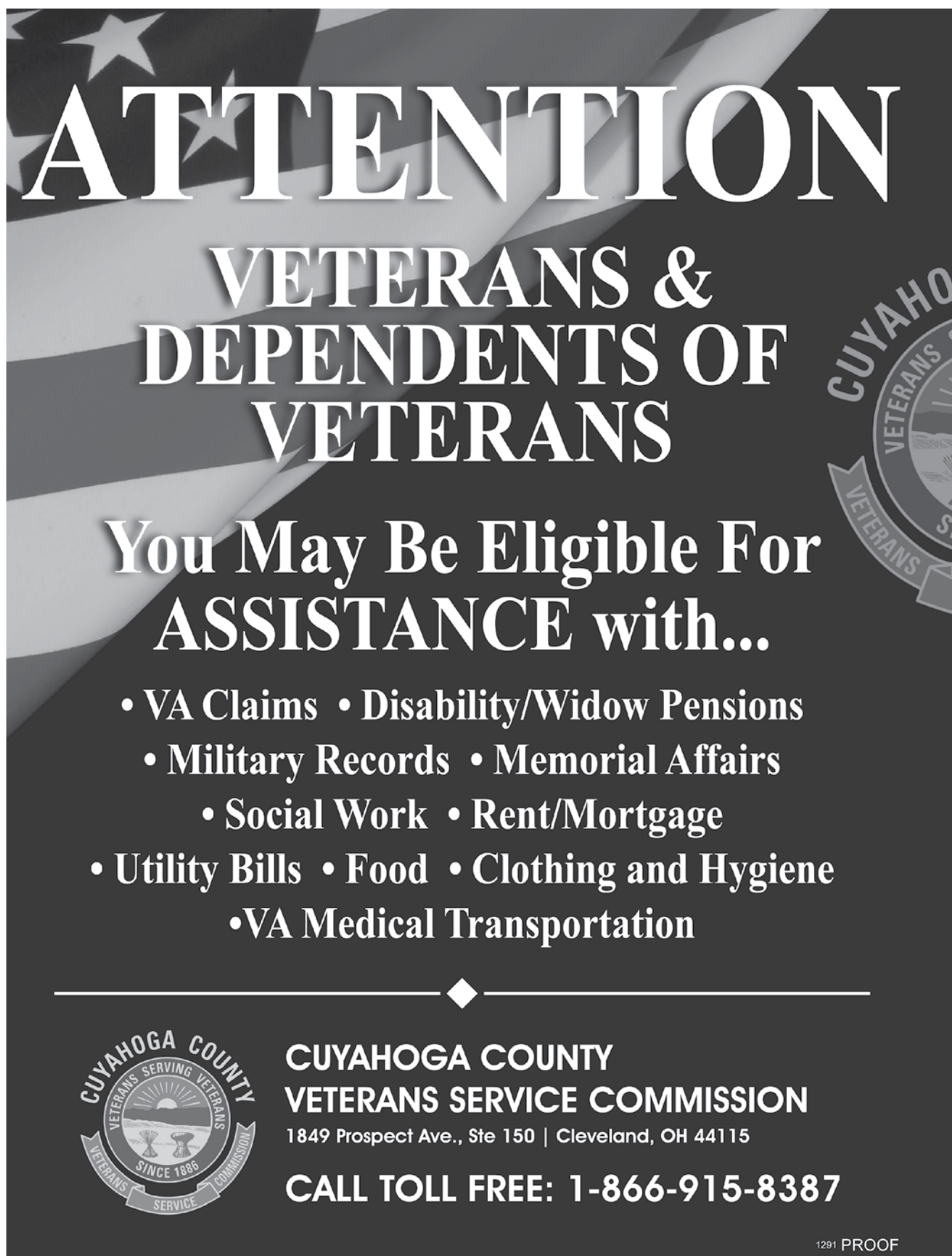
After the dedication, the city received a large donation that

will allow them to build an ADA-compliant rest room. Construction has begun.

Tax deductible donations would greatly help to achieve the vision. What a great way to be remembered or celebrate the life of a loved one by donating to make the

Veterans Memorial Park complete. Go to the park website [www.nordoniahillsveteransmemorialpark.com](http://www.nordoniahillsveteransmemorialpark.com) for additional details and contact information.

