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of service to veterans



CHRONICLE

The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 6

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015

Women In (and out of) UNIFORM

Lt. Emily Perez, We Hardly Knew Ye

by John H. Tidyman, editor

War has little regard for the lives of its combatants. No regard at all for widows, widowers, friends, family members, neighbors, or fellow troops. At the gravesite, saying, "Goodbye forever," is sad and somber duty.

Once in uniform, every trooper's life is a matter of training, experience, and leadership. And good fortune. There are no guarantees.

Second Lt. Emily Perez died in Iraq. She led a convoy in Iraq when it hit a roadside bomb.

She graduated from West Point in 2005, where she was the highest ranking black and Hispanic woman graduate. Not just in 2005, but in history.

At West Point, she was a member of the gospel choir and the track team. She was indefatigable. She was proud of her country, West Point, and herself.

She was an officer assigned to Fourth Infantry Division, "Steadfast and Loyal."

Today, the young lieutenant's body rests in the West Point cemetery.



*In Flanders fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

— John McCrae



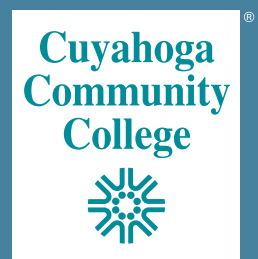


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In the Spotlight

DD214 Chronicle is happy to announce that we now have a full-fledged advertising department!

Please help us welcome David Alan. He is our new Advertising Manager, bringing over 23 years of experience in the print advertising/marketing field. While not a veteran himself, he has great respect for veterans and their service to our country.



David Alan

David will be contacting all current advertisers in the coming weeks to introduce himself and to answer any advertising/marketing questions, as well as to assist you with your future marketing plans. He also welcomes the opportunity to work with those within and who support the veterans' community of northeast Ohio to promote their businesses, organizations, and events.

With David at the helm of our new advertising department, it is our hope to increase the amount of advertisers who support the community, which will allow us to continue to provide news, topical information, resources and, ultimately, to increase our distribution and outreach to veterans of all military branches in northeast Ohio.

Please don't hesitate to contact David at 440-415-2139 or d.alan@dd214chronicle.com to discuss how your company or organization can benefit by advertising in DD214 Chronicle.

The Louis B. Stokes Veterans Administration Hospital: Excellent Care

Well, excellent care today; it wasn't always so. In my case of long, long ago, some of the VA personnel were rude, unprofessional and, for all I know, incompetent. I walked out.

Buy me a beer and I'll tell you the story.

But that was then. This is now.

First, the bad news: former boss William Montague is still in the slammer for playing fast and loose with millions of taxpayer dollars.

Second, the good news. The jailbird was replaced by Anthony Milons Sr., who won't return his phone calls. At least not to DD 214 Chronicle, the only newspaper dedicated to veterans in six northeast Ohio counties.

But Milons hit the ground running, and met with a great many veterans and veteran groups. Even from a distance, I admire him and his dedication to veterans.

When I tell friends about the VA hospital and health care center in Greater Cleveland, they wish they had learned close order drill and how to take apart (and put back to-



gether) an M-16.

Milons took on a position with huge responsibility. Not only did he have to begin restoring the VA's tarnished reputation, he had to convince veterans that he was on our side. So far, so very good.

Milons' job calls for an excellent staff with dedication to veterans. Little wonder he needs excellent staff: It is responsible to veterans in 25 Northeast Ohio counties.

Me, I couldn't even name 25 Ohio counties.

Good VA service isn't limited to Northeast Ohio. My younger brother Jim, who lives in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, brags about his VA health care. My late brother Robert found his care to be above and beyond.

I take this opportunity to brag about our VA medical care because the VA is getting hammered by politicians and the national news media.

Politicians, the most overpaid group of laggards, double dealers, liars, thieves and ne'-re do wells, never cared about veterans until it became a media opportunity.

In northeast Ohio, we no longer have newspapers and competent reporters. Electronic media has no interest in veterans. There are no reporters for local veteran news. More's the pity.

(Except for Plain Dealer writer Brian Albrecht, whose features on veterans are purely wonderful.)

So here's a toast to our VA, "As you care for us, we care about you. Hear, hear!"

MAIL CALL

To Hell and Back

Outstanding article, "Into the Valley of Death." You nailed it, thank you.

I know what Lieutenant Taylor went through, and I feel for him. I also was in the same hell hole southwest of Danang, 1969, with the 26th Marines. Nice job on the "Our War" article.

*Semper Fidelis.
Ron Covrett, USMC*

Marching for Peace

For the fifth year in a row I donned my 47-year-old U.S. Army Class A uniform and took my peace flag to the Fourth of July parade in Lakewood.

While waiting in the parade's staging area a veteran recognized

my 1st Infantry Division patch, told me he also served with the Big Red One in Vietnam.

He said he was an infantryman with the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment and I said, "The Black Lions?" He was visibly stunned that I had remembered the nickname for his unit. I explained I had been a writer for the 1st Infantry Division newspaper in Vietnam and had written stories about Black Lions battles.

Another man walked up to shake my hand and thank me for my service.

I gave him my usual spiel: "You're welcome. I wish I could say 'it was my pleasure,' but it really wasn't. We were sent to Vietnam to

kill communists and now, Vietnam, a communist country, is our ally."

Bottom line: more than 58,000 American lives wasted and a combined 3.4 million Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian lives wasted. Our Agent Orange legacy has caused cancers and birth defects among Vietnamese people as well as our veterans.

I asked Ohio politician Nickie Antonio (D-13) if it would be okay if I walked in front of her car with my peace flag and she said, "I would love it."

As usual, the parade drew a large crowd of spectators. Several people applauded my message.

