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

A QUIET COURAGE

Corpsmen and medics continue to amaze me, long after the guns of my war fell silent.

They are the young men and women who respond to screams of, "medic!" or "corpsman!" They seem not to hear shells exploding, orders screamed, small arms fire, or bullets whizzing by.

They go where the brave not go.

Medics are trained well, although no classroom, no film, and no lecture can prepare them for a sucking chest wound, a leg shredded and gushing blood, or a fellow trooper dying in his arms. While they wrap



bandages around wounds, they are calm, cool, and encouraging. They lie to those who are fatally wounded.

They are summoned to trial by fire and blood, shattered bones, and ragged breathing.

What sort of war stories are they to tell when they return?

Their stories remain in their hearts and minds and nightmares.

I lift my glass in admiration and gratitude. Hear! Hear!

MAIL CALL

I am Francis J. Wardega, veteran, Second Infantry Division, Korea. I am a paid subscriber to *DD214 Chronicle, The Newspaper for Veterans and All Those Who Love Them*.

Some time ago, I subscribed to the newspaper after reading it at Wade Park VA Hospital, while waiting for a medical appointment. I have also purchased a subscription for a friend who is a veteran.

I write to object to the article, "Stand at Ease," in the September/October 2018 issue.

In my opinion, this has nothing to do with veterans and veterans' issues.

It is a personal opinion, not shared by all, and is not germane to the thoughts expressed in the masthead description of the newspaper. It opens the door to other, personal opinion commentary on other, personal issues, i.e., gun control, abortion, LBQT rights, religious ideas, etc.

I have no objection to someone or many having the same opinion as the thoughts expressed in the issues. I do believe that such thoughts have no place in a publication such as *DD214 Chronicle*.

Please take note of my comments.

Francis J. Wardega
Chesterland, Ohio



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and
All Who Love Them.*

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Editorial Statement

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

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There is no doubt that creative endeavors enhance the quality of life. Seniors live in the best of times, given their financial and political clout. Their needs and concerns are being heard because Boomers want to live longer and also want to have more meaningful years.

Cleveland, voted an Age-friendly City by WHO, [World Health Organization], is one of the best places in the Country to enjoy the experience of aging!

"Central to McGregor's mission is the commitment to support programs that allow older adults to age in place, wherever they call "home". "Our number one priority is to build out the capacity of services that enables affordable senior housing", stated

Rob Hilton, President & CEO. "We've long been aware of the appalling shortage of senior housing, particularly for the low-income people we serve. We've spent seven years working together to produce this plan."

Health and wellness boils down to being active – socially, mentally, emotionally and, yes, physically. At McGregor, we're blessed to have a beautiful 32-acre campus with walking paths and gardens that are ideal for exercise and social engagement. It's a natural setting for getting outdoors and being active, and we use it for recreational opportunities including a community garden, horticulture, summer concerts and even beekeeping.

According to the Center for Community Solutions, there are over 300,000 older adults living in Cuyahoga County, representing 24% of the total population. And, projections indicate that by the year 2030, older adults over age 65 will outnumber children and teens under age 20, representing a "New Majority." In an effort to identify and address the needs of the ever-growing older adult population, a workgroup consisting of leaders from McGregor and other partners have founded the New Majority Initiative to address service delivery and the public landscape.

Headquartered on a 32-acre estate, McGregor embodies the entire continuum of care by meeting the changing needs of Cleveland's seniors. The McGregor Foundation and affordable living provider CHN Housing Partners are teaming their talents for a \$12 million senior assisted living project in East Cleveland. The three-story, 90-unit building rising on part of the foundation's McGregor Home, a 32-acre campus at 14900 Private Drive, is designed to serve the growing population of aging people that's producing a welter of senior living projects in the region and nation.

Anticipating a dramatic demographic shift with the nation's elder care system facing a 'New Majority' –referring to the baby boomers, 76 million of them born in the U.S. between 1946 and the mid-1960's and now reaching retirement age - McGregor's landscape will soon change. McGregor will increase options for the growing senior population in greater Cleveland, anticipating its completion late summer of 2019!

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Columbus Exhibit Showcases Art by Ohio Veterans

By Jerri Donohue

Paintings, sculptures, stained glass and photographs are showcased in the Ohio Veterans Art Exhibition running through November 15 at the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts, 77 S. High Street in Columbus.

"It's all about veterans expressing themselves," said Jeff Rapp, Public Information Officer for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services.

The department organized the show in conjunction with the Ohio Arts Council, inviting former servicemen and women to submit their work in a variety of mediums. No particular theme was designated, and only nine pieces reflect military subjects. The committee selected 34 of 499 submissions from 82 veterans in a blind review that did not disclose the artists' identities or other details. The resulting exhibit features work from veterans who served in all five military branches, and in periods from World War II to the War on Terror.

Art by four veterans from Northeast Ohio appears in the show, which is free and open to the public.

"Memorial Day Muster," a photograph by Cuyahoga County resident Gabriel Tolliver, depicts a display he created in front of Prison Ship Martyrs Monument in Brooklyn, New York's Fort Greene Park. A broadcast journalist and Army veteran, Tolliver was living in New York City in 2012. He was moved by the story behind the memorial facing the harbor. More than 11,000 captured Americans died



in deplorable conditions on prison ships during the Revolutionary War. Because of the park's proximity to this tragedy, and because it is a popular site for holiday barbecues and picnics, Tolliver saw an opportunity to remind people of the reason for Memorial Day. He created a public art display, arranging an American flag and toy Army soldiers around the monument's base.

"I left a note for people to take a soldier and reflect on what Memorial Day is all about," Tolliver said. See his short film, "Memorial Day @Fort Greene Park, New York" at <https://vimeo.com/43017562>

Ohio Army National Guard veteran **Chesney Barnett** painted "Rainy Days" to decorate the windowless cubicle where she worked at that time.

"I chose to paint a window looking out to a rainy day scene as the rain has always been very calming to me," Barnett explained. Through the years, the Summit County resident has pursued her interest in art. While still in school, she took basic art classes, and then received further instruction at a local studio. Today she continues to learn techniques by reading art books and watching online videos.

Although Cuyahoga County resident **George Williams** felt drawn to art even as a child, he considered it a "meaningless pastime" as a young man.

