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## The Home Front: Without It, WWII is Lost

**M**y old man jumped on D-Day, part of the famed 101st Airborne Division. He never talked about it. He kept two decorations on a wall: His jump wings and his CIB. Too bad he died in his late 40s. Like all involved in WWII, he had fascinating and scary stories to tell.

His war will always be big and important to me. Its length, breadth, and depth are unique in the history of warfare. It was a long war, costly, bloody, and victory was never a sure bet.

There is another subject that will also be big and important to me. The war effort involved so much and so many. The Home Front. That phrase is worthy of study for many reasons, but for me,

the Home Front means different people sharing and working and fighting for a single, easily understood goal: Winning a war on two fronts. Hard to believe. Fighting and winning two wars. One in the East and one in the West, both supported and encouraged by the Home Front.

I've given up on our world finding and enjoying peace. If World War II didn't teach us, what will? War is deeply ingrained in our hearts and minds.

If I could change one thing, it would be to have wars even bigger, bloodier, more costly, and more destructive. We would think twice about going to war before every effort was made to keep the peace.

## The Incivility of Man to his Brothers and Sisters

*By Rev. Richard J. Watts  
Pastor Emeritus, St. Girard Church and School*

**W**hen we talk about politics, we are grossly impolite; the conversation is stuffed with curses, and loud enough to wake any baby.

Such conversations are also wasteful. Fifteen minutes of screaming and being screamed at will not make a shred of difference, and both parties leave, believing, "Well, I showed him!"

A friend posted on Facebook, "If you support so-and-so, take me off your friends' list." Really? Your friendship was built on political leanings? That's not a friend; that's an acquaintance.

We scream, write in all caps, bully, curse the unseen, throw around rumors and shards of news, believing that what we believe and preach is better than Gospel.

*For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder. 2 Corinthians 12:20*

Facebook tempts us to lie first about ourselves: Who we are, why we're able to lecture loudly, and then denigrate those who don't agree.

It is acting, isn't it? We allow ourselves to dress and sound like mobsters. We are many things, but mobsters? No, we're not. When we finish the charade, we slip back into our civilian clothes and go about our business, pleased that we converted another faceless person on Facebook.

I better understand the criticism of Facebook.

Yet Facebook is hardly to blame. If we want to assign blame to people who are rude, ignorant, and poor spellers, we don't need Facebook for that.

Facebook provides a medium, not unlike a park bench or a seat at the ballpark. Only difference is, with Facebook, we can present ourselves with no



regard for truth. We can say we are big and strong, armed to the teeth, and eager for a parking lot fight. However, more likely the writer has a complexion problem, has never enjoyed a date, and is restricted to public transportation.

My hopes are high: I hope we can converse honestly and politely. More than that, I hope we listen.

Ah, listening. I believe listening becomes more difficult with each passing day. We don't need lessons in listening; we know how. The challenge comes in listening to another person and think-

ing about what we just heard. Listening means more than waiting for an opportunity to break in the conversation and spout off. Listening means clearing one's mind as much as possible, listening to the words and ideas presented by our adversary. When we do this, we learn that our alleged opponent has some good points, too.

## This Month We Celebrate Those Who Fought and Fell

I often think of the men and women who died in battle. They double-timed into battle, locked and loaded, knowing not all their fellow troops were coming back.

Then I think of those who saw their brothers-in-arms fall. We don't much talk about it, but a part of their hearts was killed, too.

What a strange and terrible way to see a friend take his last breath, the cacophony of battle the last sounds he will ever hear.

At battle's end, the fallen troop is carried away. Sometimes the immediate funeral hymn is sobs and tears, sometimes anger and curses.

Can hell be any worse than war?



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John H. Tidyman, editor

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# Retired Coast Guard Rear Admiral Steers Northeast Ohio Red Cross

By Jerri Donohue

Retired United States Coast Guard Rear Admiral Michael N. Parks sees parallels between his 35-year military career and his current position as CEO of the Northeast Ohio Region of the American Red Cross. During his 12 years at sea, the Red Cross summoned home at least 25 crewmembers because of family emergencies.

“Now we’re working with people who send those messages and servicemen and their families,” Parks said. “There’s a rich history of helping military personnel, which is why it’s such a good fit for me.”

Leading a community-based non-profit was a smooth transition for the 1982 United States Coast Guard Academy graduate; he worked closely with first responders in local communities. While he was stationed in California, for example, a pregnant woman went into labor on a sailboat and was transferred to the vessel Parks commanded. A Coast Guard helicopter with a paramedic from Los Angeles County then flew her to a hospital.

The Red Cross focuses on disaster relief, which is part of the Coast Guard’s mission. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Parks deployed to assist with search, rescue and recovery efforts and port security. He later helped direct emergency response to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

On other assignments, he intercepted illegal drugs before they reached the States.

“Boardings at sea, climbing up the side of a ship in the middle of the night in howling



winds – probably those were times I felt most at risk,” Parks said. “We never knew what we were going to find.”

They discovered cocaine and marijuana concealed in fuel tanks, and refined drugs packed among life rafts. Smugglers painted fiberglass speedboats blue or gray, making them hard to spot at night. Boasting three or four engines, the

vessels out-ran Coast Guard patrol boats.