*Louis H. Pumphrey, Veterans
For Peace*

*The Newspaper for Veterans and
All Who Love Them.*

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DD 214 CHRONICLE IS PUBLISHED BY

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2041 Morrison Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

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call (216) 789-3502

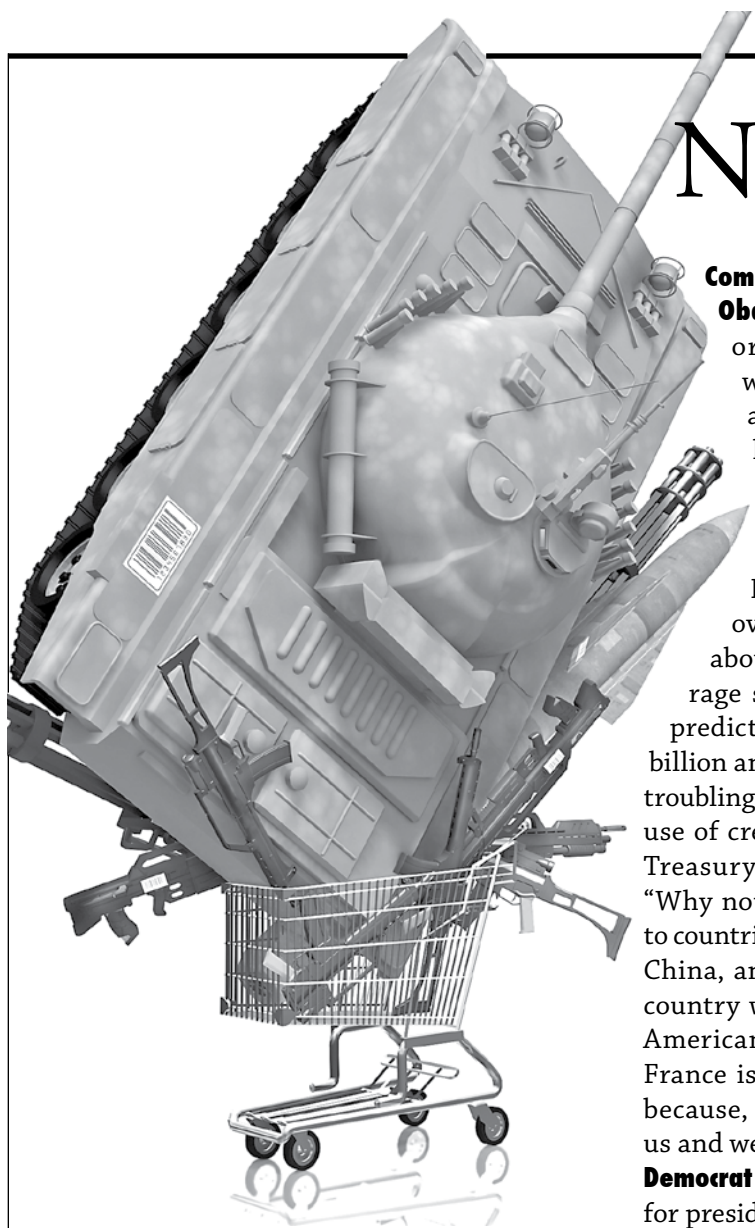
Editorial Mission

The Chronicle covers six Northeast Ohio counties: Cuyahoga, Summit, Lorain, Lake, Medina, and Geauga. The newspaper is delivered without charge to colleges and universities with veteran programs, city halls, VA offices and clinics, VFW and American Legion posts, Veteran Service Commissions in all six counties, and more than sixty libraries.

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breaking news.



News from a Parallel Universe



Commander-in-Chief Barack Obama will sell all unused or outdated military weapons to countries around the world which have demonstrated a devotion to peace. Fending off criticism of the new policy, the President said, "Oh, get over it, will ya? Just think about it as a really big garage sale." Money raised is predicted to be between \$99 billion and \$4 trillion dollars. A troubling aspect of the sale is the use of credit issued by the U.S. Treasury. The president said, "Why not extend a little credit to countries such as North Korea, China, and Texas? I think each country will better understand American generosity." He said France is not being considered because, "Well, they don't like us and we don't like them."

Democrat Hillary Clinton, running for president, fended off report-

ers asking questions about her foundation. The foundation regularly accepts billion-dollar gifts from first, second, and third world countries. "I'm open to questions from all media," she said, "I know Americans are eager to learn about all the good being done with these donations. But I can't fully answer them until two days after my coronation — whoops! I meant inauguration." She added, "When my private e-mails are made public, you'll see we donated no money to France."

Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, after signing the open carry law that will allow Texans to openly strap automatic weapons to their hips, said, "This will put an end to two problems: fistfights and domestic abuse." The law also provides for open carry of beer cans.

More and more Americans are learning their Social Security



Gregg Abbott

money has been borrowed — instead of invested — by Congress to pay for all sorts of things, including military invasions, strip clubs, and Monsanto. Politicians of every stripe, including those who have yellow paint running down their spines, promised to pay it all back, though where the government will get the money is unknown. Ohio Congressman John Boehner explained it to Washington reporters, "Well, possession is nine tenths of the law, so we don't really have to pay back billions and billions to Social Security. And you can look it up."

Having gone through a number of proposals for a different design for fatigues, the Army is now accepting design bids for GI underwear.

It's Your Future. Get Started Now!

Veterans Service Center

at Lorain County Community College

The Student Veterans Services office at LCCC assists all veterans, guardsmen, reservists and their spouses with making the transition to a successful educational career. You've done your duty, now let us help you prepare for your future.

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

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



"The Veterans Services staff at LCCC is great and I was able to work with a success coach right from the beginning," said Navy veteran Esperanza Correa. She is studying social work at LCCC through the University Partnership.



Call LCCC's Veterans Service Center at 440-366-7685
or visit www.lorainccc.edu/veterans
or email our office at veterans@lorainccc.edu.



Lakewood Hospital Under Siege: Big Bucks vs. Health Care

by State Senator Michael Skindell

In 1918, more than a decade after its founding, Lakewood Hospital cared for wounded soldiers returning from World War I and then later that same year for those who fell ill from the Spanish flu.

Lakewood Hospital was stretched to capacity in serving the Lakewood community. It persevered because the community supported the hospital. The support of Lakewood Hospital continued when, through a vote of Lakewood citizens, the city took over the hospital in 1931 and financed an expansion.

During the war years of World War II, the hospital struggled but remained open with the assistance of community volunteers.

For nearly 108 years, Lakewood Hospital has had as part of its mission to provide for the health care needs of all. That mission is now under attack.

The release of recent court documents reveals that a plan to “decant” Lakewood Hospital (i.e., to empty its assets, patients and revenues into other hospitals,) was finalized in 2012, although the implementation of the decanting plan had been in process for several years prior.

Although the city-owned hospital is required to be operated pursuant to law and contracts by the Cleveland Clinic Foundation,

and that such operation is to be overseen by the Lakewood Hospital Association, which includes the mayor and two members of council, those charged with the responsibility to protect the hospital and its assets have allowed the decanting of Lakewood Hospital to proceed.

Since the January 2015 announcement by Lakewood’s current mayor that he wants to see Lakewood Hospital closed and torn down, residents of Lakewood and surrounding communities have come together to again support Lakewood Hospital.

