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Donald C. Stark

Good day and Welcome to the DD214 Chronicle, the “*Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them*”!

Initially, we owe an apology to Mr. Christopher Johnston, one of our terrific writers, that wrote the Russell Scot Rhoda column in the September/October edition of the Chronicle and was not listed as the author by mistake. Our apologies, Christopher, and Thanks for the great work that you do!

*HAPPY VETERANS DAY TO ALL OF OUR VETERANS! From the staff of the DD214 Chronicle...*

*Happy Birthday 247,  
United States Marine Corps*

and, Thanks to our thousands of Veterans and Veteran family readers for supporting our mission, and last but certainly not least, a Thank-you to our advertisers, that help keep our publication growing and an interesting newspaper. We like to call it, “the Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.”

Donald C. Stark  
DD214 Publisher



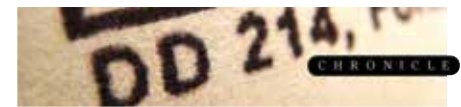
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# A Visit to Gothic Barcelona

By Jacob Arnett

## Barcelona, Spain.

I'd like to say that I am "on assignment", but that might be a little out of our budget at the Chronicle. Part of me has always dreamed of getting paid to travel without guns, ammo, and gear, hurry up and wait, orders, and aggressive locals at the destination. So here I am, on my own dime, writing to you from a three-bedroom AirBnB apartment in Barca's Gothic District. Hosted by a friendly Slovakian named Mica, I am sharing this space with a lovely couple from Lithuania. I've got this room for a steal at \$60 a night, so I am not bothered to occasionally see another couple of people inside the commons of this decently-sized 200-year-old apartment. As I happened to be here for the next 3 weeks, I asked our outstanding editor, Don, if I could write something for the folks out there who have never traveled abroad before...like my mom, for example. (You're coming when that broken foot heals, Mom!)

I certainly understand that it may feel like a daunting task to travel internationally. We Americans spend too much of our lives surrounding ourselves with material things. According to our reality TV shows, we seem to have a strong "hoarder" culture, and honestly-I don't think that is an incorrect assessment. Be it "keeping up with the Joneses" or "Keeping up with the Kardashians", we collect stuff and buy bigger places to store it. Why?

Think about it-when you're nearing life's end, will you be remembering the fun times you had watching the Cleveland Browns lose by 30 points on your 85-inch OLED TV you bought on 0% financing for 12 months at Best Buy? No! One thing our fellow Clevelanders do not need to take to the grave with us are memories of the Browns. Our purgatory ends at death.

The more likely scenario will find you reflecting on the experiences you earned outside of your comfort zone, along with thoughts of your loved ones. Considering the reverence that the human mind gives to early childhood memories, military experience, and travel, even dementia, often fails to erase these powerful memories. Should we impose so many monetary limits on our budget for travel? Should we be afraid of exploring firsthand, the places we have only seen on TV? Give yourself a mental break. Book for 2+ weeks. Don't worry about how much it costs. Take it from a carpet cleaner in Barcelona...money will always be tight! Consider it one of those important life decisions you do for the sake of you.



Barcelona Cathedral. Constructed in the Gothic style, from the 1200s to completion in 1448.

Since there are so many places to see in Barcelona, such as the famous La Sagrada Familia cathedral, the longest ongoing construction project in the world (the Spaniards claim the church makes too much money in donations

to finish it), I've decided to show you just one building-Barcelona Cathedral. Interestingly, the church is dedicated to a Saint Eulalia, a 13-year-old Christian girl who was tried and murdered in A.D. 303 during the persecution of Christians ordered by the Roman emperor Diocletian. The saint's bones are buried inside the ornate sepulcher in the crypt beneath the church's altar. I find it fascinating that the cathedral is built on the foundations of a couple previous churches, dating all the way back to Visigoths in the 4th century. This is no mere speculation, as the Barcelona City Museum of History has multiple examples of archeological pieces from these churches. You really get a sense of this history when you step into the cathedral, as the smell of hundreds-of-years-old altarpieces and the incredibly ornate choir hit you with a distinctive scent of the ancient wood and stone.

Outside of the cathedral, when you walk into the cloister, there are buried a number of clergy, nobles and possibly some wealthy mechants. Medieval tra-



Barcelona Cathedral. interior carved choir stalls

dition, which seems to exist to this day, maintained that there was a greater chance of making it to heaven the closer your remains were buried to the church.

It is truly a different experience than you will find anywhere in America walking through the labyrinthine walkways of the old city, which bend around like a trail in the woods, with no visible end in sight. This is because these walkways predate the rediscovery of perspective in the 14th century, which adds a romantic, meandering charm to the place. I hope you enjoy these photos of the Gothic District in Barcelona, and you consider it among your places to visit one day. (And don't forget to bring your walking shoes!)



*Barcelona was once a Roman city, called Barcino. In 1954 construction revealed a line of Middle Class and slave burial monuments, dating from the 1st to 3rd century AD.*



*This person was entombed here in 1347, the oldest one I found in the floor.*



*Typical street scene*



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# From Jobs to Hoops, Kent State Plans Varied Veterans Day Program

By Brian Albrecht

When it comes to honoring and saluting members of our nation's armed forces, Kent State University doesn't confine itself to Veterans Day, Nov. 11, but has several commemorative events scheduled for the holiday. This year's program is in keeping with a campus history that has produced many military luminaries, and also reflects the intended spirit of Nov. 11, according to Joshua Rider, executive director of the school's Center for Adult and Veteran Services.

The Veterans Day events represent an "outward display of our appreciation for our military-connected students," Rider said. "It shows these folks that you're included, it means something to us to have you here, and to honor your service." Veterans Day was formerly known as Armistice Day to mark the 11th month, day and hour that World War I ended in 1918. It became a national holiday to honor all veterans in 1954.

On Nov. 7, Kent State will team with the University of Akron for the first time to offer a free Veteran Career Expo at Quaker Station in Akron. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for veterans; 12-2 p.m. for non-veteran students and alumni. For registration contact: [uakron.joinhandshake.com/edu/career\\_fairs/43929](http://uakron.joinhandshake.com/edu/career_fairs/43929).

A day-long educational series will be offered on Nov. 8, featuring U.S. Air Force Maj. Alea Nadeem, an Ohio native, who will address the role and development of women in the military. She will meet with students at a luncheon and give a free keynote presentation at 7 p.m. Nadeem enlisted shortly after 9/11 to serve her country and counter negative perceptions of Arab-Americans in the wake of that disaster. She was raised in Toledo, but kidnapped by her father, who held her in Iraq for four years during the Gulf War, before she could be returned home.



Bill Johnson

She went back to that country when later deployed with the Air Force.