“It was like a bus chasing a Corvette,” Parks said. “But in this case the bus had a helicopter with a machine gun.”

Helicopters shot out the bad guys’ engines, enabling Parks’ crew to catch up. On a single patrol, they arrested 51 narco-traffickers.

“We stopped eight speedboats and confiscated twenty tons of cocaine,” Parks recalled. “It’s pretty rewarding to know you took that much product off the streets.”

Parks moved 18 times during his Coast Guard years. On the second of two stops in Cleveland, he led the Ninth Coast Guard District. When he retired in 2013, his daughters were 10 and 13 years old. Parks and his wife opted to remain in Ohio.

“The people of northeast Ohio kept us here,” Parks said.

“This is a great place to raise a family.”

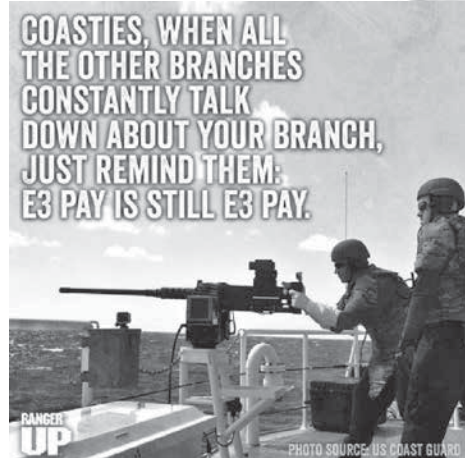
Parks’ retirement was short-lived. In April 2015, he assumed responsibility for the Red Cross region that serves 4.5 million residents of 22 Ohio counties. In the Coast Guard, the smallest of the armed forces, he saved lives and enforced laws with limited resources but highly trained personnel.

Now he oversees a humanitarian nonprofit that receives no federal funds and relies on volunteers to accomplish 90 percent of its good work.

“It’s not often that you get to match your skill set and your passion so well,” Parks said.



Do coasties have the same E1 issues as the rest of the military? Or are they just a little different? Like, instead of buying a Mustang, are they buying a Fiat? Inquiring minds need to know.





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# Civilian Conservation Corps made its mark in Northeast Ohio

By Barry Goodrich

**T**he men of the Civilian Conservation Corps may be largely forgotten but their work continues to stand the test of time.

Created in 1933 as an integral part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal program, the CCC was a voluntary public work relief program for unemployed, unmarried men between the ages of 17-28. The Corps was a workforce providing manual labor for jobs related to conservation and development of natural resources.

"I call your attention to the fact that this type of work is of definite, practical value, not only through the prevention of great present financial loss, but also as a means of creating future national wealth," Roosevelt stated in a 1932 speech espousing the benefits of the CCC.

By the end of the Corps in 1942,

its men planted 3.5 billion trees and established over 800 new parks from coast to coast. The CCC, which had divisions of both veterans and Native Americans, improved or constructed another 90,000 acres of campgrounds throughout the nation. The men were responsible for the construction of bridges and roads and helped with erosion, flood control and forest protection.

Reserve officers from the U.S. Army were placed in charge of the workforce. Workers earned \$30 per month and were provided with food, shelter and clothing. By the time the Corps disbanded, over three million men had participated.

A battalion of Cleveland men in the CCC were sent to the U.S. Army Camp at Fort Knox, Ky. From there they were either sent west or placed in companies throughout Ohio. From 1933-36, Company 595

performed work in the Euclid Creek and North Chagrin Reservations. Under the supervision of engineers, the men worked to fill stone quarries and build dams and retaining walls. They also created footpaths and bridle trails, excavated a lake and graded land for drainage and construction.

According to the Cleveland State University's Center for Public History and Digital Humanities, funds were raised for educational programs for Company 595 with classes offered in everything from commercial art to radio engineering to banking. In the evenings, the men participated in wrestling and boxing programs organized by the Cleveland YMCA.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was also the driving force behind the development of what would come to be known as the Cuyahoga

Valley National Park, building trails and lodges which are still in use today. Corps workers planted over 60,000 trees and shrubs in the former Kendall Reserve area. Yet another CCC project resulted in the renovation of the Cleveland Metroparks' Brecksville Reservation in 1935.

"The CCC was a grand idea that helped renew America," said Marcy Kaptur, Ohio's longtime 9th District congresswoman. "It changed the character of the country and helped modernize America during a period of social need."

Earlier this year, Kaptur re-introduced legislation to revive the Civilian Conservation Corps, an idea she has championed during several congresses over the last decade. "It would be an opportunity to create a robust, restorative pathway to our future," she said.

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## VA completes home loan funding fee refund initiative

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently completed an aggressive initiative to process home loan funding fee refunds to Veteran borrowers, issuing more than \$400 million in refunds.

The refunds are the culmination of a multi-year internal review of millions of VA-backed home loans spanning almost two decades.

"VA staff worked diligently throughout the summer reviewing 130,000 cases, which is an average of 16,000 loans reviewed per week," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "This effort included loans dating back nearly 20 years. Our administration prioritized fixing the problems and paid Veterans what they were owed."