*Pristash is current Commander of Post 801 and Purple Heart recipient. He resides in Brecksville.*




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# The Right Stuff

## BOB FELLER'S TWO AMAZING CAREERS

By Barry Goodrich

**D**riving from his home of Van Meter Iowa to Chicago on Dec. 7, 1941, Cleveland Indians' star pitcher Bob Feller heard of the attack on Pearl Harbor on his car radio.

Feller had been on his way to negotiate a new contract with the Indians; he had won 107 games in six seasons. All that changed when Feller met with Cleveland

general manager Cy Slapnicka, not to talk baseball but to tell the Indians' GM he was enlisting with the U.S. Navy.

With his father suffering from a serious illness, Feller could have used a family-related draft exemption. Instead, he became the first professional athlete to enlist with the Navy. He became Navy Chief Petty Officer Bob Feller,

originally assigned as a physical training instructor at a naval gunnery school in Rhode Island before being assigned to the USS Alabama as a gun captain on an anti-aircraft mount with a crew of 24.

Aboard the Alabama, Feller spent six months helping to escort convoys in the North Atlantic and in August of 1943, he headed to the central Pacific. The pitcher known as "Rapid Robert" would go on to participate in some of the most pivotal sea battles of the war, surviving two enemy bombs that hit the Alabama, fending off kamikaze attacks and enduring a massive typhoon.

"Combat is an experience that you never forget," Feller told the U.S. Naval Institute's Proceedings Magazine in 2008, two years before his passing at the age of 92. "A war teaches you that baseball is only a game, a minor thing compared to the sovereignty and security of the United States."

In March of 1945, Feller was sent to the Great Lakes Training Center, where he managed the baseball team. He rejoined the Indians in August, starting against the Detroit Tigers just two days after going on inactive duty. All he did

was go out and pitch a four-hitter for a Cleveland victory.

Feller didn't miss a beat transitioning from serving his country to serving up fastballs to befuddled batters. In 1946, he finished with 26 wins and 348 strikeouts. In 1948, he helped the Indians to a World Series title. Feller would finish his career with 266 wins, including three no-hitters and an astonishing 12 one-hitters. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame alongside Jackie Robinson in 1962.

The Bob Feller Museum in Van Meter, Iowa opened in 1995. It includes Feller's bat, which was used by Babe Ruth during his emotional final appearance at Yankee Stadium.

Feller spent his final years living in Gates Mills with his wife Anne. He was a frequent visitor to Jacobs Field and was a regular at auto-graph shows across the country. Despite his widespread fame as one of baseball's greatest players, Feller never forgot his war experiences.

In 2006, Feller told author Alan Schwartz, "People have called me a hero but I'll tell you this - heroes don't come home. Survivors come home."

### WHY WE ARE SAFE

"People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf." – George Orwell

"It is well that war is so terrible – otherwise we should grow too fond of it."

– Robert E. Lee

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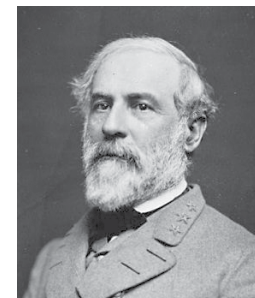
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President Lincoln asked Robert E. Lee to take command of Union forces at the outbreak of the Civil War, but the general sided with Virginia and the Confederacy. Lee was under no illusions about how terribly destructive the war would be and still he felt he had no choice but to lead the Confederate cause on the battlefield. His statement about war, uttered at the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862, expresses a paradox warriors have long encountered – the juxtaposition of the excitement and grandeur of military forces with the horrible carnage of battle.





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# Unexpected Gratitude, Remembrance

## AT REUNION OF WW II VETS

By Jerri Donohue

Leaning on his cane, former Army medic and eternal Southern Baptist Buster Simmons says grace in a voice that reaches every corner of the Holiday Inn's banquet room in Nashville, Tennessee.

It is March 2010 and Simmons thanks God for the men gathered at this annual reunion of Veterans of the 30th Infantry Division of World War II, for their friendship and for the freedoms all of us have enjoyed since 1945. He also prays for buddies who have died.