"But as I got older, I found that it was an integral part of who I am and how I express myself," Williams said. He took a few college art classes but is largely self-taught. During his 23-year Navy career, Williams attended exhibit openings, frequented galleries and got involved with local art communities wherever he was stationed. He has exhibited his work in Puerto Rico, Indonesia, Japan and in several American cities.

His painting, "You Bring Me Joy," is an exuberant tribute to his wife.

"She truly brings me joy by the things she says and does," Williams said. "She is a wonderful wife and a wonderful mother to our three children."

Williams shares his art and poetry at <http://www.write2art.wordpress.com> and <http://www.write2art.blogspot.com>

Air Force veteran **Valerie Simonelli's** graphite, water and charcoal submission is untitled. Simonelli, who earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Kansas State University, now lives in Summit County. She describes her work as nonrepresentational and atmospheric.

"I like to have people stop, take a minute to look at the work and to see what they want to see," Simonelli said. "Everybody gets to experience it in their own way."

More of Simonelli's art appears on her website www.valeriesimonelli.com

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VA employee survey shows improving morale

Increase in workforce retention rates tied to uptick in job and VA satisfaction scores

WASHINGTON — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that results from a recent VA job satisfaction survey showed a general trend of improving employee morale.

VA issued the 2018 All Employee Survey (AES) in June to its workforce of more than 375,000 employees, and 235,884 employees, or 62 percent, completed the assessment, surpassing the national response rate goal of 60 percent for this voluntary workplace survey.

Results of the AES are available here. The survey indicated progress in a number of key areas: satisfaction with one's job (+8.8 percent); satisfaction with VA (+11.1 percent); and willingness to recommend VA as a good place to work (+10.9 percent).

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie called the results positive, saying he remains committed to improving employee engagement, a critical precursor for strong customer service, one of his key priorities.

"VA employees are talented and committed professionals who rally behind a great mission," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "Veterans deserve a VA workforce that demonstrates pride in its work that results in strong customer service, and the survey shows we are making important progress in that direction."

Employees also reported seeing the results of employee surveys more often (+33.2 percent from 2014 to 2018), and employees reported improvements were being made based on survey results (+53.7 percent). Employees were also more likely to respond positively to items related to supervisor goal setting (+25.6 percent) and supervisor addressing employee concerns (+11.8 percent).

This improved employee experience relates directly to employee retention. Recent data show that VA employee retention rates are better than comparable private-sector rates. Publicly reported employee-turnover rates in health care average between 20 to 30 percent. VA's employee-turnover rates average 9 percent.

While VA officials said they are excited about the positive shifts happening in the workplace, they also acknowledged that, based on employee feedback, there are still areas for continued improvement.

When asked in this year's survey what they care most about, VA employees listed the following areas as important ongoing focal areas for the department: having a civil and respectful work environment, having their concerns addressed by supervisors and having their talents used well in the workplace.

To reduce survey fatigue among employees, VA included the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) Employee Engagement Index, the Partnership for Public Service Ranking items, and the required FEVS items as a part of its AES, located at the following link: https://www.va.gov/NCOD/docs/AES2018_F



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When Is a Fish More Than a Fish?

My Introduction to Project Healing Waters

By: Diane B. Wantz, PHWFF volunteer

I was surprised when Monte Casey, Program Lead for Cleveland, Ohio, asked me to write an article about Project Healing Waters (PHWFF). At this point I certainly don't have the depth of knowledge or fly fishing experience (unless you count the one time I humored my husband and caught a fish in the first 5 minutes). What could I possibly bring to the table for this request?

After much thought (and a looming deadline), I realized the very thing I feared was the reason I was asked. Inexperience can bring a unique and untainted perspective to any process so I am going to share mine with you.

Two months ago I was invited to attend a regional training, hosted by Brent Miller, Regional Coordinator of OH/KY. It didn't take long to realize all the volunteers had one thing in common. Dedication. Even after years of volunteer service. There was no burn out. No cynicism. Just questions on how "the team" could make things better.

The presenter was Todd Degrossilliers, CEO of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishers, Inc. He is a retired colonel and he gets it. After multiple tours of duty and years of therapy for PTSD, his doctor finally asked him, "What makes you happy"? He responded,

"Fishing." And he's never looked back.

Which brings us to the present.

Project Healing Waters is a *PROCESS* that promotes *healing* by introducing disabled veterans and disabled active military service personnel to the world of fly fishing. What it is NOT, is a quick fix.

I know. You're thinking there is NO WAY fly fishing could help me, but trust me I've seen it happen.

If you are open to the process, you CAN experience *life changing* results. By focusing on skills taught by experienced PHWFF volunteers, your brain can actually rewire itself to focus on the positive aspects of life.

Recently a dedicated veteran from Rocky River, Ohio, nicknamed "Turtle", spoke at a Cleveland Program meeting. He shared how his experience with PHWFF affected his life. The process took over a year (it's a process, remember) and he experienced a "180 degree turnaround". He has been off pain meds for the last three months and was truly humbled by the experience. I was humbled by him.

That's really what it's all about. Success. One veteran at a time.

PHWFF started at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 2005 and relies on the generosity of both private and corporate donors along with soliciting foundation grants and government funding. 86 cents of every dollar goes toward PHWFF programs.

Last year 3636 volunteers gave

265,178 hours and touched 8470 veteran lives. Nationally there were 4482 fly tying classes, 1096 rod building classes, 1549 casting classes and 1775 fly fishing outings. There were 216 programs nationally and 20% of our volunteers were former participants.

We ARE in it for the long haul.

Our program introduces disabled veterans and disabled active military service personnel to the *process* of fly fishing.

As of 2019, the program will consist of 5 components:

- 1) Fly tying
- 2) Rod building
- 3) Education
- 4) Casting
- 5) Outings

Veterans participate in at least two of the first four components prior to going on any outing. There is absolutely NO COST to participants.

Officially, our mission states that Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF), Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings.

Unofficially, here is my spin. The leadership on the national level, dedication on the regional level and, most important, perseverance and joy from the participants are what it's all about. It works.

Success stories are out there. Are you willing to be one of them?