President Todd Diacon

The university's traditional Veterans Day ceremony will be held on Nov. 9, 11 a.m., at the Student Center Plaza. Keynote speaker will be U.S. Cong. Bill Johnson, a former U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, now representing Ohio's 6th District. The event will feature posting of the colors by the school's Army and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) units, a med-

ley of service songs, and remarks by university President Todd Diacon. A luncheon for veterans and service members will be held at noon on the second floor of the Student Center.

On Nov. 11, the university will host a military appreciation basketball game between the Kent State Golden Flashes and Fresno State Bulldogs at 7 p.m., broadcast live by ESPN. (<https://kentstatesports.com/news/2023/9/1/ashes-unveil-2023-24-mens-basketball-schedule.aspx>) Veterans get free admission, and discounted tickets will be available to students and the community.



Lou Holtz

The Veterans Day events are appreciated not only by the university's 800 vets (about 3 percent of the total enrollment), but also staff and faculty who served in the military, according to Rider. The commemoration offers a fellowship for campus veterans, "it's kind-of a huge thing for them," he said. They join a distinguished history of Kent State vets, that according to university records include:

- Lou Holtz, who was commissioned as an Army Reserve officer in the Field Artillery upon graduating from Kent State in 1959, earning a degree in history. His illustrious career as a football head coach included North Carolina State University, the New York Jets and the University of Notre Dame, where he led the team to a 1988 national championship.

- Elaine H. Lafferre was a 1984 graduate of Kent State University, earning a degree in Journalism. She joined the Department of Defense civilian work force in 1969 as the Military Technician with the Kent State University Army ROTC, Military Science Department. During her career, Lafferre



Darrell Issa, 117th Congress

was responsible for the management of thousands of cadets, and directly responsible for ensuring the commissioning of over 700 officers into the Army.

- California Cong. Darrell Issa enlisted in the Army during his senior year in high school. He attended Kent State University Stark in North Canton, and Siena Heights College in Adrian, Michigan, on an ROTC scholarship, earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1976. Upon graduation, he

was commissioned as a US Army Officer, serving as a tank platoon leader, and a computer research and development specialist, among other command roles.

- Richard E. Mack was commissioned in 1949 as part of the first graduation class of Kent State University Army ROTC. He was wounded during the Korean War, and later served in command positions in Vietnam.
- Col. Robert S. Patton was a 1952 graduate of Kent State University's ROTC program, earning a degree in Education. As an infantryman and aviator, Colonel Patton served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. In 1974, he returned to Kent State University as a professor of Military Science and completely revitalized the ROTC program following the shootings of May 4, 1970. By 1977, the program had grown to be the largest in Ohio. Following his retirement in 1977, he continued to serve Kent State University as the director of Community Relations.

The tragic legacy of anti-war demonstrations on campus in 1970, resulting in Ohio National Guard troops shooting and killing four students, and wounding nine, might seem at odds with a military role on campus. But according to Rider, the tragedy has not represented a conflict at Kent State in recent years. "It has not been an issue," he said, noting that people have learned to separate political beliefs from those who served. "Folks have moved on," Rider said. "They're willing to heal. It's natural, and has to happen."



Formation



Events, Vets Day

# Vietnam Vet Promotes Peace at Cleveland National Air Show

By Louis Pumphrey

As with many past Labor Day weekends, I had an enjoyable--albeit taxing, time in the oppressive heat--promoting peace to people headed to the Cleveland National Air Show at Burke Lakefront Airport. I stood at the northeast corner of East Ninth Street and North Marginal Drive across from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame greeting people in my 55-year-old U.S. Army dress uniform and, of course, holding my peace flag.

From my perspective as a Vietnam veteran, I felt there needed to be a voice for peace--especially from someone who has experienced the bitter taste of war--to serve as a counterweight to the mindless, macho, star-spangled red-white-and blue dog-and-pony show that this year was a not-so-subtle public relations gambit for the U.S. Air Force, since that military branch's Thunderbirds precision flying team was the major draw.

An Air Force officer with his wife and their two young sons stopped to chat for a bit. He was wearing his one-piece flight suit, so I decided to have a little fun with him. I said to the officer, who is a lieutenant colonel as indicated by the silver oak leaf cluster pin on his cap, "I like your onesie. It's a lot bigger than the first onesie you wore. No snaps in the crotch on this one, though" He smiled. I asked if he flew one of the Thunderbirds and he said, "I wish. I fly a tanker--a gas station in the sky." Such planes refuel other planes in mid-air via a long tube extending from the tanker's fuel-laden belly to a jet flying under the tanker, but a little behind it.

The officer asked what I was doing, and I said, "I'm promoting peace. We need much more peace, civility, tolerance, mutual respect and compassion in our society. Those qualities have eroded over the past several years." He said, "I agree."

The officer flies out of Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base near Columbus and is a pilot for Southwest Airlines. (I assume his air force tanker plane was on display at the air show.) Several minutes later a young man, with his girlfriend, asked where I served. I said, "Gettysburg, Shiloh and Vicksburg." He said nothing, which was rather unsettling. I finally said, "Just kidding. I was in Vietnam." Then he said, "I didn't think any Civil War veterans were still alive." (Oh my GOD!! The words "oatmeal for brains" came to mind.)

Sometime later, a young boy about eight years old said, "What war were you in?" I said, "Civil War." His mom laughed. (No oatmeal there.)

A young man came up to me, extending his hand to shake mine, thanking me for my service. I said, as I did to several other people, "Wasn't my idea. I got drafted!" Turns out he is on active duty in the U.S. Army, based in Columbus but was dressed in civilian clothes. We were at opposite ends of the spectrum, however, as his army

job is to recruit people to join the army, which of course is not something I would do. In the past, I have talked with young boys with their moms who wanted to join the army and said, "You could be a medic or a doctor in the army so you could help heal people rather than kill people. Wouldn't that be better" The moms appreciated my suggestion. A veteran I talked with said he was an E-5 rank in the Air Force. I was one rank lower, E-4, in the Army. Since he outranked me, I said, "You're not going to make me do 20 pushups, are you?" He laughed and said, "No" and as he walked away said, "peace and love." One young man I talked with said he "couldn't agree more" with my peace message and I said "What did those wars in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan accomplish? Lots of death and destruction and billions of dollars for war profiteers. We were sent to Vietnam to kill communists and now Vietnam, a communist country, is our ally against China. All those lives wasted."

A few people remembered me from past Labor Day peace initiatives and one bicyclist said, "I respect your dedication." Another, oddly enough, asked if I was "recruiting," apparently not noticing my peace flag. I said, "I'm recruiting for peace. I like peace more than war."