The VA's Loan Guaranty Service (LGY) program identified more than 130,000 loans where a refund was potentially due. While some funding fees charged were found to be attributable to clerical errors, most fees were charged correctly. The exception was for those Veterans whose exemption status changed following the issuance of a disability rating after the closing of their loan. Letters were mailed notifying Veterans who were eligible for a refund.

VA has made several program and systems changes to provide Veterans and lenders with the most up-to-date information possible on a Veteran's funding fee exemption status. The changes include:

- Enhancements to Veteran-focused communications to better inform about the loan funding fee and when it may be waived as part of the loan transaction.
- Policy guidance directing lenders to inquire about a Veteran's VA disability claim status during the loan underwriting process and obtain an updated Certificate of Eligibility no more than three days prior to loan closing if the Veteran had a disability claim pending.
- System and procedural changes to ensure regular internal oversight activities swiftly identify Veterans eligible for fee waivers and potential refund cases.

Veterans who believe that they are entitled to a refund of the VA funding fee are strongly encouraged to call their VA Regional Loan Center at (877) 827-3702 to find out if they are eligible.

Information about VA home loan funding fees can be found on the LGY program website.

# VA recognizes World Mental Health Day 2019

The global observance focuses on suicide prevention

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is joining organizations, communities, leaders and mental health professionals to observe World Mental Health Day Oct. 10.

This year's theme is 'mental health promotion and suicide prevention,' and VA is urging all Veterans, service members, family and friends to learn about the resources and support available for those experiencing signs or symptoms of a mental health condition and to help prevent suicide among Veterans.

"Suicide prevention is VA's top clinical priority," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "As I've noted previously, this requires an all-hands on deck comprehensive approach. Encouraging communities to engage and participate in awareness activities is a critical element in our public health strategy to reducing Veteran deaths by suicide."

Every 40 seconds, someone dies by suicide somewhere around the world. VA and the World Federation of Health Mental Health (WFMH) want everyone to know that mental health treatment is effective, recovery is possible, and suicide is preventable.

Join VA and the WFMH in taking 40

seconds for action. Your actions may provide the encouragement a loved one needs to seek help or even help prevent a suicide attempt. Here are a few ways to participate:

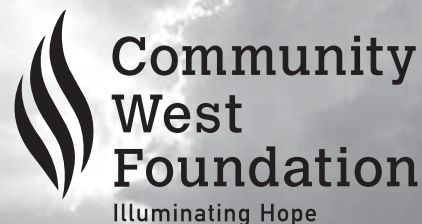
- Explore the Veterans Crisis Line and suicide prevention links to learn about the many ways you can be there for a Veteran in need and more information.
- Visit [MakeTheConnection.net](http://MakeTheConnection.net) to watch videos of over 500 Veterans — from every service era and branch — share their stories of coping with major life events, overcoming mental health challenges and finding a new sense of purpose. Then, share one of these inspiring stories with a Veteran loved one.
- Check out [MentalHealth.va.gov](http://MentalHealth.va.gov) for information and resources on a variety of mental health topics and conditions, including suicide risk, anxiety, depression and more.
- Connect with Coaching Into Care, a free telephone service for family members, friends and loved ones of Veterans who may need mental health support. The hours of operation are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call 888-823-7458 to get started.

I'm not  
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to be, but  
thank God  
I'm not  
where I used  
to be.

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# GoFundMe Salutes Non-profit Assisting Local Veterans

By Jerri Donohue

GoFundMe will honor local nonprofit Help for Heroes and four other “Heroes of the Year” on November 14 in San Francisco. The five charities were selected from hundreds of nominations nationwide.

There is no cash award but Lauralynn “Charlie” Hyatt, founder of Help for Heroes, hopes the publicity will boost donations.

Hyatt doesn’t know who nominated her nonprofit, but it could be any of almost 500 previously homeless veterans she has outfitted with furniture and household goods during the last eight years. A dues-paying “social” member of VFW Post 9340 in Columbia Station, Hyatt discovered this need when she helped host bingo games at the old Veterans Administration Domiciliary in Brecksville. After a female veteran asked her for clothing, Hyatt collected requests from other bingo players. This became a monthly routine until the evening a vet told her he was moving into his own place. Owning nothing, he asked Hyatt for a frying pan and a lamp. The Veterans Administration gives beds to the vets, but they must find other ways to furnish their homes. This became Hyatt’s mission.

Hyatt later met a Marine reservist who was an attorney. He volunteered to incorporate her project as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Since then, Volunteers of America and Veterans Administration caseworkers refer



former servicemen and women to her.

Help for Heroes typically provides a couch, a television set with stand, a dinette set, a dresser and a nightstand. In addition, Hyatt supplies sheets, towels, dishes, utensils and other essentials.

Hyatt and a retired friend make deliveries and pick up donations with a 1993 Chevy Step Van

purchased by VFW Post 9340. Help for Heroes eventually had to replace its brakes and tires. (Hyatt’s husband changes the oil.) The organization averages three deliveries a week, usually in Cuyahoga, Medina and Lorain Counties. Hyatt has also provided furniture, housewares and linens to veterans living in Akron, Canton and Toledo. The vehicle uses diesel fuel, a huge expense for

the small nonprofit.

Hyatt is not discouraged by the ongoing struggle to meet the charity’s monthly expenses of \$1000. She knows recipients of her help are truly grateful. Several contact her on Mother’s Day, and one vet texts her every morning.