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Baldwin Wallace University Students Portray America's Longest-Held Prisoner of War

By Jerri Donohue

They were born long after the Vietnam War ended, but Baldwin Wallace students Ethan Edmund Burck and Mitchell McVeigh know more about that era than most of their peers. The men, who are pursuing Bachelor of Music degrees in vocal performance, portrayed former prisoner of war Jim Thompson in the university's recent production of "Glory Denied."

Based on Tom Philpott's book, *Glory Denied: The Vietnam Saga of Jim Thompson, America's Longest-Held Prisoner of War*, the opera relates the ordeal of Floyd James "Jim" Thompson and his wife, Alyce Thompson. An Army captain, Thompson was a passenger on a plane shot down in March 1964. He immediately became a prisoner and then endured nine years of mistreatment, monotony and occasional terror.

Burck, who is 21 years old, played Thompson as he was right before his capture, during his captivity and shortly after his release.

"Getting into the head of someone who was held for nine years under the threat of torture and death is hard," Burck said. "That length of time is outside my experience. And I've lived a comfortable life. How much he sacrificed and lost! How much pain he took and still survived!"

McVeigh assumed the role of Thompson as he was during his

late 40s to 60s. Like Burck, the 19-year old read the Philpott book and spoke to his own relatives who experienced the Vietnam era. Both men also credit Dugg McDonough, guest stage director, for helping them understand American society at that time. McVeigh needed help with references to "My Lai" and "Bed Stuy," for example. In "Catalogue Aria," he lists these and other events that occurred during Thompson's absence.

The performers spoke with Tom Cipullo, the opera's composer. Cipullo had been in touch with the real-life Jim and Alyce and their families. (Both Jim and Alyce Thompson have since died.)

According to McVeigh, Cipullo told them, "Jim Thompson is not a victim and he should not be portrayed as such."

The opera's focus shifts between Jim and Alyce, played by Ciara Newman ("old" Alyce) and Kailyn Martino ("young" Alyce) in the Baldwin Wallace production.

"The heart of the show is that people are people – they do what it takes to survive," Burck said. "They [Jim and Alyce] went through hell and survived. You can get through something, too."

McVeigh doesn't believe Thompson's later life unfolded as he had hoped. The former POW descended into alcoholism.

But during his imprisonment,

Thompson drew on inner resources.

"A lot of time, he refers to what he held onto for strength – faith in God, faith in country, faith in the love of a good woman," McVeigh said.

Scott Skiba, Baldwin Wallace's director of opera studies, said he

chose "Glory Denied" because of the opportunity the opera affords students to grow, and for its relevance today.

"We're still in this fractured place where we live the human story," Skiba said.

Presented by Brandon Hixson

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1 HELLO, I LOVE YOU <i>The Doors</i>	11 THE HORSE <i>Cliff Nobles</i>
2 BORN TO BE WILD <i>Steppenwolf</i>	12 LA-LA (MEANS I LOVE YOU) <i>The Delfonics</i>
3 JUMPIN' JACK FLASH <i>The Rolling Stones</i>	13 HONEY <i>Bobby Goldsboro</i>
4 CRY LIKE A BABY <i>The Box Tops</i>	14 THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH YOU <i>Herb Alpert</i>
5 HARPER VALLEY PTA <i>Jeanne C. Riley</i>	15 I SAY A LITTLE PRAYER <i>Aretha Franklin</i>
6 YOUNG GIRL <i>Gary Puckel & The Union Gap</i>	16 SUZIE Q <i>Creedence Clearwater Revival</i>
7 PIECE OF MY HEART <i>Big Brother & The Holding Company</i>	17 SUNSHINE OF YOUR LOVE <i>Cream</i>
8 SPOOKY <i>Classics IV</i>	18 AIN'T NOTHING LIKE THE REAL THING <i>Marvin Gaye & Tammi Terrell</i>
9 LOVE CHILD <i>The Supremes</i>	19 MRS. ROBINSON <i>Simon & Garfunkel</i>
10 MIDNIGHT CONFESSIONS <i>The Grass Roots</i>	20 LOVE IS BLUE <i>Paul Mauriat</i>

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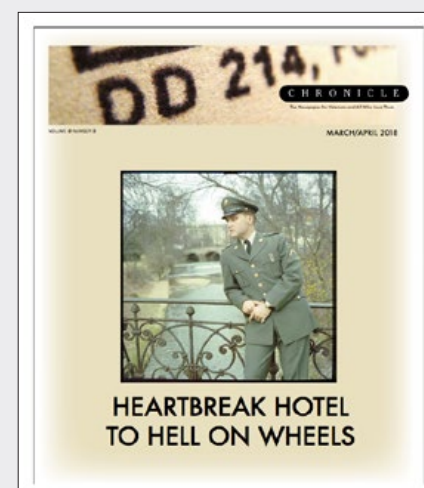
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Women Marine Corps Vets Honor One of their Own

By Jerri Donohue

She occupied a wheelchair for most of her life, but that didn't stop Emma Holmes from devoting untold hours to other Marine Corps veterans.

Former women Marines in Summit County recently renamed their post to honor the Tallmadge native, one of their own. At the Women Marines Association convention in Arlington, Virginia in August, Chesty Puller Chapter Ohio-2 became the Emma C. Holmes Chapter.

"We did it because she was such an inspiration to everybody," said Chapter President Ellen Leidy of the name change. "Previously we were the only women's chapter named for a guy."

Holmes, who died in 2013, was a fixture at chapter meetings when current Chapter Vice President Elva Pounders began attending them in the early 1980s.

"Once a Marine, always a Marine," Pounders said. "She [Holmes] carried that all the way through."

Holmes earned an art degree at Kent State University and had

undertaken post-graduate study at the University of Minnesota when she enlisted in the Marine Corps in March 1943. She was stationed at several bases and camps. At Miramar, California, she experienced severe fatigue and difficulty walking. Doctors eventually diagnosed her ailment as multiple sclerosis (MS), a disease that attacks the nerves. The Marine Corps sent her to Bethesda Navy Hospital for treatment, and Holmes was discharged in March 1946 with the rank of sergeant. She never walked again despite ongoing painful physical therapy, sometimes at Veterans Administration facilities.