One gentleman mentioned he was in the Army in the '80s in Germany, repairing vehicles in the motor pool. He and his wife listened intently as I said, "When people thank me for serving our country, I say 'I didn't serve my country. I served deceitful, lying, fear-mongering, war-mongering politicians and their war-profiteering bed partners. Those truly serving our country are medics, nurses, doctors and mental health professionals who work very very hard to mend as best they can, the psyches and bodies of those savaged and ravaged by war. They are the real war heroes. Not those who kill and destroy. That's not heroic. It's barbaric.'" The veteran's wife said, "I commend you for that. May I take your picture?" Of course, I said 'yes' and encouraged her to circulate it as much as possible.

I talked with a veteran who had enlisted in the Army, serving in Germany during the '80s. He said he felt like he "missed out on something" by not serving in a war, which sounded pretty crazy to me. He said some of his army buddies in Germany were of like mind.

As one who lost a lieutenant during the Tet Offensive three days after his 23rd birthday, I said, "You mean you are sorry you missed out on grief and sorrow and blood and guts?" He had no response.

*Drafted in 1966, Pumphrey was a reporter, then editor, for the U.S. Army's First Infantry Division newspaper in Vietnam from July 1967 to July 1968. A Shaker Heights resident, he is a member of Veterans for Peace and is a founding member of the U.S. Peace Memorial Foundation.*

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# Mortgage Shortcuts for Potential Homebuyers

Buying a home may seem daunting to many potential homebuyers. Along with considerations of where, what, and if to buy, they also must consider how they will pay for the home. This is true not only for veterans with access to VA home loans, but for all homebuyers not paying for the home in cash.

Most homebuyers are advised to speak with a mortgage lender early in the process to learn about their options, but for those that are in the very early stages of their considerations, here are some very simple ways to estimate basic affordability, price, and payments.

## What Mortgage Payment Can I Afford? One-Third of Your Monthly Income

A general guideline is that your total housing payment should stay at 30%-35% of your gross monthly income or less so that, when added to any other debts, you are able to have enough money to meet your obligations and comfortably fund the rest of your living expenses. The easiest way to approximate this number is to use one-third of your monthly income.

For instance, if you make \$6,000 per month, you most likely would qualify for a mortgage payment, including property taxes and insurance, of approximately \$2,000 per month.

## What Price Home Can I Buy? 3-4 times your annual income

Another nice number to know is your maximum purchase price. This number can vary greatly if you have a large down payment, but if your down payment is 20% of the purchase price or less, a good general rule is the following:

- Minimum down = 3 times your annual income
- 20% down = 4 times your annual income

Let's look at another example, using the same income from the last example. If you have a minimum down payment and use the rule above, your \$72,000 income per year (\$6,000 per month) should allow you to purchase a home of approximately \$216,000 (3x your annual income). Based on a typical calculation of the mortgage payment plus property taxes and insurance, that would result in a monthly payment near \$2,000 per month...consistent with the previous shortcut calculation shown above.

## What Would THAT House Cost per Month? \$8-\$9 per \$1,000 in price

Now let's say you are looking online at homes for sale and you want to estimate how much the monthly payment would be for a home that you like. Here is a quick way to make that estimate.

- Minimum down: \$9/month for each \$1,000 in price
- 20% down: \$8/month for each \$1,000 in price


Again, using a similar scenario to the ones shown above, if you are wondering what it would cost per month to own a \$220,000 home with a minimum down payment, you would multiply \$9 per month by 220, for an estimated payment of \$1,980/month (or, after rounding, the same \$2,000/month payment estimated above).

If you have 20% down payment, the estimated payment per month would go down to \$1,760/month.


## What Can Change These Numbers?

These quick estimates are generally accurate for most, but not all, homebuyers. Factors such as a specific home's property taxes, significant other monthly obligations, or other factors may lead to increases in payments or reductions in maximum purchase prices. However, if you are simply looking to do quick calculations to see if certain homes or certain payments are within your personal budget and comfort level, the shortcuts illustrated above are a good place to start.

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# Thanks to all who RUN Honor Flight-Cleveland

By Bob Smith,  
US Navy Veteran and Marathoner

I looked at the return address of the envelope that my wife Barb had just handed me: HONOR FLIGHT Cleveland. "Congratulations, you are scheduled for the Honor Flight Cleveland trip on Friday, September, 15, 2023." After all these years of patiently waiting after submitting my application @ honorflightcleveland.org. WOW!

9/15/23, Hopkins Airport, 3:40 am: Barb and I entered through the terminal. Southwest greeted by fellow veterans and friendly Honor Flight staff who surprised me with an Honor Flight polo shirt, name tag, and a goodie bag. Cheery USO volunteers offered coffee and donuts. I passed. Barb grabbed one on her way out.

By 6 am, we lined up in two columns, veterans in blue Honor Flight logo polo shirts on the right, guardians in brown logo t-shirts on the left.

Our elite group of 19 veterans and guardians were cleared through security within 20 minutes. How efficiently this organization runs this operation, I thought.

With "America the Beautiful" playing over the loudspeaker and the applause and cheers of fellow civilian passengers, as we approached Gate 11 Southwest Airlines, caused tears to well up in my eyes. I felt appreciated, waving and yelling, "Thanks!"

We boarded the plane. We were treated to the best pre-flight safety instructions. While two attendants used props demonstrating instructions in the typical deadpan manner, a third attendant issued directives in a hilarious comedic manner. The cabin erupted with cheers and applause. Aside from our flight being delayed due to our pilots being stuck in Cleveland traffic, we still landed at Baltimore Washington International Airport, BWI, by 7:30 am. Before long, we were on and off our luxury bus, for a fair-weather, whirlwind tour of DC.

We sauntered through to study the WWII Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I located the name of Pete Shagovac, the uncle of my former HVAC student. I made a rubbing. I learned that DC volunteers will mail requested rubbings to those who fill out an online request @ www.vvmf.org.

We enjoyed a box lunch outside near the Lincoln Memorial. Eating my turkey sandwich, I imagined my former self, running past this memorial for 15 consecutive years, decades ago, as the Lincoln Memorial is the 16-mile mark of the annual October Marine Corps Marathon.

We boarded the bus and headed to the "wild blue yonder," of the Air Force Memorial. The three stainless-steel, 270-foot-tall spires represent contrails of the Thunderbirds. A fourth contrail absent, is to represent the missing man.

Soon, we pulled in to Arlington National Cemetery, and stopped at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Jacob Smith,

VA director, and leader of our group, asked, "Bob, could you help me out?" I had the privilege to escort a fellow veteran for the laying of the wreath. We followed the booming commands of the 6'9" uniformed, soldier of the Old Guard. I was overwhelmed with emotion, first to be selected, and then at the playing of TAPS.