The work of this grassroots movement has shed light on the Lakewood Hospital Decanting Plan and revealed the financial woes of the hospital are due to the implementation of this plan.

As in the past, Lakewood Hospital will persevere. It will do so by the community continuing to utilize the hospital for its healthcare needs.

Lakewood Hospital has a dedicated medical and support staff. Area veterans can also support the hospital which supported them through several wars. The Veterans Administration allows



Lakewood Hospital and Michael Skindell (left)



veterans enrolled in the VA Health Care System to seek emergency medical care at non-VA facilities. In those situations, veterans can choose that their emergency medical

care be done at Lakewood Hospital. By selecting Lakewood Hospital, we all can ensure that Lakewood continues to have a hospital servicing the healthcare needs of the community into the future.

Michael Skindell, an attorney and former Ohio Assistant Attorney General, has represented the citizens of Lakewood as a Councilperson at Large

and State Legislator for more than 12 years. He is currently a candidate for Lakewood Mayor.

(Editor’s Note: A couple of years ago, I had a grand mal seizure. I was sitting on a Lakewood front porch. EMS was there within minutes, strapped me in, and raced to Lakewood Hospital emergency. I recall very little of the incident, except my inability to breathe. At the hospital, the seizures wouldn’t stop. I was put in to an induced coma. Woke up four days later. The VA paid my bill. Had EMS and Lakewood Hospital not been there for me, I’d be pushing up dandelions.)

Yeah, but when he said it, he had his fingers crossed. Behind his back.



“Laura and I want to remind our troops and veterans that we admire and respect them a lot ... [it] is a great way to remind all our fellow citizens of the unbelievable courage, skill, and sacrifice of those who wear the uniform of the United States.”

— President George W. Bush

The George W. Bush Institute’s Military Service Initiative honors the service and sacrifice of post-9/11 veterans and military families by improving their well-being and unleashing their potential.

Through research, resources, programs and Presidential recognition – the unique ability of the former Commander in Chief to convene, spotlight, and inspire – the Military Service Initiative unites and empowers communities, non-profits (military service organizations), businesses, academia, philanthropy and individual citizens to effectively support post-9/11 service members, veterans and their families in the areas of jobs, wellness, family, education, housing and women’s veteran issues.

LEGACIES: Stories from the Second World War

by Tom Swope

Phil Vincello was trained as a ball turret gunner on a B-17. He joined a crew in Sioux City, Iowa and in the spring of 1944, they flew their bomber to England..

It is always nice to see a familiar face when you are far away from home. One of my most memorable experiences was being in downtown London with my buddies and we were getting ready to cross the street and I looked up the street and standing there with this gorgeous blonde was Jimmy Stewart, who was a pilot. And I nudged the guys and said, "Look! That's Jimmy up there!" And we all turned and crowded and looked up the way. He had planned to come our way, but he saw us gawking at him and he galloped across the street with this lady. I can tell you one thing about Jimmy Stewart that I know for sure. He flew many missions wing to wing with our group and I know he was in some very rough rides, because we were in the same place. They didn't select any special missions for Jimmy. He was right out there in the middle of it.

Vincello's crew was assigned to the 385th Bomb Group in the 8th Air Force. They flew their first mission on April 26, 1944. One down and twenty-four more to go...or so they thought.

When we got there, a tour consisted of twenty-five missions. Before we got to twenty-five, they changed it to thirty. And before we got to thirty, they changed it to thirty-five.

The men were quite aware the more they flew, the greater the odds were against their survival.

We left Sioux City with thirty crews. That's ten men to a crew. That's three hundred men that went over at the time that we went. Of those three hundred men; there were only fifteen of us who completed all thirty-five missions. And I thank God that I was one of them.

The numbers don't lie. Casualties were inevitable.

The tail gunner was the youngest man on our crew. He was not nineteen yet. Anyhow, on one of those unfortunate missions, we were really in heavy flak and whenever we came

off a target, everybody had to check in. The tail gunner did not check in, so one of the waist gunners said, "I'll go back and look." And he came back and he said, "Burnham is dead." He and I were the only two on the crew from Massachusetts, so we had become very close friends. So I said,

"I've got to go back and see Burnham." I went back and I couldn't see any marks on him. Then I moved his head a little and right at the base of his skull, a sliver of flak had come up between his flak vest and his helmet and penetrated his brain. He didn't even bleed much. He just bled a little

bit. But that's the fortune of war.

During their tour, Phil's crew received credit or partial credit for shooting down fifteen enemy aircraft. But there is one kill that will always stick in Vincello's mind.

continued on page 12

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1291 PROOF

Spirits Still Soar on Honor Flight Cleveland

by Jerri Donohue



The Rev. Joseph Piskura stood before veterans and well-wishers assembled for Honor Flight Cleveland's trip. His audience included active duty soldiers and Coast Guardsmen who learned about the flight while attending a convention in Cleveland.

As he does at most of these outings, the retired Army chaplain prayed for good weather and a safe trip to Washington, D.C., and he asked God to protect America's servicemen and women. Then he joined the men in wheelchairs heading for their departure gate.

"This time we decided to take him with us," said Joe Benedict, president of the Honor Flight board. Now 85 years old, Father Piskura was a chaplain in Vietnam.

Thanks to Honor Flight Cleveland, 224 other elderly vets will enjoy a one-day, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. this year. Since 2007, three thousand former servicemen and women have participated in Honor Flight Cleveland.

While some Honor Flight programs in Ohio and across the country have folded, Cleveland's continues to thrive.

Each flight costs about \$8,000.

"When we started nine years ago, we didn't know from one flight to the next whether we'd have the money," Benedict said. Donors stepped up as word spread.

Ford Motors has contributed

\$28,000 over the last two years. A veteran's widow donated another \$15,000. Signet, an Akron-based company, and Brennan, Manna & Diamond, a law firm, sponsored the June trip. Honor Flight Cleveland flies on Southwest and the airline gives them free flights for 25 veterans once or twice a year.

World War II veterans remain Honor Flight's top priority.

"We take them first," Benedict said. "But the applications coming in are fewer and fewer."

Last summer, a 100-year old veteran made the trip. In 2014, the veterans' average age was 92. This year, Korean War veterans compose about half of Honor Flight participants. A nurse accompanies the group, and a guardian assists each veteran.

Everyone must be at the airport by 6:30 in the morning. Flights often do not return to Cleveland until almost midnight.