When Holmes met two female Marine veterans of World War I, they apparently challenged her to locate the other 303. Holmes somehow managed to account for 152 in those pre-Internet days. (The true figure of women Marines from that era is 316). She contacted 98 of these women and met face-to-face with 62. Holmes helped them stay in touch by organizing the *World War One-derfuls Newsletter*. After the veterans sent her their news,

she typed it up, mimeographed it, stapled and mailed it. The quarterly often ran to 20 pages.

Numerous organizations acknowledged Holmes for other volunteer activities, which included sewing doll clothes for her church, painting posters and working with children with disabilities. For many years, Holmes lived in a handicapped accessible house and drove a car outfitted for her needs. She attended Women Marines Association conventions. Until 1992, so did one or more of her beloved WW I veterans.

For her liaison work with the World War I group, the Women Marines Association made Holmes the first person outside active service to receive its Molly Marine Award, a ceramic copy of the statue in New Orleans.

At this year's convention, the Association displayed a complete list of women Marine recruits from World War I, their uniforms and some of Holmes's newsletters in an exhibit dubbed "Emma's Girls."

For a short autobiography



written years ago, Holmes referred to her 44-year search for the One-derfuls as "my life interest."

"They, the WWI's will live in my heart forever," Holmes wrote.

For information about WMA's Emma C. Holmes chapter, contact Leidy at leidyrun@aol.com.

Brown, Heller Lead Effort to Assist Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange

Senators' Bipartisan Legislation Requires VA to Act regarding Toxic Chemicals
Reps. Crist & Mullin have Introduced Companion House Version

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Dean Heller (R-NV) introduced bipartisan legislation last week to expedite the expansion of treatments for veterans exposed to Agent Orange. Congressmen Charlie Crist (D-FL) and Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) introduced the *Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act*, the companion bill in the House, this week.

"Vietnam veterans exposed to toxic Agent Orange chemicals should have access to the care and benefits they earned," said Senator Brown. "VA should act quickly when presented scientific documentation related to an illness linked to toxic exposure. Our veterans have waited long enough for action."

"I have veterans in my home state of Nevada right now who are suffering from diseases, such as bladder cancer, that the National Academies of Medicine has associated with Agent Orange," said Senator Heller. "For example, Richard from Reno, Nevada, served in 1968 in the Korean DMZ where Agent Orange was used, and today he has bladder cancer. He deserves compensation for his exposure, and the VA's failure to act on the NAM reports should not stand in the way. This legislation holds the VA accountable by requiring the agency to make a final determination, and I'm proud to join Sen. Brown and our colleagues in the House of Representatives to right this wrong."

"When a veteran's medical condition is determined to be linked to their exposure to Agent Orange, they should not have their benefits tied up in bureaucratic red tape," said Congressman Crist. "I urge Congress to take swift action on this bipartisan, bicameral bill to help our Vietnam veterans receive the care and benefits they deserve that for too many have been delayed or denied."



"When it comes to taking care of our veterans, we owe it to them to be proactive rather than reactive," said Congressman Mullin. "The Agent Orange Act of 1991 required the Secretary of the VA recommend new illnesses associated with Agent Orange until the requirement lapsed in 2015. The Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act simply puts back in place the same recommendation requirements that were in place for

25 years. I am proud to introduce this bipartisan, bicameral legislation alongside Congressman Crist and Senators Heller and Brown so that our Vietnam veterans continue to receive the highest level of care we can provide."

The legislation has been cosponsored by Senators Jon Tester (D-MT), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Bernie Sanders (I-VT). It has been endorsed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA).

"It is unacceptable that VA has failed to act on the National Academy of Medicine report linking bladder cancer and other conditions to Agent Orange exposure. VA's inaction has denied thousands of veterans the benefits they deserve and has forced many of them to accumulate debt to cover the cost of health care for conditions which have been scientifically proven to be associated with their exposure to Agent Orange. The VFW thanks Congressman Crist for his leadership on this issue and is proud to support H.R. 6941, which will correct this injustice," said VFW National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes.

Additional Background:

This legislation would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to act within 60 days of receiving a National Academy of Sciences report linking illnesses to Agent Orange and herbicide exposure. Once illnesses are added to the presumptive conditions list, veterans exposed to Agent Orange suffering from the designated conditions receive benefits. Under the current VA process, expanding Agent Orange-related coverage had been delayed since the law expired in 2015, resulting in veterans being denied benefits.

Dust Off Crew Chief Evacuated Wounded Americans, Vietnamese

By Jerri Donohue

Joe Horvath leaned from the hovering helicopter, gripped the bloody South Vietnamese soldier by the wrists and began to hoist him aboard. Enemy troops fired on the aircraft, as they had all day.

"You could hear 'Tink! Tink! Tink!' the Amherst resident recalled, mimicking the sound of bullets hitting metal.

A Viet Cong then shot out the helicopter's windshield with an AK47, wounding the pilot. Temporarily out of control, the ship bolted 60 or more feet skyward while Horvath clung to the desperate Vietnamese dangling outside it.

His crewmates were preoccupied with the damaged helicopter and Horvath couldn't alert them to his predicament. Moments earlier, he had been calling "Come here!" to the Vietnamese soldier, only to watch him repeatedly run forward, then fall. When Horvath saw that the man was shot in the chest, he had tossed aside his microphone, preparing to leap to the ground and lift him.

Now Horvath wrapped his legs around the litter pole, and heaved with all his strength. The soldier

toppled onto him, safely inside. The Vietnamese was the last of 29 men rescued by Dust Off 88 of the 82nd Medical Detachment on October 2, 1969. The evacuees were wounded while attacking a North Vietnamese training site near the Cambodia border.

Horvath received a Silver Star for the episode, and appreciative South Vietnamese honored him, too. A band played while young women in traditional white silk dresses tossed doves into the air around him. He received a rifle salute and a South Vietnamese officer pinned his country's Cross of Gallantry to Horvath's chest.

"Then, after the ceremony, we had French champagne and a lot to eat," Horvath recalled. "I tried to drink twenty-nine glasses of champagne but only managed three."