Still in Arlington, we stopped in at the Military Women's Memorial, honoring America's servicewomen past and present, including the women in our group, Elyria's, Lt. Marian



Bagpiper with Barb and Vets

Bakos, and, Willoughby's, Marjorie Van De Stadt. Both veterans were presented with a Women in Military Service for America challenge coin.

How fitting that our last tour stop would be motoring up the hill to the US Marine Corps War Memorial, the finish line of the marathon. Its enormity, looking up at the marines who climbed Mt. Suribachi, reminded me both of the hardships our troops endured and lives

more, one of the 109 restaurants in nine states, created by and owned by veterans, honoring veterans and first responders and open to the public. I anticipated friendly service and a mouth-watering meal, as I had enjoyed in Parma, remembering manager John boasting, "We have no freezers or microwave ovens in our restaurants." We left happy and satisfied and headed to back to BWI for our 9:15 pm flight back home.

We arrived at Hopkins @ 11pm. We were led by Avon bagpiper, Bob Durrach, he himself a veteran of the Air Force Strategic Air Command. The continuous shrill sounds of military anthems rang out throughout the empty airport. "I'm here honoring veterans for each of the six annual Honor Flights," he later said. Chaperones pushing veterans using wheelchairs fell in behind. The rest of us followed.

Climbing the last ramp, we were greeted with cheers of "Welcome Home" & the waving of flags by waiting friends and loved ones, including Staff Sgt. Bill Snoopy Brokop, a US Army, Vietnam veteran, who's become an Honor Flight fixture to make veterans feel appreciated. Beaming with pride, I raised my fist high as a salute of appreciation. Most weary travelers headed directly to the elevators, as some of us remained for photos, offering hearty thanks and goodbyes to all associated with Honor Flight Cleveland to make this complimentary, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity possible! "You all RUN a very efficient organization!"



WWII fountain with vets



Bob at tomb unknown

sacrificed during WWII, and of panting up that finishing hill with Barb completing her one marathon, to the thunderous roars of cheering spectators of the last few hundred steps of the 26.2-mile marathon.

A steel tower was in view. I had recently learned when visiting our Dutch friend Niek, that the Netherlands Carillon was a gift from the Netherlands for the liberation of their country, presented in 1952, by Queen Juliana to President Truman. Free concerts featuring its 53 bells are open to the public.

Dinner was provided by Mission BBQ in Balti-



Barb and Bob at marine corps marathon



Veterans oath blue border





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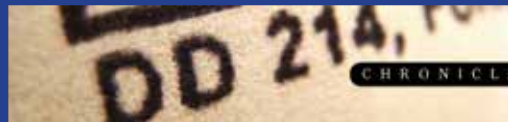
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## Finding IRREVERENCE

By Christopher Zurawski

"Seeing Irreverent Warriors in action is empowering and amps up my motivation to make sure my friends/shipmates are really doing okay." Sarah, US Navy.

The MISSION of Irreverent Warriors is to bring Veterans together using humor and camaraderie to improve mental health and prevent Veteran suicide.

"We take our mission very seriously and encourage those who desire to make a positive impact in the Veteran community to join us in our efforts", said Cleveland's organizer, Robert Schwenk, Jr. (USMC). Irreverence means finding humor in adversity or making light of things that are normally treated with a serious or somber attitude. Fair warning - our brand of humor and unconventional therapy can come across to some as abrasive or even offensive.

Many of us in the military and Veteran cultures have dealt with trauma, seen death, and experienced pain that most civilians have not. We often use dark or irreverent humor as a way to work through adversity and heal from painful past experiences. It is important for Veterans to understand this fact and allow one another to provide that therapeutic outlet of support and camaraderie. Irreverent Warriors encourages you NOT to take things personally in this group.

By joining the IW group, Veterans understand they are governed by a code of conduct that does not tolerate disrespect, but it promotes comradery through comedy and humor. More specifically, the Irreverent Warriors Code of Conduct defines our organization's requirements for its leaders and participants. While IW promotes irreverence through freedom of expression, raw communication, and behavior unique to Veterans, we still have a standard to maintain. These expectations are established and maintained because its mission is its priority and the group's collective behavior directly contributes to the success or failure of that mission.

I had the pleasure of joining this group and "rucking" with them in August. The experience was amazing. Service members from all branches were participating in this hike around Cleveland.

Veterans came from all over—Cincinnati, Alabama, and England. The group also included three soldiers from the Ohio National Guard who returned from overseas. Those who came and joined us ranged from the ages of 21 to 77 years.

The group gathered at 9 a.m. in Willard Park to reflect on our service, those we lost, and those who still suffer. The whole purpose of this hike is to help one another deal with our demons and troubled thoughts. During our hike, everyone mingled and chatted because we were given an objective—find your match. Everyone was given a playing card at the start of the hike and the objective was to find your match during the hike encouraging everyone to mingle and socialize.

Every Veteran enjoyed their time spent with the Irreverent Warriors. As we hiked, we covered ground from the Soldiers and Sailors Monument to several establishments, passed by the stadiums, the entire Flats, crossed both the Veterans Memorial and Hope Memorial bridges, with a lunch break by the river. Robert even had a pickle-eating contest to test our resolve. Don't let my words fool you. This was not a grueling hike downtown. We stopped several times to reflect, chat and joke around that ended after 5 p.m.

The owners and teams at Corner Alley, Town Hall, Cornerstone Brewery and Barley House were fantastic and housewarming. These individuals did not hesitate to serve a bunch of Veterans with "rucks", service animals, "silks" and irreverence.

The Irreverent Warriors ended this fabulous hike at the Fountain of Eternal Life to pay tribute to

those Clevelanders we lost in war and to reflect on those we lost to suicide. The group does these events to band together and support one another. We must never forget why we served and never leave behind those who are serving. Each of us comes home with our own demons and the best way to overcome them is together—with our brothers and sisters.

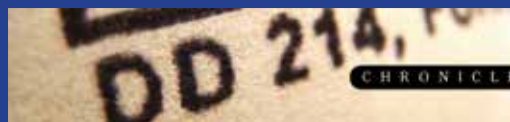
I highly recommend this group and their hikes. IW (Irreverent Warriors) conducts them throughout the country and around the world—Hawaii, London and St. Thomas. We encourage veterans of all ages to come join.