The physically taxing day offers numerous rewards: visits to the World War II Memorial and Korean War Memorial and a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National

Cemetery. Water cannons spray the plane when it lands at Baltimore-Washington International Airport. During "mail call," veterans receive certificates from elected officials and thank-you cards from grade school kids.

"We've had veterans fly in from Texas and California, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Indiana just to be on our flight," Benedict said. In some cases, no Honor Flight program exists where they live. Other times the veteran was from Cleveland originally, or had family here.

John Suscheck, an Army veteran who fought in Italy in World War II, traveled from his home in Fairview, Pennsylvania for the June 3 flight.

Robert Penavich's son-in-law came from Indiana to escort the World War II pilot on his Honor Flight. Suscheck and Penavich asked to be paired with specific guardians.

"Probably at least half of the guardians are family members," Benedict said.

Other guardians, like mother-and-son team Debbie and James Bruening, have no prior connection to their assigned veterans. All guardians pay a \$250 fee to cover their airfare, and each attends a training session before the flight.

Veterans sometimes request to be scheduled on Honor Flight with friends. Korean War veterans Len Meljac, 86, and Raymond Strazar, 84, made the June trip together.

Meljac learned about the program through his VFW post, and applied for himself and his life-long

friend. Although recently relocated to Florida, Strazar returned to Ohio so the former soldiers could share their Honor Flight.

Korean War veterans Fred DeAnna (Marines) and Mike Gerrek (Air Force) razz one another about their respective branches of service, but the North Royalton neighbors agree it was worth a two-year wait to make the trip together. They learned about the program through American Legion Post 703.

Benedict said that friendships blossom during Honor Flight. On the plane, the vets sit together, swapping stories. Some veterans and their guardians keep in touch after the trip. Benedict, a Vietnam veteran, has lunch with men he escorted years ago.

It's already four years since World War II veteran Steve Jeziorski's Honor Flight, but the 90-year old still raves about it and encourages other veterans to go. He enjoyed every aspect, from the impressive buffet lunch to the camaraderie of other veterans.

Most of all, Jeziorski remembers appreciative Americans he encountered throughout the day. He shook hands with countless strangers, and Honor Flight participants were hailed everywhere they went.

"It was like everybody was a hero, even if we weren't," the former infantryman said.

For more information on Honor Flight Cleveland, visit honorflightcleveland.com or call Joe Benedict at 216-225-5841.

Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial Worthy of a visit and a prayer

Created in 1988, the Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial, Inc. (initially named the Greater Cleveland Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Inc.) was formed to honor those from Cuyahoga County who served, died, or were declared missing in Vietnam.

This initial band of Vietnam veterans, however, recognized the need for a broader mission and the participation of veterans of all wars in this special project.

The scope of the evolving GCVM mission: to create and maintain an appropriate memorial to those Cuyahoga County troops who died or were declared missing in the wars that have taken place in the 20th century.

The mission expanded to include casualties of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

One of the most challenging tasks was to compile and verify the names of servicemen killed or missing.

At its dedication in 1964, on the granite basin of the Veterans Memorial Plaza (formerly Mall 'A'), Marshall Fredericks' majestic centerpiece (the Fountain of Eternal Life, symbolizing mankind rising out of the ashes of

war,) are names of World War II and Korean War casualties from our area who perished in those wars. Marshall Fredericks described his central figure, towering 46 feet above the basin:

"This figure expresses the main theme of the Memorial Fountain, namely, the spirit of mankind rising out of the encircling flames of war, pestilence, and the destructive elements of life, reaching and ascending to a new understanding of life. Man rising above death, reaching upward to his God and toward peace."

Our objective is to add the names of servicemen killed or declared missing from Cuyahoga County from all wars beginning with the Spanish-American War through the Iraq and Afghanistan War to the Memorial Fountain. The GCVM's Honor Roll Project chaired and directed by Bob Camburn, a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, has worked diligently since 1989 to research names and locate biographical information on, and photographs of, our war casualties.

At its dedication, there were 4,155 names on the Memorial Fountain. These names represented Americans

who died during WWII and Korea. At the rededication in 2004, the GCVM added 1,361 additional names to the Memorial Fountain to include those who died in the Spanish-American War, WWI, Vietnam, and the initial six casualties of the war in Iraq. This number also included those who perished during WWII and Korea, for whom we found information, but whose names were not on the Memorial Fountain.

The Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation representing veterans throughout Cuyahoga County.

Initially, the GCVM's plan was to design, construct, and perpetually maintain memorial sculptures on Veterans Memorial Plaza coordinated artistically with Marshall Fredericks' sculpture, "The Fountain of Eternal Life," in addition to adding to the Memorial Fountain the names of the county's war casualties.

Along with the explosion in technology, the GCVM's plan evolved into the creation of a "living memorial" to honor our war casualties in place of the more traditional sculptures.

"This web site is our 'living me-

morial' to those who sacrificed their lives in service to our country. This living memorial invites family, loved ones, friends, comrades-at-arms, acquaintances, and strangers to enter and learn about those who served and died. Help us to remember and memorialize the service and sacrifice reflected in these names.

"Help us as we continue to gather accurate information, including photographs, of all 5,552 patriots honored on this site.

"Each name represents a person whose life was cut short in service to duty, honor, and country. We owe a sacred obligation to these fallen heroes that the generations to come not forget what they have done. This living memorial will ensure that our casualties of war, spanning the 115 years from 1899 to 2014, will not be forgotten."

To provide financial assistance or information about troops, contact The Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial, Inc., 1111 Superior Avenue, Suite 1350, Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2500. More information is available at clevelandvetsmemorial.org



LORAIN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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

Assistance is based on household income and may be given for rent or mortgage, property tax, utilities, car payment, car/home/life/medical insurances, and food or personal items.

The commission considers household income, living expenses, available assets, medical expenses, and the special needs of each applicant when determining eligibility.

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



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

A morning shuttle is available to Wade Park & Parma, and a wheelchair accessible van and home pick-ups are provided for appointments at the VA Clinic in Lorain ONLY. **440.284.4624**

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Our Veterans Service Officer's hold accreditation through the Ohio Department of Veterans Services and the National Association of Veterans Service Officers. They are the duty experts on the claims process and serve as your liaison to the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

VSO's also assist Veteran's in obtaining their DD 214 (discharge papers), applying for reissue of medals and a high school diploma for wartime Veterans.