As crew chief, he was responsible for aircraft maintenance but routinely assisted the medic in bandaging bullet and bayonet wounds. The crew, which included the aircraft commander and the pilot, responded to radio calls at all hours. They picked up wounded and dead men and delivered them to the "soccer field", code for a

hospital area.

Horvath named their helicopter *The Exterminator* after a Chevy he owned back in the States.

"Eventually *The Exterminator* got exterminated," he said.

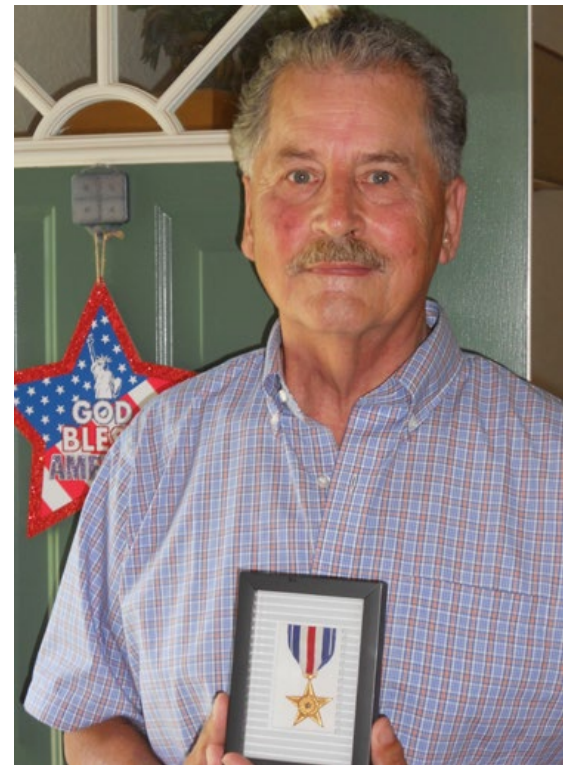
During a nighttime rescue attempt, a blade was shot off and the helicopter landed upside down. The entire crew suffered minor injuries and quickly took cover with wounded Americans near a dike. In daylight, another helicopter evacuated everyone while gun ships sprayed the area to keep the enemy away.

Horvath's next aircraft, *Angel of the Delta*, sported a halo floating above the Red Cross.

He vividly remembers the "pair of dice" and two champagne glasses on *Paradise*, a gunship downed in a rice paddy. Horvath cried as he retrieved its crew's bodies. All had been shot. When his

helicopter lifted off with its grim cargo, Horvath watched the wind ruffle a dead soldier's hair.

"I met a lot of those people on the [Vietnam Memorial] Wall," Horvath said. "They were dead when I picked them up."



Mission Soon Accomplished

It is not the assignment most would ever consider. To jump out of an airplane 5,000 feet over Benning and land at a Cadillac dealership in New Riegel, Ohio. To local boy Michael Blakley it is hardly duty at all. It's all a natural thing and in just a few months it will be Mission Accomplished.

Most have never heard of New Riegel, a thriving metropolis of 250 souls. Local wags say the ground is so flat that a man facing north just has to look left to see Indianapolis in the distance. Like most small towns, young people head off never to be heard from again except for the occasional reunion. For Blakley it was, is and always will be home and he was, is and always will be a man with purpose.

It was four years ago, fresh out of school that he went off to the

county fair looking for a branch of service to sign up with. It wasn't patriotism, it wasn't family tradition, it was common sense that was motivating a kid who already knew his way around tools. It just so happened the fates put the Army ahead of the Navy, Marines and Air Force that day. The rest is about to become Blakley family history.

Basic at Jackson, ATI at Meade, duty at Benning with jump school and then to Bragg filled out four years for a kid becoming a man by being a soldier. The food was ok, the communications terrible, the sergeant wasn't as bad as the captain and the Army may not ever change in the next two hundred years either. Neither would Michael Blakley.

From Day One the Spec. 4 coming out had known what he wanted

and he understood what tools he needed to get there. It carried on after discharge, the intelligence inbred already that a smart guy doesn't need a college degree to get ahead. He just needed to know what somebody would always need and how to fix it. From there life was getting good. Through the Veterans Initiative at Tri-C, that's exactly what he's found.

In October of 2014 Mike Blakley was just another kid in a town nobody had ever heard of nor ever would. Next Spring, after his internship with Central Cadillac and graduating from his classes, the former jumper and now master wrench turner is headed back to see about the rest of his life with the dealership in town. A dealership that will always be doing business with some of those simple folk

of those family farms around town. The simple folk of the ten thousand acre farms and multi-million dollar bank accounts who are always going to want to drive a Caddy. Life is good for Michael Blakley and now it's gotten better.

He's got himself a new commanding officer as of two months ago. Brass that outranks every set of stars he saw at Bragg. His own personal Secretary of the Treasury, Health and Human Welfare and, if he ever steps out of line, his Secretary of War but that's not going to happen. Mike Blakley loves that pretty little new wife of his to let that happen.

Mission accomplished, well done vet. The world's proud of you.

Shattering Silences a Resounding Endorsement of Cleveland's Sexual Assault Reform

Nancy Peacock

Cleveland has taken more than its share of criticism for problems: police brutality, educational neglect, inferior services to poor neighborhoods. So it comes as refreshing news that Cleveland is considered a national model for other big cities when it comes to sexual assault reform.

That reform was still in its infancy in 2009 when Cleveland writer Christopher Johnston was asked by colleague Robert Sberna to co-author a book about Anthony Sowell, who had just been arrested for murdering eleven women and burying them on his property. Johnston began interviewing the legal, law enforcement and medical professionals who were involved in the case.