For her part, Hyatt appreciates the support offered by VFW Post 9340 and others. When Help for Heroes ran out of money, NEOPAT (Northeast Ohio Foundation for Patriotism) paid insurance for the truck (\$575 per year) and rent (\$320 per month) on two storage units where Hyatt stashes inventory. Every Christmas she randomly selects a veteran that she’s assisted - someone with children - and on Christmas Eve morning she and her husband deliver presents and fixings for a turkey dinner. With funds from NEOPAT, Hyatt will adopt three families this year.

Parishioners of St. Clarence Church in North Olmsted annually load the Help for Heroes van with articles the veterans need. Upon learning that the nonprofit had no more microwaves, a woman donated three new ones. Last December, a man bought five new televisions for Hyatt’s veterans. Such generosity enables her to carry on.

“There are still good people out there,” Hyatt said.

To help, call Hyatt at 216-798-3224 or visit Help for Heroes on Facebook and use the GoFundMe link.



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David T. Dombrowiak, Community West Foundation President and CEO, Mary Sue Tanis, Founder, Youth Challenge and William Oatey, Chair of the Board, Community West Foundation.

## Community West Foundation Annual Meeting is a Great Success!

The impact the Community West Foundation's work was a highlight at their annual Corporation meeting held on September 11 at Bay Presbyterian Church. Over two hundred people attended the event.

William Oatey, Chair of the Board spoke about the organization's accomplishments over the past year, and said the Foundation shared \$6,079,000 in grant funding with worthy organization; \$3,351,000 of those funds were used to support local nonprofits; and \$1,450,000 was directed to Fairview and Lutheran Hospital for the health and well-being of our community.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation of the David and Martha Hessler Illuminating Hope Award. The award is named in honor of David and Martha Hessler who have blessed our community and foundation with faith, hope and love beyond compare. The award was created to recognize a local nonprofit with a deep history and commitment to our communities that is Illuminating Hope.

Mr. Oatey said, "we know that the work of nonprofits takes courage - it takes compassion - and it takes love. And, you can't help but fall in love with the work of our Illuminating Hope award recipient, Youth Challenge. Youth Challenge was started in 1976 by Mary Sue Tanis, a visionary, collaborator, and

champion for children with disabilities. She was inspired to dedicate her life to helping people with disabilities find ways to participate in sports. What she created is a program that is legendary!"

We celebrate the work of Youth Challenge that has facilitated inclusion, accessibility and encouragement to individuals with disabilities that is "Illuminating Hope". The award presented is the small replica of the sculpture of Homeless Jesus, reminding us all that we see the light of Christ radiantly shining through the work of this wonderful agency. In addition to the award presented, Youth Challenge received a \$10,000 gift.

David T. Dombrowiak, President and CEO, Community West Foundation spoke about the work at Community West Foundation and that, "we focus our efforts on the least of our brothers and sisters, those people considered the most deserving of our support. The very core - the soul of our work - is to support the most essential of human needs. And, an important human need is WATER. Clean water - here in our cities, nation, and for those an ocean's distance away."

He introduced two guest speakers, Steve Young, the Executive Director of Living Waters for the World, which is a Christian and Erin Huber Rosen, Executive Director and Founder of Drink Local. Drink Tap.

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Steve Young and Erin Huber Rosen are making God's love visible to others by reaching out into the forgotten corners of the world to make clean water available for those who do not have access.

David Dombrowiak surprised many in the audience by announcing his retirement at the end of the year and he received a heartfelt

standing ovation for all that he has done for the organization for over twenty years. David Dombrowiak was pleased to announce that Martin J. Uhle will be the Community West Foundation's next President and CEO. Marty Uhle spoke briefly about his excitement and commitment to continue the important work for the Foundation.

# Retired Coast Guard Admiral June Ryan Helps Others Set Course to Success

By Jerri Donohue

**R**etired U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral June Ryan realizes her decision to become a motivational speaker is just a slight change in course.

"I had always enjoyed speaking and motivating people in the Coast Guard," Ryan said. "I certainly loved the operations and rescuing people and those kind of things, but the second love was being able to motivate people."

Ryan joined the Coast Guard Reserves in 1982, went on active duty in 1985 and retired in 2017 - the first enlisted woman to rise to the rank of admiral.

Although Jack Canfield is known for co-authoring the Chicken Soup for the Soul series with Mark Victor Hansen, it was his work in personal development that influenced Ryan. She stumbled upon - and implemented - Canfield's success principles early in her career. She described herself as a "middle-of-the-road Joe Schmo" until then.

"I attribute these principles to putting me on a different trajectory," Ryan said.

Starting as a deckhand, she didn't aim to become an admiral. Her goal then was to contribute and to be successful, and so she followed Canfield's "stay in action" tenet. She welcomed opportunities as they came along - going to Officer Candidate School, becoming a ship's captain and advancing one step at a time.

When she retired, guests at a



cocktail party asked Ryan what she would do next. She replied that she wanted to be a motivational speaker. A friend who overheard later surprised Ryan by arranging her first speaking gig.

The recent retiree immediately took an on-line course to become a certified trainer in Canfield's program. Afterwards, she underwent a year of additional instruction that

culminated in teaching before Jack Canfield and getting his feedback. Ryan now can speak on 64 different success principles. She gives keynote addresses, leads half and full-day workshops and she is qualified to teach weeklong seminars.