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Realtor & Veteran

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<b>10 Nov</b>	11am	2pm	Veterans Day Ceremony & Parade	Cleveland City Hall & Lakeside Rd	City of Cleveland & Joint Veterans Council of Cuy. Co
<b>10 Nov</b>			US Marine Corps Birthday Celebration	All day	
<b>11 Nov</b>	7am	6pm	IDEAL Tuff Rucks: March or Heroes (22 or 11 mile walk/ruck)	Lakeshore Reservation- 4799 Lockwood Rd, Perry, OH 44081	IDEAL Tuff Rucks: (March for Heroes Supporting NEOPAT)
<b>11 Nov</b>	9am		2nd annual Lorain County REVS22k	Ely Square Park Elyria, OH	Lorain County Veterans Service Commission
<b>11 Nov</b>	11am		Veterans Day Celebration	Lakewood Park Lakewood, OH	City of Lakewood Catholic War Veterans
<b>14 Nov</b>	6pm	7pm	JVCOCC Meeting	VFW Post 2533 Cleveland, OH	Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County
<b>29 Nov</b>	6pm	9pm	CLE Heroes and AUSA Cigar & Bourbon Night	Tremont Cigar Society 2681 W 14th St, CLE	OPEN to ALL VETERANS *NETWORKING*
<b>09 Dec</b>	3pm	7pm	Army v. Navy Football	1 Patriot Place, Foxborough, MA	
<b>09 Dec</b>	5pm	MTC	SFA Chapter 35 Christmas Party	Call 216.926.5815 for details	All Green Berets & Family
<b>10 Dec</b>	6pm	8pm	JVCOCC Christmas Party	VFW Post 2533 Cleveland, OH	Joint Veterans Council of Cuyahoga County
<b>Every Tuesday</b>	2pm	3pm	Cleveland Veterans Collaborative (Clevelandvetnet.com)		Cleveland, CLE Heroes Rid-All, CAVA, United Way, CAVs, RTA, NEOPAT, Swagelok



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COMP 005

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# General Donn A. Starry's Library Relocates from Canton to Fort Moore

By Jerri Donohue

Spotting a Vietnamese soldier poised to lob a grenade, Colonel Donn Starry shouted for his men to hit the ground. The ensuing explosion wounded four Americans, including future general Frederick Franks, Jr., who lost a leg. Starry sustained shrapnel wounds and burst eardrums but continued to lead until blood loss forced his evacuation.

The incident occurred on May 5, 1970 during an incursion into Cambodia. Commanding the 11th Armored Cavalry ("Blackhorse") Regiment, Starry had leapt from his armored personnel carrier and fought on foot.

Starry stayed in the Army until 1983, earning four stars and a reputation for being a "soldier's soldier." His sister-in-law, Sharon Deitrick, said Starry cherished a wooden box containing a replica grenade, a gift from the regiment to commemorate the Cambodian episode. When the general died in 2011, he still displayed the memento on his desk.



Starry prized the replica grenade presented to him in Vietnam and his copy of *Into the Storm: On the Ground in Iraq* inscribed by General Frederick Franks

Now it is destined for Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning) in Georgia - along with Starry's 14,000 books.

Deitrick and Starry's son, retired Army Colonel Michael Starry, ensured that the general's collection find a permanent home in the military. Everything has been catalogued, and Deitrick will arrange for the transfer as soon as she settles her sister's estate. Karen "Cookie" Deitrick and Starry were longtime friends who married after the death of the general's first wife. Cookie Starry died last year.

A speed reader with an astonishing memory, Starry devoured books. When his collection ballooned to 6,000 titles, his first wife refused to allow another one into their Williamsburg, Virginia home. He then stashed his acquisitions in storage units. Upon moving to Canton, Starry asked Deitrick, president of Deitrick & Associates Interiors, to create a library big enough to hold all his books and artifacts. She transformed his 25,000 square foot unfinished basement into a charming maze of Amish built bookshelves where books share space with such eye-catching items as military helmets, cavalry spurs and a bas relief of the Battle of Agincourt. The oldest treasure, a lance head from the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire (167-160 BCE), was presented to Starry by Israeli General Moshe Peled.

Books are grouped by subject. Christopher Ungashick, an Air Force veteran who catalogued the general's papers and diaries, described the library as "very heavily military history."

Lewis Sorely compiled some of Starry's own writing in a 2-volume set, *Press On!* Starry also is the subject of *Crusader: General Donn Starry and the Army of His Times* by Mike Guardia.

A 1943 enlistee who was admitted to the United States Military Academy from the ranks, Starry held command positions in Germany, in Korea and in the United States. In Vietnam, he received the Silver Star for leading (without permission) the rescue of an American helicopter crew stranded in Cambodia.

In post-Vietnam years, Starry was commanding general of the Army's armor training center at Fort Knox, Kentucky before heading the V Corps in Germany. He then commanded TRADOC (Training and Doctrine Command) until his retirement.

Having witnessed the tragedy of Vietnam, he resolved to improve methods of waging war. He was instrumental in devising the

AirLand Battle doctrine that focuses on speed, agility and synchronization of ground and air operations. His old friend, Gen. Frederick Franks, successfully applied many of its principles while commanding the Gulf War coalition VII Corps in 1991.



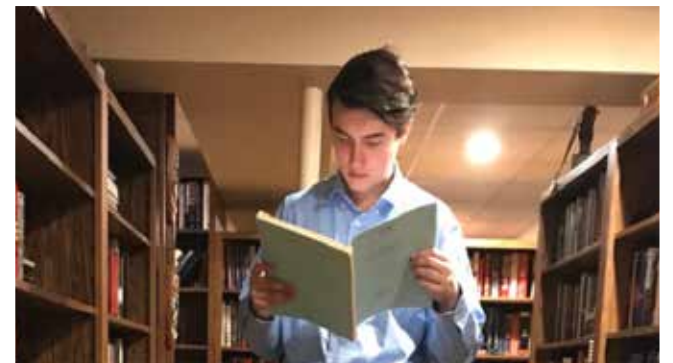
A salute to General Donn A. Starry's role in developing the AirLand Battle doctrine.

Franks later collaborated with novelist Tom Clancy to write *Into the Storm: On the Ground in Iraq*. Fort Moore will receive the copy autographed by both Clancy and Franks in which Franks inscribed:

*Donn Starry, Key visionary and architect of the U.S. Army's rebirth following Vietnam and the doctrine that helped win the Cold War. A great mentor and friend whose up-front command on 5 May 1970 saved me from a worse outcome.*

*With great respect.*

*All the very best. Blackhorse! Fred Franks*



Travis Ball, a senior at Hoban High School in Akron, examines a book in the general's library. Ball catalogued Starry's artifacts for their transfer to Fort Moore. He is the first recipient of the \$1000 General Donn A. Starry Leadership scholarship from the HALO foundation. Deitrick founded HALO (Hope Always Lives On) in 2003 to honor the sacrifice of the heroes of Flight 93 by encouraging selfless service by students.