The Veteran must provide their DD 214, proof of residency and other vital documents such as marriage and birth certificates, divorce decree, custody papers, verification of household income as required for financial assistance and VA claims assistance.

www.LorainCountyVeterans.com

Tri-C's Alaina Foster Brings Military Background to Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center

by Jerri Donohue

When she was just a few months out of high school, Alaina Foster received several "signs" on a single day that she should join the Air Force.

The coordinator of the Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center on the Highland Hills campus of Cuyahoga Community College laughed when she recalled the incidents that led to her enlistment.

First, Foster heard a recruitment ad on the radio. Next, she stopped at a red light in the shadow of an Air Force billboard. Finally, she pulled into the parking lot of an auto parts store - just as a woman wearing an Air Force uniform exited it.

Foster met her recruiter that very day. In choosing the Air Force, she broke with family tradition. Her grandfather, father and two uncles were Army veterans. Foster eventually married an "Army guy," too.

Foster served from 1997 to 2001, at Lackland AFB and Sheppard AFB in Texas, Keesler AFB in Mississippi and Barksdale AFB in Louisiana.

These days, the one time Airman First Class helps former servicemen and women from all military branches.

"It's nice to be able to assist my fellow veterans with transitioning

from the military structured environment to the civilian, kind of 'free-for-all,'" she said.

Foster had not chosen an occupation when she enrolled part time in Tri-C in 2003. Having fulfilled a four-year commitment to Uncle Sam, she hesitated to commit to a four-year college program. In addition, she was raising a family.

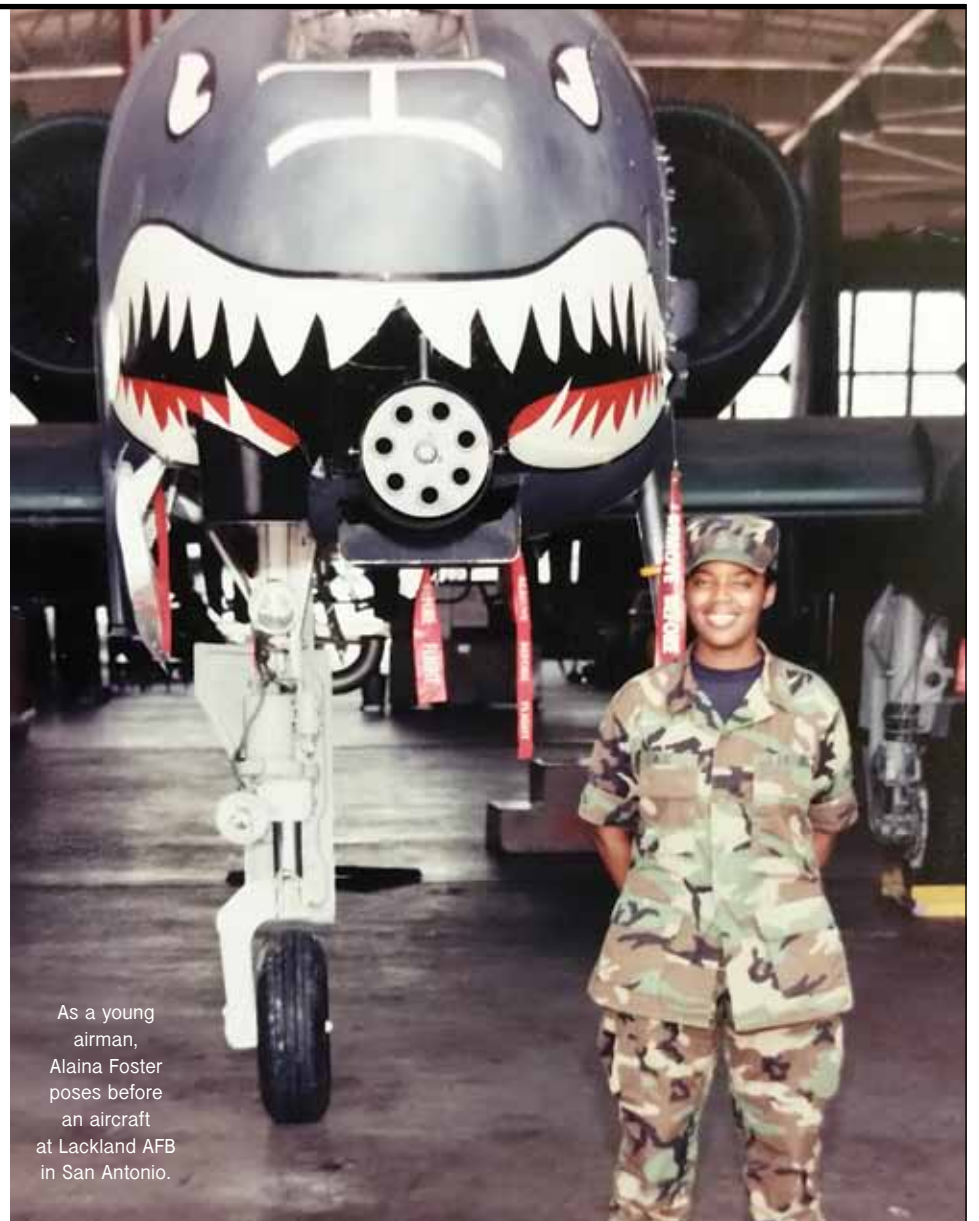
A VA rep at the Metro campus helped Foster realize Tri-C offered her the flexibility she needed.

"I wanted to go to a school that provided me with a variety of opportunities," Foster said.

She devoted her first year at Tri-C to exploring career options and then majored in human resource management. She later earned a bachelors degree in human resources at Baldwin Wallace University, and a MBA through University of Phoenix.

Four years ago, Foster returned to Tri-C, this time to work in the enrollment center of the college's Metro campus.

She is excited about her new role as Veteran Services and Programs Administrator. When Foster was a Tri-C student, she did not know whether any of her classmates also were vets.



As a young airman, Alaina Foster poses before an aircraft at Lackland AFB in San Antonio.

By contrast, Cuyahoga Community College expects 10,000 veterans and their relatives to use the Alfred Lerner Veterans Services Center each year.

Foster described her job as "a resource position." She refers vets to appropriate agencies for specific needs.

"If they need financial help, or have a housing problem, I know where to send them," Foster explained. "If they need medical assistance with something - or PTSD

- I know whom to call. My counterparts at the other campuses are doing the same thing."

Foster sees a perfect fit between her life experience and her current duties.