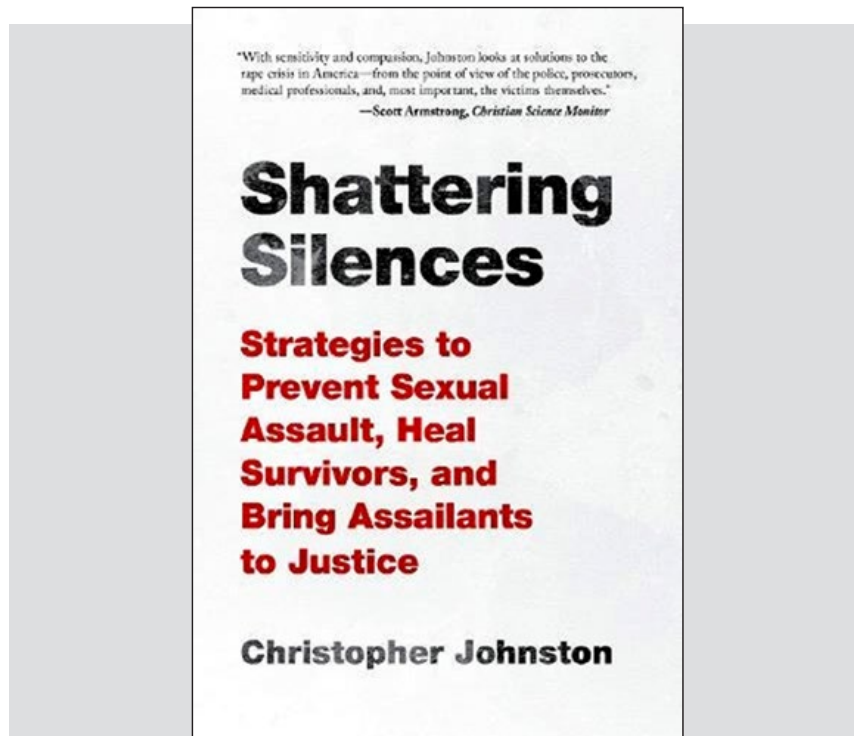
"I started to meet the people who were providing solutions, which was of more interest to me," Johnston said recently. "But that case was a catalyst for a lot of the reform."

Sberna wrote the definitive book on the Sowell case, but Johnston took a different turn, delving into the system by which sexual violence victims and cases were handled in Cleveland.

"I was so compelled by this and so appalled by the way we treat rape and sexual assault and the horrific statistics," he said. "So I pursued it on my own and invested a lot of my own time and money. But it was worth it to me to write the book and talk about the solutions and not just the problems and the offenders."

He met local leaders such as Megan O'Bryan of the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Elizabeth Booth, a sexual assault nurse examiner at MetroHealth System, and Lt. Jim McPike, supervisor of Cleveland Police Department's Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit. Johnston began attending national conferences. He wrote a cover story for the *Christian Science Monitor* in 2016 about how Cleveland had responded to the Sowell case.

"We came out of it on the good side," Johnston said. "We didn't try



Lt. James McPike, head of the Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit of the Cleveland Police Department, changed the terms used on police reports to improve police practices for sex crimes.

"We no longer use the title 'alleged' in our police reports. In essence what we were telling a victim right up front was 'I don't believe you.'"

to sweep it under the rug. That was the template for the book."

Johnston's eight-year personal quest resulted in *Shattering Silences: Strategies to Prevent Sexual Assault, Heal Survivors, and Bring Assailants to Justice* (Skyhorse Publishing, 2018). The 296-page book is a compendium on the history of sexual assault reform and the professionals helping victims and survivors on a daily basis.

The enormity of the problem came to light in the early 2000s when an estimated 400,000 untested sexual assault kits were discovered in police property rooms throughout the country. In 2009, Human Rights Watch reported a backlog of 12,669 untested kits in Los Angeles alone. When he became Vice President in 2009, Joe Biden

became the first vice president to publicly address the issue of sexual violence and made the untested rape kits a central cause.

Cleveland is among the metropolitan areas called founding cities for its pioneering work in sexual assault reform. In a chapter titled "The Enlightened Leader," Johnston explains how Lt. James McPike, head of the Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit of the Cleveland Police Department, changed the terms used on police reports to improve police practices for sex crimes.

"We no longer use the title 'alleged' in our police reports," McPike said "In essence what we were telling a victim right up front was 'I don't believe you.'"

McPike insists that all officers

treat victims with kindness and initiated a program for his detectives to work directly with advocates from the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center from Day 1 of a case. He tells officers not to judge the victims because it causes the victims to be less likely to cooperate.

"Cleveland is very much a leader," Johnston said. "McPike is really incredible, the changes he has made that are looked to nationally."

The book also profiles two Northeast Ohio survivors of childhood sexual abuse that are now speakers and advocates for sexual assault reform. Liz Ferro, who was repeatedly molested and raped by a neighbor, is now head of a program called Girls with Sole that incorporates fitness and running for incarcerated young women.

Johnston also tells the story of Mike Pistorino, a survivor of extreme childhood sexual abuse followed by drugs and crime. After years of violence and prison, he found rehabilitation and speaks at national conferences, to children and military groups.

"It took him a long time, but he got to the other side," Johnston said of Pistorino. "He's out there, changing the world and helping kids, as is Liz Ferro. They are dynamic people and they're exactly who I wanted to profile. Just seeing him playing out in the yard with his three daughters, it's amazing that the human character can be that resilient."

Although cities like Cleveland, Detroit and Memphis lead the way in sexual assault reform, many other parts of the country still lag behind.

"It's an ongoing challenge that has to go state by state," Johnston said. "They're all struggling with the financial concerns. Kits cost less to test than they used to but it's still expensive to do a full investigation and prosecution. But hopefully everybody can find the resources and the political will to have prosecutors who are pushing for that. It has to be a priority."

LORAIN COUNTY **VETERANS** SERVICE OFFICE

1230 N Abbe Rd., Elyria, OH 44035 • 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



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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

Veterans Are Wanted; Veterans Are Needed!

Barb Smith

My husband, US Navy veteran, Bob Smith and I, recently drove to *BARNEGIE HALL*, in Avon Lake, home of MUSIC ON A MISSION, to join other local veterans in a unique project:

D.R.E.W. (Delivering Restorative Energy to our Warriors,) allows soldiers to talk, as songwriters listen. Together, they create both songs and change.

D.R.E.W. uses songwriting to facilitate positive change, giving veterans a unique way to tell their stories, rebuild trust, and release pain. Service members are paired with songwriters to shape songs out of their experiences, often about combat and the return home. The songs express what it means to serve, and the struggles our veterans face. The songs are recorded and shared through CDs, concerts, and social media, in order to build awareness of the challenges faced

by our returning service members.

Owner, Marilyn Zeidner and crew welcomed us with open arms. Members of MUSIC ON A MISSION believe that music heals, communicates, fosters cooperation, and enjoyment.