At previous 30th Infantry Division reunions, I interviewed Simmons and others for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, including some of the recently deceased members Buster mentions now.

I love these "Old Hickory" men, the most welcoming of the many groups of World War II veterans I've encountered. At my first reunion, former infantryman Francis "Frank" Currey warmly greeted me in the hospitality suite after my long drive to Charleston, South Carolina. A few years later, Currey's 19-year old face would peer at us from postage stamps honoring Medal of Honor recipients. Another vet claims that the talkative Currey once gave this succinct explanation when asked why he received the Medal: "Killed Germans."

Simmons now calls on Micha Tomkiewicz who dons a yarmulke and reads - in Hebrew and in English - a customized version of Yizkor, a memorial prayer, to commemorate "the millions of Holocaust victims and the liberators who gave their lives."

A powerful bond draws Tomkiewicz to these reunions. During the dying days of the Third Reich, Nazis attempted to transfer 2500 Bergen Belsen inmates to another concentration camp. With the Red Army squeezing them from one direction and Americans approaching from the other, guards abandoned their sick and starving prisoners - many locked inside boxcars - near Farsleben, Germany. Soldiers from the 30th Infantry Division rescued the train's human cargo, which included the Polish-born Tomkiewicz and his mother, on April 13, 1945.

Originating from Poland,



Hungary and the Netherlands, three other 2010 reunion attendees survived the death train as children; one traveled here from England. They want to personally thank their liberators. The organization's president, Frank Towers, is the only person here who took part in their rescue, but these Holocaust survivors view all members of the division as liberators.

At age 93, Towers produces the association newsletter, volunteers at Camp Blanding's museum and grouses about guys like Currey who don't use email. The train at Farsleben remains a vivid, painful memory for the former transportation officer. Towers describes the unfortunates he helped evacuate as "frail pieces of humanity."

Towers has reconnected with train passengers because of Matt Rozell, a history teacher in Hudson Falls, New York. Rozell arranged a 2007 reunion of three survivors with an American tank commander who first happened upon the train. After reading an Associated Press article about that reunion, Towers contacted Rozell. The two teamed up to locate other train survivors.

Typically dressed in blue jeans, Towers wears a suit and tie for his banquet emcee duties. He also mutes his cellphone so its crowing rooster ringtone won't interrupt the speeches.

Each organization develops its own traditions. Sometimes I've witnessed current high-ranking officers briefly praise World War II vets for their contribution to history before launching into a commercial for America's current war. No active duty personnel ever address

these 30th Infantry Division men, however.

Instead, Towers invites Jurgen Mingels to the podium. Mingels and his wife flew from their native Netherlands to attend the reunion.

Mingels is stocky, bespectacled and middle-aged - already much older than the Americans who liberated his hometown in 1944. At his urging, the townspeople of Cadier en Keer erected a memorial to the 30th Infantry Division, and to Private Albert Strahle, Jr. of Mission, Texas.

"He paid for our peace and freedom with his own life," Mingels says of Strahle, who died fighting for Cadier en Keer on its liberation day.

The monument was dedicated on September 11, 2009 on the site of Strahle's death. Mingels documented every phase of the project in photographs that he now presents to the organization in a scrapbook.

The Nederlander dates his awareness of World War II to his first visit to the American cemetery at Margraten. He was just a little boy, but the sea of white grave markers overwhelmed him, and it still does today. As an adult, he "adopted" two G.I.s whose graves he decorates for our Memorial Day, the Netherlands' Liberation Day, and other holidays. He knows their life stories and participates in a program that brings schoolchildren to the cemetery.

"We teach them that every cross means an individual with a family, a person with hopes and dreams," Mingels assures his audience.

Towers thanks Mingels for these efforts. On post-war trips to France, Towers placed flowers on the graves of friends buried in the American

cemetery in Normandy. He eventually partnered with Frenchman Claude Lavieille to found *Fleurs de la mémoire*, a program in which individuals, families, villages and fraternal organizations throughout France committed to decorate the graves of more than 10,000 American servicemen.

Vincent Heggen, a tall, dark-haired Belgian, speaks to the veterans next. Born long after the war, he brought his 11-year old daughter to the reunion. Heggen hopes to open a museum dedicated to the 30th Infantry Division. He wonders if any attendees knew Wallace Horton of Clifton Forge, Virginia, a G.I. killed in Heggen's village.