"I enjoy meeting individuals who are like-minded," she said. "I've been separated (from the Air Force) for a few years now and I'm able to assist them from what I learned in the service and from what I know now as a civilian."



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Former Chaplain's Assistant Found Answers at Ursuline College Adult Program

by Jerri Donohue

Roy Mullis entered Iraq with a Baptist chaplain shortly after the fall of Baghdad in 2003. They stayed for 15 months.

"If there was a fight where bullets were flying, he wanted to go there," Mullis said of his chaplain.

As the chaplain's assistant, it was Mullis's duty to protect the man from injury or capture. He sometimes ordered his superior to "get down" or forbade him to enter dangerous areas.

"It's the only job that's allowed to talk sternly to an officer," said the former Army specialist.

Although fond of chaplains he served in Iraq and earlier in Kosovo, Mullis admitted they presented challenges.

"They know that they're protected, so they're pretty much assured that they're not going to die," he said. "And if they do die, they're not really

worried about it because they know where they are going."

Chaplains and their assistants try to build good will with the local community. In Iraq, Mullis distributed stuffed animals and kids' shoes and clothing shipped by the families of American soldiers for Iraqi children.

"We visited a lot of orphanages," Mullis said of his time in both Kosovo and Iraq.

Mullis also counseled soldiers reluctant to confide in the chaplain because of his rank. If they preferred to speak to a fellow junior enlisted person, Mullis listened, but he often persuaded them to trust the chaplain.

One night Mullis stepped on a non-combustible booby trap set by an Iraqi civilian who worked on the base. Although his wounded knees plagued him, Mullis finished his tour. He left the Army after return-

ing home.

He called his deployment "an eye-opening experience."

"I took a very big interest in humanity after that," Mullis said.

After completing an Associate of Arts degree in community college, the veteran attended Ursuline College Adult Program, UCAP.

"In most colleges, Humanities is a catch-all liberal (arts) degree," Mullis said. "But Ursuline takes Humanities seriously, as a field."

Mullis, who was working full time, needed UCAP's longer but fewer class sessions.

"I couldn't have done it in any program but UCAP," he said.

Mullis said he worked "at full throttle" to cover a lot of material in a short period.

"It increased the challenge on your head," he said. "It seemed built

for somebody who wanted to apply himself. At Ursuline, you'll meet the class objective and then if you want to exceed it, it's right there in the classroom."

Mullis benefitted from class discussions.

"At UCAP you have a lot of people with a lot of life experience that know how to apply stuff they just read," he said. "Everyone has something to offer."

Even before his 2012 graduation, Mullis launched an E-bay business selling American art supplies. Today he is a power seller, shipping around the world. He applies his education in e-mail communications with his customers, often tapping on his knowledge of their culture. At the same time, he remains hungry to learn.

"I plan to return to Ursuline for a Master's degree," he said.

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Honored and Buried with Comrades



Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery

Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery is the second national cemetery built in Ohio and the 119th in the national cemetery system.

At present, there are more than one million veterans living in the State of Ohio and approximately 540,000 residing in the cemetery's service area.

The first two phases of construction, covering 65 acres of the 273-acre cemetery, included 21,000 gravesites, 10,100 columbaria niches and 3,800 in-ground garden niches for

cremated remains.

At full capacity, Ohio Western Reserve can provide burial space for 106,000 eligible veterans and dependents, beyond the year 2050.

Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery lies approximately 45 miles south of Cleveland in Medina County near the town of Rittman.

The cemetery's name refers to the part of the Northwest Territory formerly known as the Connecticut Western Reserve, a tract of land in Northeast Ohio

reserved by the State of Connecticut when it ceded its claims for western lands to the U.S. government in 1786.

Monuments and Memorials

Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery features a pathway that is lined with memorials that honor America's veterans, which have been donated by various organizations. As of 2011, there were 122 memorials, most commemorating events and troops of 20th century war.

continued from page 7

On that mission, we flew in low and dropped a load of supplies and as we came back up, a German fighter plane appeared and he could not have been an experienced pilot because he came at us from the back. To keep speed to their advantage, fighter pilots would either come to you from above or nose-to-nose because the speed would close quicker. But he was coming up behind us and he was right in my gun sight and I hit him and I saw him go down. And you know what? It didn't feel good. And yet it was something that we had to do.

In the fall of 1944, Phil finally reached that magic number.

It was to Hamburg. Other than some flak, it wasn't very eventful. But it was meaningful to me because I knew that was 35.

Vincello and seven of his crewmates beat those 20 to 1 odds. They completed their tour of duty.

It isn't that we were any better. It's just fate. But yeah, we did a lot better than most.

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Hospice of Western Reserve Honors Dave Buchholz: Patient, Volunteer, Submariner, Historian; a Half-Century of Service

It was a day of well-deserved honors and accolades for a Cleveland Heights veteran who was also a Hospice of the Western Reserve volunteer and a patient.

Navy veteran Dave Buchholz, a longtime Hospice of the Western Reserve Resale Shop volunteer, was inducted into the "Holland Club" on June 27, a week before he passed away.

The Holland Club is an exclusive group within the US Submarine Veterans organization and members are considered a living historic memory of submarine heritage.

The ceremony at his house included fellow submariners, fellow Hospice volunteers and plenty of family and friends, including his wife Ginny.

Buchholz served on two Navy submarines, the USS Croaker and the USS Trigger. He was designated as "Qualified in Submarines" for more than 50 years.

This earned him entrance into the prestigious Holland Club, which is named after John Holland, designer of the first Navy submarine.

He was inducted by current Cod Base Commander Bill Henderson with Fellows Jim Talarico, Ed Lyons and Tim Conroy standing by. Cod Base is affiliated with the USS Cod Submarine Memorial, where Buchholz was head shipkeeper. He joined the Cod Memorial in 2006. The memorial is permanently stationed in Cleveland's North Coast harbor.

Following his military service,

Buchholz spent years as the commander of Cod Base, the local chapter of U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., a national organization dedicated to perpetuating the memory of submariners lost in the line of duty.

After the induction, Buchholz received an honor pin from Conroy, who told him it was well earned.

"Sometime long ago, you stood up and took an oath to protect and defend," Conroy said. "Sailors have always been asked to face danger, and if necessary, stand in harm's way. Recognition for you, and all you've endured, is well-deserved."

"I'm glad I could do it," Buchholz said after receiving the bright yellow cap that marks him as a member of The Holland Club.