Gen. Starry - Architect of Land/Air Doctrine



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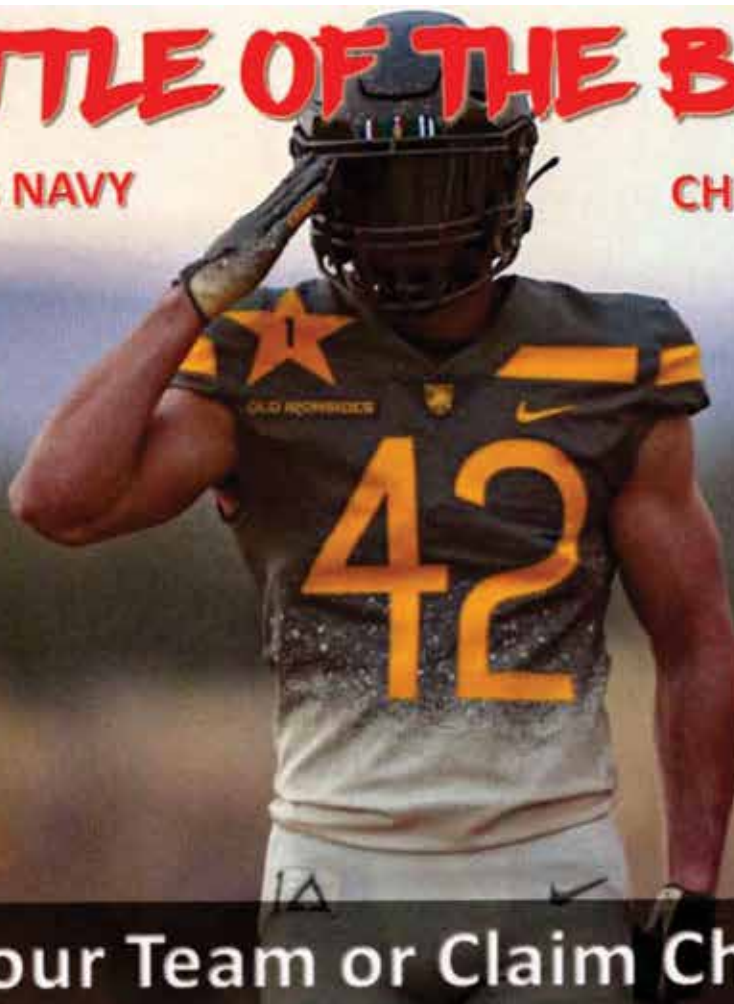
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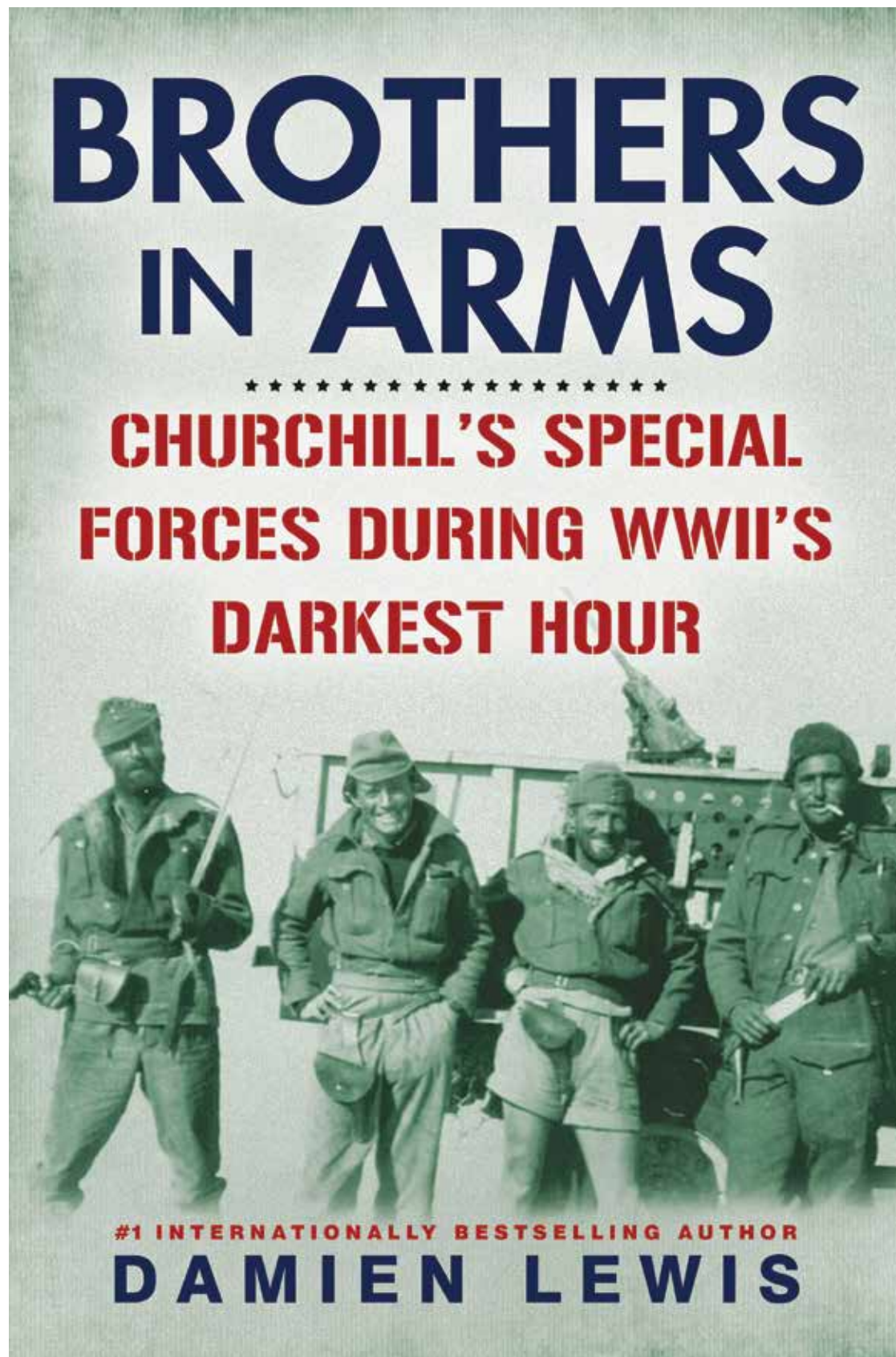
# Brothers In Arms: Top-Secret Commandos Answer Churchill's Call

By Nancy Peacock

Of the many threads of history still unraveling from the epic saga that was World War II, one of the more incredulous is that of England's Special Air Service (SAS). Through the entertaining narrative of military historian Damien Lewis, the newly released *Brothers In Arms: Churchill's Special Forces During WWII's Darkest Hours* (Citadel Press, 2023) recounts the operations of a top-secret unit of British commandos.