The retired admiral also contributed Chapter 3, "Energizing Your Inner P.O.W.E.R." to Canfield's book, Success Breakthroughs.

Proceeds from its sales benefit a project helping women entrepreneurs in the Dominican Republic. (Use the "look inside" feature on amazon.com to read Ryan's chapter.)

Ryan presents the success principles around the country to groups as varied as veterans, engineers and college students. In November alone she will lead a full day workshop for police officers in Washington State and then travel to Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C. to speak on mentoring.

Attendees of Ryan's presentations often contact her months later to report on how they applied what she taught them. Other times, she immediately learns that her message resonated with someone. At a nurses' summit, for example, Ryan instructed participants to keep asking for what they want.

"Ask, ask, ask," Ryan said. "There is a 'yes' out there for you somewhere if you are persistent."

Afterwards, a nurse confided that she longed to be a pediatrician. When three medical schools rejected her, however, the woman had stopped applying. Ryan inspired her to try again.

For Ryan, such incidents confirm that she is helping others navigate toward a fulfilling life.

"I love what I do," Ryan said. "It's transformational."

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# Playing the game of war

## A child's view

By Sterling Haynes

Playing with little green toy soldiers is often an American boy's first concept of war. A branch carved into a make-believe pistol used in the back yard to win the war with siblings. This is a young man's bravado and his innocence revealed as war has seldom been fought on American soil.

Adults and children play violent video games to role play warfare. They embark on missions and campaigns to score points and compete against other players online, without understanding that a real battlefield is a place where lives are forever changed.

According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, preschool children usually see death as temporary and reversible, a belief reinforced by cartoon characters that die and return back life and fairy tales read by adults.

Children between five and nine begin to think more like adults about death, yet they still believe it will never happen to anyone they know. War is perhaps viewed as a game

with war heroes, big explosions and high tech stealth planes. Genuine combat is stripped of moral consequences and told from limited points of view.

There hasn't been a war on American soil since the Civil War ending in 1865.

Children in war-torn countries such as Iraq, Serbia and Afghanistan have often experienced war first-hand; what more agonizing than a family member dead and bloody and lifeless.

For many American families, the most stressful part of the deployment cycle isn't the long period of separation. It's when service members come home from war and reintegrate into their families. This can involve trying to figure out how he or she has changed since their departure.

Children expect the newly returned parent's full attention. Perhaps not fully understanding their parent has many adjustments to make and still function as their parent.

Wars are won by killing. The void created in a child's heart is immeasurable.

## Times Change...

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(l-r) Aron McMullen, Bill Shearer and Eric Whittington stand among bicycles they donated to Baldwin Wallace University's All Star Student Veterans Center.

# Donated Bicycles Add Another Spin to BWU's Veterans Center

By Jerri Donohue

Eric Whittington and Aron McMullen, owners of Brimstone Bicycles in Canal Fulton and Bill Shearer, founder of Massillon's non-profit Freedom Farm, stood among five Fixie bicycles they had donated to Baldwin Wallace University's All Star Student Veterans Center. College administrators and BWU's Student Veterans Organization (SVO) officers thanked the three men in a ceremony held on September 24.

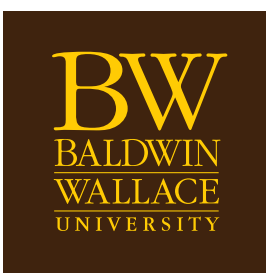
BWU's campus sprawls on both sides of Bagley Road in Berea. SVO vice president, Navy veteran Sheneir Johnson, said the bikes would help student vets reach their destination more quickly than walking. In addition to this convenience, bikes provide exercise. SVO also will use them to encourage camaraderie by planning group rides in good weather on weekends.

Shearer, a BWU grad who once played football and baseball on campus, met with SVO earlier this year to tell members about his veterans program at Freedom Farm. SVO's membership hovers between 90 and 100 veterans each academic year, and the organization made a strong impression on Shearer. He decided to do something positive for former servicemen and women attending his alma mater.

"Veterans are one of the most underserved segments of our society," Shearer said.

He approached Whittington and McMullen with the idea of donating bicycles. Whittington, a 10-year Army veteran, directs Team RWB's Eagle Up Ultra marathon in Stark County. Proceeds from the annual race benefit groups helping veterans, including Freedom Farm.

*Continued on page 15*



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# Palmer's Coast Guard career laid foundation for success

By Barry Goodrich

**A**rnold Palmer had the natural talent to become the man who brought professional golf to the masses. But the life lessons he learned while serving for the United States Coast Guard went far beyond his golf career, helping to earn him a well-deserved reputation as an honorable competitor and businessman.

While building a career as one of the country's top amateur golfers at Wake Forest, Palmer's roommate Bud Worsham was killed in a car accident. The incident left Palmer shaken and unsure of his future. He decided to enlist with the Coast Guard in 1950.

Starting out at the Cape May training center in New Jersey, Palmer would stay on at the center as a physical fitness and self-defense instructor. He then transferred to Cleveland, where he would ultimately serve as a yeoman for Rear Admiral Roy L. Raney, the 9th

Coast Guard District commander.