Asked what the honor meant to

him, he said he was glad, but added it meant more that he was able to live as long as he had, recognizing that many other submariners had not had the opportunity. "I've lived long enough," he said. "They didn't get to live as long."

In addition to the Holland Club induction, Hospice of the Western Reserve volunteers and veterans Bob Hayes and Wayne Stofan honored Buchholz and fellow sailors in a pinning ceremony that recognizes veterans for their military service to the United States.

The ceremony was capped with the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation for Volunteer Service from Hospice of the Western Reserve. Buchholz volunteered at the Hospice Resale Shop for six years.



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Leona Wallace-Thomas: Afghanistan Veteran Terribly Injured, Yet Continues to Serve, Now With Honor Guard

by Jerri Donohue

After Leona Wallace-Thomas enlisted in the Air Force in 1984, she served her country around the world, from Great Britain to Guam to Panama.

While raising three children, she participated in multiple deployments to the Middle East, spending much of her time on C-130 cargo planes. In Afghanistan, a mishap with a 500-pound airplane tire shattered one of Wallace-Thomas's vertebrae into 100 fragments, permanently damaged her spinal cord and ended her 28-year military career. Nine back surgeries later, the former Sergeant First Class walks with the help of a spinal implant and keeps weekly medical appointments.

Wallace-Thomas still serves her country, however. She regularly appears with the Honor Guard of American Legion Albert Bowe Post #338.

"It's the least I can do," she said.

At funeral homes and cemeteries in Wood and Sandusky counties, she carries the flag, performs chaplain's duties or joins other veterans in the rifle salute.

Wallace-Thomas said the presence

of the Honor Guard gives a measure of comfort to the deceased's family and friends.

"The families always show great appreciation to us for honoring their veteran," she said.

More often, relatives request the Honor Guard for World War II and Korean War veterans, but Wallace-Thomas also has taken part in services for military personnel killed in the current war. The deceased's branch of service is irrelevant to Wallace-Thomas. Nor does she care where or when the veteran served. She always feels a connection because of "personal experience of the sacrifices that person made."

Wallace-Thomas's first days in the Air Force included demanding drill instructors and the sound of other recruits crying themselves to sleep.

Years later, she assumed responsibility for enlisted men and women during deployment. As the highest-ranking enlisted person on the aircraft, she served as troop commander, and set aside her own concerns to address theirs. She suffered her career-ending injury while doing manual work beyond her usual tasks.



Leona Wallace-Thomas

She pitched in that day because a vicious stomach virus had felled 12 of 17 people reporting to her.

Wallace-Thomas had experienced rough moments overseas even before that. From a truck window, she once studied a countryside pocked with craters caused by landmines. Sometimes enemy forces shot at her as she unloaded supplies for ground troops. On one occasion, children - hungry for candy and kindness - chased her plane as it took off to return to base. She frequently checked the aircraft for damage caused by enemy fire.

The daughter of a Korean War veteran, Wallace-Thomas knows that all servicemen and women bear painful memories. For her, Honor Guard is a way to acknowledge what they endured.

She described a heart-wrenching moment at a fundraiser organized by the Air National Guard. She was volunteering with a good friend and fellow veteran when he received word that his son had been killed in action. Other members of their Post's Honor Guard travelled to Dover, Delaware to escort the young man's body home. Wallace-Thomas, however, could not pay her respects.

She had been deployed again.

THE SEVEN INTERNET STORIES VETERANS DIDN'T READ. AND DIDN'T WANT TO.

The Cast of **I Dream of Jeannie**: Now and Then. Yeah, like we like to see pictures of old farts.

Nine Foods That Will Help You Sleep on a Long Flight. Unless the booze is all gone, who cares about food?

Did You Know These 10 **Beverly Hillbillies** Facts? ↔
Don't know. Don't care.

The mother of Mexico's most notorious **drug lord** says he gets unfairly blamed for everything. Poor baby.

Bill Cosby - "I Got My Quaaludes from a Gynecologist." And just what part of your body was the gynecologist examining?



The simplest way to get - and stay - **happy**, according to psychologists. Step one: Stop reading Internet Stories.

Neo-Orientalist Islamophobia Is Maligning the Reputation of the Prophet Muhammad Like Never Before. Now they understand how Donald Trump feels.



Baldwin Wallace University Veteran/Student Plans Career Helping Fellow Vets

by Jerri Donohue

Aself-described “Army brat,” Heather Bess wearied of attending college while working two jobs. In May 2007, she decided to follow her father’s path - she enlisted.

“I was struggling,” Bess said. “What was lacking in me was drive and inner strength. I definitely found that in the military.”

When she left the Army seven years later, Bess had both ambition and life experience. In addition to an assignment in Vilseck, Germany, she had been deployed twice to Afghanistan.

In Bagram, she helped convoy supplies to forward operating bases or traveled with them by plane. Her job included mountains of paperwork, such as processing purchase requests. In Kandahar, she was a unit supply specialist, in charge of the company’s supply room and the commander’s equipment.

She described the environments

where she spent two year-long tours as “sandy, hot, and smelly.” For recreation, she went to the gym, watched movies or played cards. During her second deployment, she had no days off.

“You’re always being pushed to your emotional and mental limit,” Bess said. “You get a lot closer to the people you deploy with. You’re spending 24/7 with those people.”

Friends she knew from pre-deployment days were killed.

“That’s the toughest,” Bess said. “You have a lot of time to think about that kind of stuff because though you are always at work, things can get monotonous.”

When Bess left the Army in January 2014, her mother persuaded her to settle in northeast Ohio. By

then, Bess knew she wanted to become a social worker. She enrolled in Baldwin Wallace University within a month of her discharge, choosing the university because its helpful admission personnel were sensitive to her situation as a veteran.

In addition, BWU’s “3-2” program for bachelor and masters degrees appealed to Bess.

“It’s kind of like a co-op thing they have with Case (Case Western Reserve University) where you get a three-year bachelor’s at Baldwin Wallace University and then you get your masters from CWRU,” she explained.

Bess is majoring in sociology with a minor in psychology at BWU. She then will pursue a master’s degree in social work at CWRU. She

takes classes year ‘round, and gives her coursework top priority.

“I wanted to go to school for so long that I always put forth my very best effort,” Bess said.

Bess said that her closest friends are still people she met in the Army. Today she enjoys the camaraderie of Baldwin Wallace University’s veterans’ organization and serves as its vice president.

Bess plans a career counseling other vets. Throughout the academic year, she does clerical work at the Parma Veterans Center as part of a work-study program. For the summer, she held a temporary, part-time job there.