In June 1940, the British Expeditionary Force had been pushed back across the English Channel at Dunkirk. Winston Churchill desperately needed a morale booster for the English people, as well as a tactic to slow down the combined German and Italian armies' advance in North Africa. He called for "the formation of specially trained troops of the hunter class to strike wherever the enemy was vulnerable, delivering a reign of terror first of all of a 'butcher and bolt kind,' seeking to kill and capture the Hun garrison ...."

The goal was as elegantly simple as it was highly improbable – deploy a small unit of seasoned British commandos to the inland desert regions of Libya and Egypt. From their hidden camps, they could launch random attacks on the coastal areas controlled by the formidable forces of German General Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps. British Lieutenant Colonel Richard



Bookcover, *Brothers In Arms*

Pedder understood the effectiveness of guerilla warfare, and assembled a group of volunteers who would be tough enough to withstand such a mission.

Like something from a Hollywood movie script, the SAS No. 11 Commandos included a collection of Irish, Scottish, and English warriors who were eager to leave the boredom of traditional military structure for the chance to attack the enemy commando-style. Their leaders included Irish world-class rugby and boxing champion Robert "Paddy" Mayne and David Stirling, the scion of a wealthy Scottish military and land-owning family.

Some of the British top brass saw the commando unit as "cut-throats and raiders of the thug variety," able to roam the desert without any oversight from high command. In turn, Stirling referred to the military hierarchy as "fossilized shits."

The SAS No. 11 trained to attack at night, learning how to blow up railroad tracks, locomotives, airfields, and war-planes. The plan was to reach an enemy location under the cover of darkness, plant bombs with timed fuses, and be gone before everything detonated and lit up the night sky. The commandos then escaped to a designated location and were picked up by the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG), which they called the Desert Taxi Company.

After some initial delays and frustrations, the group's efforts eventually reaped enormous successes. Divided into three separate raiding parties, the commandos attacked three airbases simultaneously on December 14, 1941. The attacks caught the enemy completely by surprise.

While half of his party were planting bombs around the airbase, Mayne kicked open the doorway to the German/Italian officer's mess hall. "For what seemed like an age the two parties – SAS raiders, German and Italian airmen – just stood there looking at each other in complete silence," Lewis wrote. "It was Mayne who broke the quiet. 'Good evening, gentlemen.'"

As Lewis described it, a young German officer made a move and Mayne opened fire. Leaving the room filled with dead and dying, Mayne's group shot out the lights and hurled grenades to further add to the chaos.

Not knowing where the attack had come from, the air base guards began firing out to the base perimeter and up into the night sky. But instead of retreating, the raiding party decided to make a second attack on the landing strip, warplanes, fuel and ammo dumps. They scurried to the airstrip and set timed bombs on the two dozen Italian and German bombers. When they ran out of bombs, Mayne began ripping out the planes' instrument panels. Then they hurried about a quarter mile away before the timed fuses turned the sky into an inferno.

Later, intercepted messages showed the garrison commander had radioed for help against an amphibious landing from the coast. No one could have imagined that the entire attack was carried out by less than a dozen men, who then disappeared into the darkness, met up at a pre-determined rendezvous point, and by sunrise had found a hiding place to wait out the daylight.

Mayne was criticized after the raid for "ruthlessness to the point of callousness." But as Lewis noted, "At this point in the war, mid-December 1941, Britain stood alone in the fight. Assailed by defeat on all fronts, this was one of the nation's darkest hours."

This is the fifth book Lewis has written about the Special Service raiders. He draws from extensive written research and personal interviews of the raiders' families, filling the book with verbal sketches of their personalities. Lewis is already working on a sequel of the commandos' part in liberating Europe from the Nazis.

"As their victories grew, and as they thrust deep into occupied Europe, so too would the Nazi enemy quicken the hunt for these daring and audacious Special Service raiders,"

Lewis wrote. "Falling away from Rommel's attention, they were soon to become the chief enemy of Hitler himself, as the Fuhrer turned his gimlet eye on those who dared to defy him so blatantly, and so far beyond his own frontlines."

Lewis is a writer who chronicles military history with the same personal passion and attention to detail as his beloved SAS No. 11 Commando warriors.

"This book is based in part upon that rich trove of materials, generously and freely offered, in the spirit that this story might be written," Lewis wrote. "To tell it has been a privilege and an honour."



Photo Credit: Andrew Millard

Author Damien Lewis



## Veteran's Haven Project Announcement

October 10th, 2023: Youngstown, OH – Veteran's Haven, a program of Family & Community Services, is set to begin construction on a container home project at the intersection of West Warren Avenue and Hillman Street before the end of the year. The project made its way to Mahoning County after an invitation by County Commissioner Carol Rimedio-Righetti in 2019. The facility has been working out of a temporary shelter on Chalmers Avenue since 2021 and has served 75 homeless veterans this year.

This new 1.2-million-dollar facility was made possible through \$600,000 of capital funding from The Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Program, \$150,000 of ARPA funding from The Mahoning County Board of Commissioners, and \$100,000 from the City of Youngstown-Ward One. In addition to these funds, Family & Community Services, has launched an adopt-a-room program for donors to also participate in the creation of this needed facility. For more information on the adopt-a-room campaign contact Matt Slater, Director of Development at [m Slater@fcsserves.org](mailto:m Slater@fcsserves.org) or at 330-297-7027 ext. 327.

The first phase of the new housing project will include a transitional shelter made out of shipping containers – a greener, faster, and less expensive method for construction – yet will look like a traditional home built out of wood and lumber. Veteran's Haven plans to complete additional phases of the project to add permanent supportive housing on the vacant lots over the next several years. Once Phase One is complete, the facility will have the capacity to serve 14 homeless veterans with their own private bedroom and bathroom and will be open to veterans of all genders and sexual orientations.

# Cleveland Dermatologist Grateful to the U.S. Navy for Leading Him To the Apex

By Christopher Johnston

In the mid-90s, Jorge Garcia-Zuazaga was seriously considering going to medical school. He had graduated from Marquette University with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering in 1993. In college, he earned a prestigious National Science Foundation scholarship and served as President of the Latin American Student Association. Then, while pursuing his master's degree in biomedical engineering at Iowa State University, a friend serving as a U.S. Air Force pilot suggested that he should become a flight surgeon.