We met fellow veterans, and the songwriters. Bob was paired up with guitarist and singer/songwriter, Tim Blake of Amherst, Ohio. For three hours, Tim listened and jotted notes, as Bob shared stories of his military service. By 2:00 pm, veterans and songwriters and family members, disbanded until, *Sunday* at 2:00 pm, where we heard the veterans' stories come alive through song. Tim and fellow songwriters performed on stage to a full house, the songs they had created just *hours* before! Tim confessed that he hadn't started composing Bob's song till after the Buckeyes had quieted the white

noise of the Nittany Lions. Tim had incorporated many details that Bob had shared as did the other songwriters. The stories of combat veterans were especially poignant. The D.R.E.W. Project was an amazing and healing experience for all who participated.

Who is Drew?

D.R.E.W. is named in honor and memory of Avon Lake's own, Drew Ferguson. Drew served in US Special Operations as a Team Leader in Special Forces where he completed combat tours in Afghanistan. He deeply treasured the rare opportunity to lead and work with men who shared his values, work ethic, and love of country. Learn more about Drew his skills, and his many talents on the MUSIC ON A MISSION website.

If you are a veteran or know a veteran who wants to participate in D.R.E.W., learn about the

upcoming veterans'/songwriters' workshops in 2019, and other ways this worthwhile organization impacts the lives of citizens in Lorain County, contact marilyn@musicmissioninc.com.

On Nov. 4, 2018, please join us at *Barnegie Hall*: The songwriters from the DREW program will perform the songs that have been written in our *first year* of workshops. \$15 donation requested. The public is invited; *veterans* are our guests! This is a great opportunity for friends and family to check out the welcoming atmosphere of a barn converted into a performance hall to hear talented songwriters sing and play a variety of instruments, as they tell the stories of our local veterans!

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 The songwriters listen.
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 The songs create change.

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Ohio Arts COUNCIL




CONGRESS SCREWS VETS ... AGAIN

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the Senate unanimously passed the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018, to increase veterans' disability benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The bill now heads to the House of Representatives.

The bill, co-sponsored by every member of the Senate VA committee, increases the rates of VA disability compensation, dependency compensation for surviving children and spouses, as well as the clothing allowance for veterans based on rising costs of living.

This cost-of-living adjustment, which would be equal to the amount of the adjustment given to Social Security recipients, is determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index on a yearly basis. The cost-of-living adjustment for veterans would go into effect on Dec. 1, 2018.

"That's not very much." *Paul Reeves*

"It's crazy skipping meals everything they need to pay disabled veterans more" *Joshua Shain Jagers*

"what is it --- \$6-\$7 dollars a month more? yea thanks" *Antonio Chiarmonte*

"Which means almost no \$\$ I've not gotten a COLA raise on SS for several years." *Jeannie Carle*

"This is the amount that Congress should be getting after the base pay is cut by 50percent" *Edward Kiefski*

Doolittle is winner of Bob Feller Act of Valor Award

By Barry Goodrich

The Major League Baseball winner of the 2018 Bob Feller Act of Valor Award could not be more appropriate.

Washington Nationals' pitcher Sean Doolittle is the son of retired Air Force navigator Robert Doolittle, who was awarded a bronze star after missions in the Balkans, Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf. He is also the seventh cousin of General James "Jimmy" Doolittle, who led the first attack against the Japanese islands following Pearl Harbor.

Doolittle and his wife Eireann are active in veterans affairs and are passionate about "bad paper" veterans and the denial of VA medical and mental health services to veterans because of that designation.

Cleveland Indians pitcher Corey Kluber was also nominated for the award. Over the past two seasons,

Kluber and his wife Amanda have visited the Cleveland VA Medical Center each month to spend time with rehabilitating veterans. In addition to his support of veterans, Kluber hosts Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital patients at Progressive Field for each Wednesday home game throughout the season as part of his Kluber's Kids program. He also participates in the Trikeout for Vets Program to raise money for the Helmets to Hardhats Initiative.

Other major league players who were nominated as finalists for the 2018 award included Dustin Pedroia of the Boston Red Sox, Charlie Morton of the Houston Astros, Ian Kennedy of the Kansas City Royals, Justin Turner of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Brad Ziegler of the Miami Marlins, Jimmy Nelson of the Milwaukee Brewers,

Steven Matz of the New York Mets, David Robertson of the New York Yankees, Chris Hatcher of the Oakland Athletics, Craig Stammen of the San Diego Padres and Cole Hamels of the Chicago Cubs.

Previous MLB winners of the award include Justin Verlander, Nick Swisher, Jonathan Lucroy, Brad Ziegler and Darren O'Day.

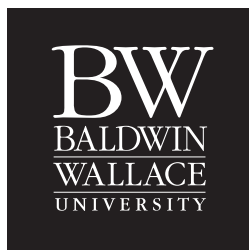
The 2018 Bob Feller Act of Valor Award for Baseball Hall of Fame members goes to Johnny Bench, the former Cincinnati Reds catcher. Previous Hall of Fame winners are Yogi Berra, Tommy Lasorda, George Brett, Rod Carew and Tom Seaver.

The other 2018 award winners include U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer – AOC Shawn Wingle; U.S. Marine Jerry Coleman Award – Gunnery Sergeant Jonathan S. Rose; Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions,

Peer to Peer Afloat – U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Five; Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions Peer to Peer Ashore – Training Support Center, Great Lakes; Military Children Award – Cole Leffler and Alyssa Gerhart.

The Bob Feller Act of Valor Foundation recognizes and honors those who support service men and women with the Bob Feller Act of Valor Award. The foundation's goal is to educate youth about valor, commitment and duty to our country.

The sixth annual awards ceremony will be held Dec. 3 at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. when honorees will join members of the military and baseball communities.



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More Than A Game

Army-Navy Rivalry Stirs Emotions

By Barry Goodrich



It was once said that the Dallas Cowboys were America's Team. The truth of the matter is that there are two America's Teams – Army and Navy.

On Saturday, Dec. 8, Army and Navy will renew their rivalry for the 119th time at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia. And while the game of football has come a long way from 1890, when the two service academies met for the first time at West Point's "The Plain," the emotions of the two teams remain as strong as they were for that initial meeting.