Encouraged by Raney, whom he gave golf lessons to, Palmer competed in weekend tournaments throughout Northeast Ohio. The Latrobe, Pa. native adopted Pine Ridge as his home course and promptly shot a course record round of 64 there. Palmer also enjoyed playing Canterbury, Elyria, Beechmont, Aurora and Chagrin Valley.

In 1953, Palmer won both the Northeast Ohio Amateur and the Ohio Amateur, victories that proved to be the impetus for Palmer to turn pro.

"My intentions were to eventually get out and play golf and of course my boss, the admiral, suggested I go to training at the academy," said Palmer in a 2012 interview with U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary historian Richard A. Stephenson. "I was flattered he

wanted me to do that but at the same time that meant an additional enlistment for me and I was primarily ready to get out and get my shot at the PGA Tour."

After winning the U.S. Amateur in 1954, it didn't take long for Palmer to win on tour as he captured the 1955 Canadian Open. His attacking style of play and charisma with the galleries soon turned the golf world upside down with "Arnie's Army" following him from course to course all over the world. Palmer returned to Northeast Ohio to win the inaugural Cleveland Open at Beechmont in 1963 and he would later win back-to-back U.S. Senior Open events in 1984 and 1985.

With seven major tournament wins and 95 total victories on tour, Palmer's iconic career was topped only by his business successes. But unlike many pro athletes, he

remained a man of the people.

"The Coast Guard matured me, it made me a better person," Palmer said in the 2012 interview. "The military isn't just restrictions and duties, it's learning. It's very important that young people have that opportunity to learn and to know themselves a little better. I think the military helps put that in perspective."

Palmer passed away at age 87 in 2016 and remains one of the most cherished athletes in American history. Earlier this year, the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation began a campaign to have the Coast Guard name a vessel in Palmer's honor.

"Arnold Palmer touched millions of lives through his storied golf career and philanthropic efforts, so it is only appropriate right that we honor this great man," wrote U.S. Rep. Guy Reschenthaler.

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*"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  
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**BICYCLES** - continued from page 12

The storeowners agreed to share with Shearer the cost of five single speed Fixies in various sizes. Easy to maintain, the bikes are popular among messengers in New York City.

“They are perfect for getting around campus,” Whittington said.

The bicycles sport American flag decals and soon will be outfitted with license plates emblazoned with “BWU Vet”.

Active duty personnel often use bicycles for transportation when serving overseas. BWU senior Craig Brown, who spent 24 years in the Army, rode one when he was stationed in Korea. Brown also bought a mountain bike when he deployed to Iraq because it enabled him to quickly cover the lengthy distance from his quarters to the mess hall and shower point.

Navy veterans Melissa Cornell and Shane Cornell took two of the Fixies for a test ride immediately

after the presentation. The couple met while stationed in San Diego, where they purchased bikes to pedal around base and to the beach.

Vets will borrow the bicycles from BWU’s All Star Student Veterans Center, a two-story house owned by the university and remodeled by the Cleveland Indians earlier this year as part of the 2019 All Star Legacy Project. Major donors also included Lowe’s and Bank of America; local businesses and organizations contributed money and materials. Lowe’s employees provided volunteer labor for projects such as installing a patio, pergola and vegetable garden.

The handicapped-accessible veterans center features a full kitchen, bathrooms on both floors, a conference room with a wide-screen television, a lounge equipped with a computer, and comfortable spaces to study or relax.

## Veterans are one of the most underserved segments of our society

– Bill Shearer

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# “Well, it’s about time.”

## Hedy Lamarr

**Lifetime:** November 9, 1914 – January 19, 2000

**What She’s Known For:** If you believe the old myth that beauty and brains can’t come in the same package, think again. Besides being known as the most beautiful woman in the world, actress Hedy Lamarr also invented the basis for WiFi, Bluetooth and GPS.

**Why We Love Her:** When might initially hear about Lamarr, a Jewish immigrant from Vienna, because of her beauty and controversial nude scenes in movies. However, it’s impossible to ignore her technological expertise. Tired of her sex-symbol status, Lamarr decided to help the war effort in a unique way: by building inventions. Her most successful and helpful invention was a “frequency hopping spread-spectrum” system that protected radio communications from enemy spies.

The system would switch frequencies in a predetermined pattern. Since both the sender and receiver would know when and in what order to switch, members of the Allies could stay in contact while the enemy couldn’t follow the signal. Using this system for torpedoes’ radio frequencies almost meant that the signals would not be intercepted.

Lamarr’s system eventually formed the basis for modern wireless communications technology in cordless phones, cell phones, satellite communications and more. However, she wasn’t recognized for her efforts until the 1990s when one of the pioneers of wireless communications found her patent and contacted her by phone. When told that she was receiving an award, Lamarr, in her early 80s at the time, said, “Well, it’s about time.”

**Fun Fact:** Lamarr’s other projects included an improved stoplight and a tablet that, when dissolved in water, created a soda similar to Coca-Cola.

## VA Board of Veterans’ Appeals makes history with record breaking year in 2019

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Board of Veterans’ Appeals (Board) surpassed last year’s record-high output for decisions.