"That really appealed to me," says Dr. Garcia-Zuazaga, MD, MBA, FAAD, FACMS, founder and CEO of Apex Dermatology & Skin Surgery Center in Mayfield Heights,

Ohio. "I thought, man, that sounds like a cool gig, so I looked into it."

Not long after, he attended a career fair, where he saw a Navy recruiting booth. When he talked to the recruiter about what it took to become a flight surgeon, she wasn't sure, but she gave him information about the Navy Health Profession Scholarship Program. He applied for the scholarship and to medical schools since acceptance was a requirement for the program.

In 1995, he was accepted to the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, was commissioned in the United States Navy as an Ensign 01, and enrolled in the Navy Health Profession Scholarship Program. First, he spent time at Officer Candidate School in Rhode Island and immersed himself in his medical studies at Penn State.

"The Navy paid for my medical school, which I was very grateful for," Dr. Garcia-Zuazaga says. "Then throughout medical school, I got to do different things for the Navy in the summer. For example, the summer after I graduated, I went to the Naval Hospital in Charleston, South Carolina, and did ER work."

In 1999, he graduated at the top 5% of his medical school class at Penn State and moved to Washington, D.C. to complete his internship at the renowned National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, now the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

The facility stands as the largest military medical complex in the world. While completing his internship, he applied and was accepted to flight surgery school. Dr. Garcia-Zuazaga then moved to Pensacola, Florida, for training at the Navy's Aerospace Medical Institute. He earned his "wings of gold" as a United States Flight Surgeon in 2001 and was the recipient of the prestigious Surgeon General's Award. "We got to fly some cool little planes like the Beechcraft T-34 military trainer aircraft, and we did some helicopter flying," he recalls fondly.



Dr. Garcia, flight surgeon

Next, he received his orders to join the U.S. Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122 at the Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina. He was assigned as flight surgeon for the world famous Crusaders (VMFA-122) squadron of McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet jet aircraft.

As flight surgeon, he served as Medical Department head for his squadron and participated in several deployments all over the world. For his leadership and dedication to the Marines, Dr. Garcia was selected as Marines Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC) Operational Flight Surgeon of the Year.

"I did all five years of my active duty with the Marines as a flight doctor," he says. "It was a terrific experience, and I flew all over the world with those guys. To this day, I talk to a handful of my buddies to compare notes and see how they are doing. A

lot of them have retired; a couple people are still in. It's been kind of a cool journey."

Dr. Garcia-Zuazaga remained in the reserves for several years after he moved to Cleveland, where he had accepted a position as a Dermatology Resident at University

Hospitals Case Medical Center, Department of Dermatology from 2004 to 2007. He was elected Resident Member of the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Dermatology and was the recipient of the Dermatologic Surgery Research Award. His increasingly intensive focus on dermatological surgery and treating skin cancer, however, made it difficult for him to continue serving in the reserves.





“After a few years, I told the Navy I felt uncomfortable because I was not treating diabetes or orthopedics anymore,” he explains. “As a flight surgeon you do it all, but as a skin cancer surgeon, all I do is skin cancer. There were only a few openings in the country for dermatology, so I decided it was time for my separation, and I received an honorable discharge.”

Following residency, Dr. Garcia-Zuazaga moved to Boston where he was offered a one- year position (2007-08) as a Fellow for Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Aesthetic Dermatology at Harvard Medical School and the Lahey Clinic. During this year, he performed more than one thousand cases of Mohs surgery and facial reconstruction as well as other aesthetic procedures such as lasers and fillers.

In 2008, Dr. Garcia-Zuazaga returned to Northeast Ohio to serve as Director of Mohs Surgery and Aesthetic Dermatology at University Hospitals (Westlake and Strongsville Medical Centers). As a faculty member of the Department of Dermatology at Case Western Reserve University, Dr. Garcia-Zuazaga was the recipient of a Dermatology Foundation Research Grant to study the effect on lasers on the skin.

In 2009, Dr. Garcia-Zuazaga enrolled at the Weatherhead School of Business of Case Western Reserve University to pursue his MBA, while still working full time as a Mohs surgeon. He completed this rigorous curriculum in 2011, and shortly after his graduation he relocated his practice to Concord, Ohio, to establish Apex Dermatology and Skin Surgery Center.

In July 2023, Apex opened its 14<sup>th</sup> location in Mayfield Heights, a 19,500-square-foot restanding corporate headquarters and state-of-the-art clinical facility and aesthetics clinic. As Apex’s bellwether dermatology facility and to honor Dr. Garcia-Zuazaga’s service in the Navy, the designers felt it would be fitting that the front of the new building display the Morse code symbols spelling the word “skin,” created through strategically placed punched hole openings.

Within his highly successful and thriving practice, Dr. Garcia-Zuazaga instills in his staff many of the leadership skills and concepts he learned in the Navy that he believes strongly carry over to healthcare.

“I learned a lot of leadership lessons in the military, and I learned about the power of teams and integrity, doing the right thing and not cutting corners, which means you can trust in your team,” he says. “I put a lot of that in place at Apex, and at company meetings we talk about leadership and taking care of each other.”

Dr. Garcia-Zuazaga remains committed to giving back to his fellow veterans. For the past several years he has run the Apex Purple Heart Project as a community outreach that combines his military experience and his extensive and elite dermatological expertise. The program provides free scar revision to veterans who have been wounded. “I believe there are a lot of mental health concerns and PTSD among veterans,” he says. “Scars go a little bit deeper than just the skin, so if I can help on my end by treating a vet and getting them back into the game to be productive in society, that’s what we try to do.”

Additionally, Apex partners with local organizations to provide free skin cancer screenings for veterans. In his practice, he also takes care of patients at the VA,

including a couple of veterans of WWII who are 98 and 101, respectively.

“It’s great to share stories when I see those guys and other veterans,” he says. “They tell me the crazy stuff that they did during the war, and I always enjoy talking to vets.”

This year, Apex will be the presenting sponsor for the Freedom Towpath 5K Run in Akron on Veteran’s Day. They have worked at other levels of sponsorship for that race for many years. Dr. Garcia-Zuazaga always participates in the run, and he appreciates that it features veterans from all branches of military.

“I am grateful for my time in the service,” concludes the affable and dynamic dermatologist and skin cancer surgeon at the Apex of his career. “I owe a lot of where I am now to that experience.”



*Dr. Garccia with his wife and parents.*



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### Veteran Tribute

Cleveland Police Foundation has established a special fund to honor Bill Denihan the long-time government administrator, community activist, and veteran who passed on in June. Bill was an avid painter in retirement and donated many of his artistic creations of Cleveland scenes to raise money for charity. Please consider donating to the "Denihan Community Art Fund" to help underwrite local veteran artists. Thank you.

### Details:

www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org



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