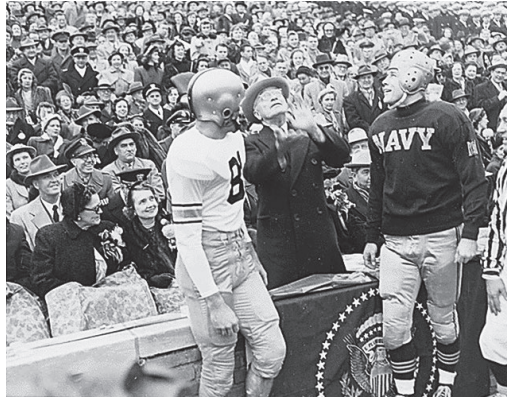
For the record, the Midshipmen have won 60 times and the Cadets have triumphed 51 times with the two teams playing to seven ties. Navy won 14 straight times between the years of 2002-2015 before Army captured a 21-17 victory in 2016. The Cadets followed that win up with a narrow 14-13 triumph last year.

The game has found a home in Philadelphia, located conveniently to both West Point and Annapolis.

But the Army-Navy spectacle has been played in such diverse locations as Princeton, New York's Polo Grounds and Yankee Stadium, Baltimore, Pasadena and Chicago.

In 1926, Army and Navy met for the dedication of Solider Field in Chicago, a stadium named in honor of the servicemen who served in World War I. The two teams battled to a 21-21 tie. In 1983, the game shifted to the Left Coast when Army and Navy played at the Rose Bowl for the first, and only, time.

The game has had its fair share of drama over the decades, beginning in the period of 1894-1898 when the game was suspended following



President Harry Truman at Army-Navy game

a brawl after the 1893 contest. An Army general and a Navy admiral became embroiled in an argument which nearly led to the two men engaging in a duel.

The 1893 game marked the first appearance of the

leather football helmet, worn by Midshipman Joseph Mason Reeves, who was advised not to play without it. The helmet was made by an Annapolis shoemaker.

The Army-Navy game was cancelled in 1917 and 1918 on orders from the War Department. Due to wartime restrictions in 1942, spectators were restricted to fans living within a 10-mile radius of Annapolis and just 11,000 people saw the game.

Following the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination of John F. Kennedy, the game was postponed to Dec. 7. The game that year was also notable for two reasons -- it served as the debut of instant replay technology and the Middies' Roger Staubach, a future Super Bowl champion for the Dallas Cowboys, leading his team to victory on his way to a Heisman Trophy.

This year's game will also continue a tradition essential to the rivalry. Following the end of the game, the winning team will join the losing team to face its enlisted men and women to sing their alma mater. The process will then be repeated with winning team.

The rivalry can best be summed up by former Florida State coach Bobby Bowden after he was asked if discipline was the key to winning. "If it was," said Bowden, "Army and Navy would be playing for the national championship every year."

David and Martha Hessler Illuminate the Light of Faith, Hope and Love

The Legacy Society Dinner was a tribute to Community West Foundation's most treasured donors and it was a magnificent and memorable evening.

The Foundation's highest honor, the Art of Caring Award, was presented to David and Martha Hessler, who continue to exhibit exemplary leadership qualities fit for legends!

There are three words that define the Hesslers both as individuals and as a couple - faith, hope and love. Their lives have a beautiful direction and purpose as God's grace has made them instruments of His love.

Examples of their generous spirit and support are easy to find. The list of the Hesslers' civic and philanthropic leadership roles is as prestigious as it is long. The couple's public and private generosity support a staggering number of causes.

The award presented to the Hesslers was a commissioned

print of the original sketch for the Homeless Jesus statue, created by Timothy Schmaltz, a noted Canadian Sculptor. Timothy focuses on religious figures based upon the Gospel of Matthew 25, and the Homeless Jesus sculpture that he created was in reaction to the many homeless living on the streets. Installments of his inspiring work have brought his visual message across the globe and especially in Rome at the Vatican.

The Art of Caring Award was presented by David Dombrowiak, President and CEO of Community West Foundation, who said, "The award is in homage to David and Martha because we see the light of Christ radiantly shining through them." To further honor the Hesslers, Community West Foundation created the David and Martha Hessler Illuminating Hope Award, a version of the Homeless Jesus. This symbolic award will be presented at the Foundation's annual Corporation Meeting, to one

of our local nonprofit organizations that is indeed Illuminating Hope in our community. This is a perfect opportunity to celebrate the achievements and positive impact of the people and organizations in our community.

The Hesslers have endeared themselves to the entire community by opening their lives to the gift of His magnanimous grace and are generous in sharing it with others. The best way we can honor the Hesslers is to use our own talents, great and small to spread kindness, generosity and goodwill as this couple has graciously extended to so many.

In celebrating David and Martha, a highlight of the evening was a video tribute that offers a unique insight into our honorees. To view this moving portrait of an exceptional couple go to: https://youtu.be/_V6Kxg73EDk.



"SMOKE 'EM IF YOU GOT 'EM."



Donut Dollies

The donut dollies used to bring coffee donuts and juices to the convoy line-up sites in the mornings. They were always so good to us, never forget that.

Yup, those girls were so generous and kind. And they made good coffee.

Wayne B Rivera

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at Lorain County Community College

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- Meet with a Counselor
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Call LCCC's Veterans Service Center at 440-366-7685

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**



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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
donate online, you can visit
comservealliance.org



We provide two basic services:

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

Our assistance includes but is not limited to:

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

Service Assistance:

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

Watch us on



Our services are **FREE** of charge!



Our Pledge

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

Sincerely,
Veterans Service Staff



CONVERSATION
opens the door to support.

**Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255

Contact us:

210 Northland Dr. - Medina, Ohio 44256

veterans@medinacountyveterans.org

www.medinacountyveterans.org

ATTENTION

Veterans & Dependents of Veterans You May Be Eligible For ASSISTANCE with...

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



**CUYAHOGA COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION**

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

CALL TOLL FREE: 1-866-915-VETS (8387)

Veterans Helping Veterans Since 1886

www.CuyahogaVets.org



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

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



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