The Board officially dispatched 95,089 decisions for Veterans and their families in fiscal year (FY) 2019, the largest number of decisions in the Board’s history – that is 5,000 more decisions than the goal and 11% more than the Board’s decision output in FY 2018, the previous record high.

“It was also a historic year for hearings held,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “The Board held a record 22,743 hearings in FY 2019, a 38% increase compared to the number of hearings held in FY 2018.”

This was in addition to implementing Appeals Modernization, undergoing a reorganization with addition of new leaders across the organization, taking over all hearing scheduling and testing virtual tele-hearings.

The Board’s success is a result of strong collaboration and customer experience across the department – with the Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Chief of Staff leading the way along with VA’s administrations, offices and programs areas.

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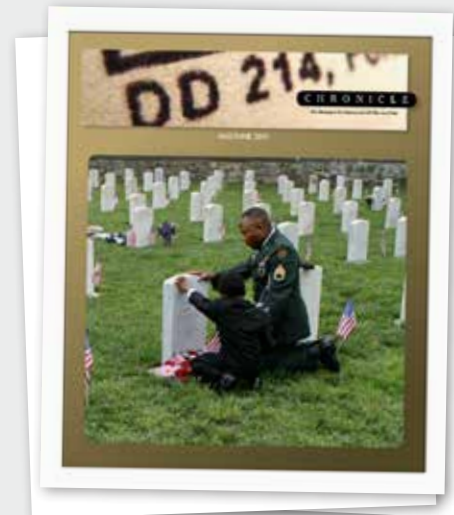
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# Guardians USA Vets Offer Financial, Moral Support

By Jerri Donohue

For months, members of Guardians USA Vets Blue Chapter have mowed a Vietnam veteran's lawn, paid his utility bills, and cared for his two dogs.

He had nobody else to turn to when he entered a nursing home for rehabilitation after suffering a stroke.

"A lot of veterans don't like to ask for help," said Crystal Fillion, the non-profit's public relations officer. "For those who do, we make that effort."

Not only do chapter members take the man's pets to visit him, but they also give insulin shots to his diabetic dog. This sort of ongoing aid is rare, though. Usually Guardians USA Vets respond to a one-time crisis.

"People come to us in emergencies," Fillion said.

The organization has helped pay funeral expenses for some veterans, and has purchased walkers and wheelchairs for others, and a hospital bed for one in hospice.

Founded in 1987, Guardians USA Vets Blue Chapter holds monthly meetings in Ashtabula and currently has 18 members. Its sister chapter

meets in Jefferson.

Members must be veterans or their immediate relatives. Most also are motorcycle enthusiasts, although this is not required. The group provides motorcycle honor escorts for funerals. This summer, all members accompanied the remains of 2nd Lt. James Lord from Cleveland to a funeral home in Conneaut. A P-47 fighter pilot in the U.S. Army Air Forces, Lord crashed off the coast of Corsica in 1944. His remains were recovered in 2018.

VFW and American Legion posts sometimes tell the chapter about

vets needing material assistance, but many people contact the organization directly. The group is visible within the community, selling items such as tee shirts emblazoned with Guardians USA Vets logo outside grocery stores and at the Andover flea market.

Members man a table at Geneva-on-the-Lake's annual "Thunder on the Strip" motorcycle party. Supportive of other charities' projects, they recently collected coats, sleeping bags, hats and socks for Sub Zero, a nonprofit founded by veterans to help the homeless.

At least twice a year, Guardians USA Vets deliver packages of toiletries and treats to residents of the Erie Veterans Administration Medical Center in Pennsylvania, which serves vets from Ashtabula County. They host a cookout at the facility every Fourth of July.

Three annual fundraisers enable the nonprofit to do all this good work. The Winter Bash features a buffet and a live band.

In June, the chapter sponsors a 100-mile motorcycle run, followed by a pig roast. The Veterans Honor Motorcycle Run in September begins with a color guard and a speaker and concludes with dinner. Tickets for all events are \$15 per individual or \$25 per couple.

The holidays are especially busy for Guardians USA Vets, which treated ten families to Thanksgiving dinners in 2018. In addition to providing meals at Christmas, they purchased gifts and clothing for 22 children; several were grandkids being raised by elderly veterans.

"We hope to do more this year," Fillion said.

For more information on Guardians USA Vets Blue Chapter, contact Crystal Fillion at 440-789-8129.



## Lethal Gas in World War: A Horrible Way to Die

By Sterling Haynes

Ominous green clouds sweep across the western front of Belgium. Soldiers inhale the deadly fumes, choke, vomit, and lose their vision.

World War I was a global war originating in Europe and lasted from 1914 to 1918. The conflict between two alliances: The Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy, and the Triple Entente of France, Russia and Britain.

The war started after a series of incidents between France and Germany. The nations were rivals competing to build larger armies, gain more colonies, and enhance national pride.

The rivalry reached its breaking point with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to

the Austro-Hungarian throne.

This helped enrage the battle of Neve-Chapelle France. French forces first used tear gas grenades against the German army. The attack was ineffective with no fatalities.

Germany began production of deadlier gas weapons, led by "the father of chemical warfare," Fritz Haber. Until the war, his reputation was for compounds for agriculture. Haber was also the director of the Institute for Physical and Electrochemistry at the Kaiser Wilhelm research institute in Berlin.