The Belgian gives the group a 48-star flag that once draped coffins during funerals in the American cemetery at Henri-Chapelle.

"Thank you for giving us back the freedom my parents were deprived of," he tells the veterans. "We don't forget. And we won't forget."

After that 2010 reunion, the organization of 30th Infantry Division Veterans of World War II hangs on for several more years. (A separate organization still exists for 30th Infantry Division veterans of all wars.)

More train survivors join them in Nashville in 2011, where Country-Western singers/songwriters Mason Douglas, Doug Johnson, Gary Hannan and Thom Shepherd surprise reunion attendees with a private dinner concert. No newspaper reporters or TV crews record the entertainers' heartfelt tributes to the former G.I.s. Before he leaves, each performer moves from table to table, shaking hands with the dozen or so elderly veterans.

Later, the Old Hickory men cluster in their hospitality suite, swapping tales as Benny Goodman tunes waft in the air. When they head for home in another day or so, they'll take with them the knowledge that neither they nor their long dead comrades have ever been forgotten.

*To learn more about the death train, its survivors and liberators, visit Rozell's website: [www.teachinghistory-matters.com](http://www.teachinghistory-matters.com).*

*Frank Towers, longtime president of the 30th Infantry Division Veterans of WW II, died at age 99 on Independence Day, 2016.*

# American Soldier Befriended Iraqi Toddler, Family

By Jerri Donohue

One of her biological parents is Sunni Muslim; the other is Shi'a. Teeba Furat Marlowe jokes that this makes her "Sushi."

The funny, outgoing 15-year old lives in northeast Ohio now with her legal guardians, Barbara and Tim Marlowe, and she uses their last name. Born in Iraq, Teeba suffered extreme burns to her face, scalp and hands in a car bombing when she was 19-months old. The blast killed her 3-year old brother.

The Marlowes brought Teeba to the United States in 2007 when she was five years old, exactly one year after Barbara Marlowe read a newspaper article about Iraqi children with disfiguring burns. Kids could not get operations to repair their injuries because plastic surgeons fled that war torn country. Marlowe's heart went out to Teeba, the little girl in the

accompanying photograph, and she resolved to help her.

Americans played a role in Teeba's life even before then. The Furats lived in a town several miles from Baghdad. Because the toddler's burned skin itched as the day grew hotter, her mother took her into the city before sunrise whenever she had medical appointments. Outside the hospital in Baghdad, American soldiers in hummers always gave the children candy. Local people sometimes ridiculed the little girl because of her appearance, but the Americans accepted her.

After Teeba arrived in the States, Barbara Marlowe and Teeba's Iraqi mother become close friends. Mrs. Furat informed Marlowe about Teeba's early life and about John, a soldier who befriended Teeba's family and often visited them.

"He would ride Teeba around on his shoulders, and dance with her," Marlowe said.

The American frequently spoke about his wife and children and showed pictures of them. Sometimes he cried because he missed them. He brought Teeba and her siblings toys. When his friends began to accompany John on visits, they overcame their initial suspicion that Mrs. Furat might poison them, and they soon appreciated the meals she prepared.

One day they even tried to return the favor.

"They brought over American food," Teeba said. "I started crying because it was so bad."

John died in a roadside bombing while on patrol. Other soldiers gave his Iraqi friends the bad news.

"Teeba was very attached to him,"

Marlowe said. "She was devastated by the loss of him."

Teeba has now spent 10 years in the United States and undergone 19 surgeries. She dresses and speaks like a typical teenager, albeit a very articulate one. The Iraqi Children's Foundation, an organization that provides services for children displaced by ISIS, named Teeba an honorary youth ambassador; Barbara Marlowe serves on its advisory board. In May, Teeba and Marlowe addressed participants in the Iraqi Children's Fund 5K race in Alexandria, Virginia.

Marlowe covered her head, as Mrs. Furat would do, to share her story.

"I spoke as if I was Teeba's mother," Marlowe said. "I spoke directly to the Gold Star mothers and the veterans about how the American military was so important to us."

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back to the communities we serve.



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



[dom.com](http://dom.com)  