Haber developed methods to synthesize chlorine, phosgene and mustard gas to support the German forces.

In 1918 he was awarded a Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the synthesis of ammonia.

Phosgene killed more troops than all other gasses. It has an odor of moldy hay or grass. It's colorless, and soldiers were unaware when they inhaled a fatal dose. After about 48 hours the lungs would fill with fluid causing painful suffocation.

High on the list of the battle gases was mustard gas. The yellow gas had the odor of garlic. Mustard gas lingered and remained deadly on the battlefield for days, or even months. It even settled at the bottom of trenches creating more hazards for troops.

Hours of exposure caused temporary blindness, chemical burns, and painful blisters.

Under constant attacks and bombardment many soldiers suffered from "shell shock," known today

as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Inventive and effective solutions to the weapons of chemicals included: gas masks and portable respirators.

They featured a box filter with a hose attached to the gas mask. The filter contained granules of chemicals that neutralized the gas, delivering clean air to troops.

World War I officially ended when Germany surrendered in 1918. Combatants signed the Treaty of Versailles and in 1925 the Geneva Protocol to declare peace.

The protocol prohibits the use of chemical and biological weapons in armed conflicts. The protocols have been widely ignored.

Yet another horror of war.



# The Battle of the Bulge: Seventy-five Years Ago

**Blood spurted, last breaths were released, screams of the wounded sounded a terrible chorus, acts of bravery and selflessness were common. Victory had a steep price.**

*James Banks, professor emeritus of history, Ph.D., Crile Archives Director, Cuyahoga Community College*

**T**his bloody and bitter battle in the forests of the Ardennes, the costliest of WW II, lasted from December 16, 1944 until January 25, 1945.

By late fall of 1944, optimism prevailed. The Normandy landings of June were a success. Hitler narrowly escaped assassination in July. Paris was liberated in August. The war in Europe could be over by Christmas.

All that changed in an instant. At 5:30 am on the 16th of December, thousands of green and un-tested GI's were battling fog, panic, rain, snow, sleet, in thick forests, as the German army advanced in a sweeping counter offensive. The US was out-manned and out-gunned more than two to one.

Hitler's plan was to create another Dunkirk in a desperate race to Antwerp. Fortunately, with the Red Army in the East, and the sacrifice of more than 20 million Russians, the allies ultimately prevailed. But it was the US that bore the brunt of this last gasp of the Third Reich.

**On Sunday, December 15th, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. on the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College, 11000 West Pleasant Valley Rd., Parma, a free public**

**program will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.**

Hundreds of area veterans were in this last great battle of the Western front. Some of the better known: Dante Lavelli, Browns Hall of Famer, Frank Yankovic the "polka king," Cleveland city councilman Ted Sliwa, several colleagues from Tri-C, my neighbor Herm Graebner of the 5th armored division, and Medina high school grad (class of '44) Ralph Waite. Another Medina resident, Jack Lloyd, of the 1ST Army, 3RD armored division was a prisoner of war in Stalag 12A.

In today's turbulent times we need to recall and revere those soldiers and the families of these vanishing heroes that halted Hitler's tyranny. For it was out this last victory of the European war that the western democracies of today owe their prosperity. Part of that better life evolved from the Marshall Plan, NATO, the European Union, and the United Nations.

So it was that seventy-five years ago, in the frigid forests of combat, that this "band of brothers," joined by tens of thousands of their comrades, stopped the advance of evil.

## Fast Facts on the Battle of the Bulge

*Notes from James Banks, Ph. D.,  
Western Campus, Cuyahoga Community College*

Longest, bloodiest combat for the U.S., lasting from December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945.

American losses: 19,000 dead, 48,000 wounded, 8,000 prisoners.

First time African-American soldiers served (temporarily) with whites in integrated combat units.

Shortest answer to a German request to surrender: "Nuts" General Anthony McAuliffe, 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne.

Heroes of the "Red Ball Express." Seventy-five percent of these truck drivers and loaders of crucial supplies were African-American.

General George Patton really did ask the unit Chaplain for a prayer for good weather.

Dozens of Clevelanders were in the Battle of the Bulge: some of the better known: Dante Lavelli, Browns' Hall of Famer, Frank Yankovic, the "polka king", former Cleveland City Councilman Ted Sliwa, and three former faculty of Tri-C: Ed Stoch, Patrick McCann, and Tony Misko.

John Mailer, of Lakewood, survived the massacre at Malmedy, where eighty-four American POWs were murdered by the SS.



The Combat Infantryman's Badge was created in World War II. It is awarded to infantrymen who have seen battle. Among the ribbons on a trooper's dress uniform, the CIB is always topmost.



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This year's "Management Top 250," published by *The Wall Street Journal*, ranks the best run U.S. companies based on customer satisfaction, employee engagement and development, innovation, social responsibility and financial strength. Dominion Energy was **ranked as the top electric and gas utility**. And military publication *G.I. Jobs* ranks Dominion Energy top in our industry and 5th among all U.S. companies. It marks the 10th consecutive year Dominion Energy has been recognized as a military-friendly company. So to each and every one of our 16,000+ dedicated employees, THANK YOU for your commitment to excellence, your dedication to community and most of all for the energy you bring to this company each and every day.

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