Bess appreciates the good education she is receiving as a result of her military service. She said it is crucial to her future work.

“I see it as a stepping stone toward my ultimate goal, to give back to veterans,” Bess said.



Heather Bess



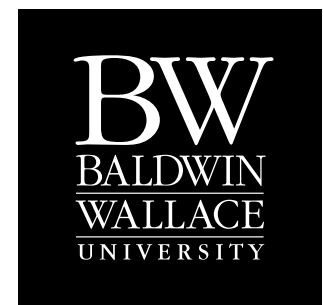
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VA Expands Review of Chemical Exposure in Drinking Water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

WASHINGTON – As part of VA's ongoing commitment to provide care to Veterans and their families, the Department of Veterans Affairs today announced that it will start the process of amending its regulations to establish presumptions of service connection for certain conditions resulting from exposure to contaminated drinking water at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

This process is in addition to the healthcare VA already provides for 15 conditions to eligible Veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987 as a result of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. VA also provides reimbursement of healthcare

expenses for those 15 conditions to eligible family members who resided at Camp Lejeune during that time period.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs recently met with Senators Isakson, Burr and Tillis and the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to discuss the creation of presumptions of service connection for diseases associated with the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. The diseases that are currently being reviewed for potential presumptive service connection include kidney cancer, angiosarcoma of the liver, and acute myelogenous leukemia, which are known to be related to long-term exposure to the chemicals that were in the water at Lejeune from the 1950s through 1987. The chemicals are Benzene,

Vinyl Chloride, Trichloroethylene and Perchloroethylene, which are known as volatile organic compounds, used in industrial solvents and components of fuels. ATSDR and VA representatives will meet at ATSDR offices on August 19 to begin discussions on establishing these presumptions.

VA will also work with ATSDR and potentially the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate the body of scientific knowledge and research related to exposure to these chemicals and the subsequent development of other diseases. VA will carefully consider all public comments received when determining the final scope of any presumptions.

Veterans with health problems they believe are related to exposure to the water at Camp Lejeune

may file a claim for disability compensation online at www.ebenefits.va.gov, or call 1-800-827-1000 for assistance.

For more information, Veterans and family members should contact the nearest VA healthcare facility by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune. For further information on Camp Lejeune: VHA Office of Public Health has a Website on Camp Lejeune historical water contamination at: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp.

The U.S. Marine Corps encourages all those who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune before 1987 to register for notifications regarding Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water at <https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater>.

Danielle Green Student, Athlete, Combat Veteran, Inspiration

by JC Sullivan

Pat Tillman was a humble guy known for directing attention to himself through his accomplishments and by serving others. When America was attacked on 9/11 he felt strongly about it and joined the U.S. Army. He was tragically killed in Afghanistan. "Pat Tillman's perseverance and determination as both a sportsman and a soldier are legendary," said ESPN. For this reason the Pat Tillman Award for Service was created, honoring "an individual with a strong connection to sports who has served others in a way that echoes Pat's."

This story however is not about Pat Tillman. It honors another exemplary individual, Danielle Green, a recipient of the Pat Tillman Award for Service.

As an outstanding Chicago athlete, Green was awarded an athletic

scholarship to Notre Dame where she played guard for Muffet McGraw's Irish.

As reported by ESPN, "Danielle is a really strong woman. I've got such great admiration for," McGraw said. "I think basketball is so much more than the game. It's about building confidence in young women, and seeing them grow and go off to be role models. I remember she had to take something like a bus to a train to another just to get to school. And she was in the ROTC program. She was someone you knew was trying to rise above some difficult circumstances."

At some point Green was motivated to join the U.S. Army. In 2004, while guarding an Iraqi police station, it came under attack. Even though she knew she was badly hurt from a grenade, a feeling of be-

lief that she would be all right came over her.

According to ESPN "I actually knew I would be OK when I was still on the rooftop," said Green. "After I said a prayer, I felt reassurance and hope, a burst of energy. Then my comrades came, and I knew I would make it. Although I didn't know my arm was missing."

Although she was flown to Germany for treatment, surgeons could not save her left arm. Being left-handed, she knew a new life and career was now necessary. She decided to become a school counselor. However, her ties to the military were strong.

ESPN reports "She works now with veterans dealing with a variety of issues, including post-traumatic stress and readjustment problems. At times, she will take off her pros-

thetic arm just to let her clients know that she truly does understand."

Commenting on her ability to communicate with other veterans she said, "As a combat veteran, I have a connection with them, but you still have to build that rapport and trust," Green said.

"And they're often dealing with this sense of self-blame that's very difficult to talk about. If you've never been in combat and had to operate a weapon to take out another human being, it's very difficult to understand."

ESPN certainly picked the right person for this award.

Sullivan is a U.S. Army veteran of the 2nd Armored Division at Ft. Hood and Europe. He resides in Northfield Village. He's Past Commander of Nordonia Hills American Legion Post 801 and Brecksville's Post 196.

A Conscientious Objector Joins the Infantry

LZ BAYONET - Sincerity of conviction is often difficult to substantiate, and the conscientious objector encounters such a confrontation when he finds himself subjected to the draft.

His sincerity may long remain in question even though he has been granted the 1AO draft classification which allows him to serve in the Armed Forces without bearing arms.

But the sincerity of an Americal Division ("Under the Southern Cross") medic speaks for itself, for he relinquished a standing occupational deferment to volunteer for the draft just a month before his eligibility for the draft would have ended.

"My decision to apply for the conscientious objector classification was not an easy one," said SP/5 Charles A. Combs, a medic with 1/52nd Infantry, 198th Light Infantry Brigade. "My convictions were formed long before I was eligible for the draft, and were based upon my religious belief and my encounter with the New Testament."

Even though Combs personally felt it wrong to bear arms, he felt it equally wrong to neglect an obligation to his country. After obtaining a college degree, he worked as an electrical engineer for two years, an occupation which at the time enabled him to obtain a critical occupational deferment.

One month before his 26th birthday, which would have terminated his eligibility for the draft, Combs voluntarily relinquished his deferment and volunteered for the draft.

"I felt I could do something positive to participate in what I thought was a national obligation," said Combs. "And it was my last chance to volunteer."

Combs completed his basic and advanced training at Ft. Sam Houston, in Texas, where he was trained as a medic. Unlike most basic and AIT training programs, there was no marksmanship or offensive tactical training in his classes. After completing his training, Combs was assigned to a cavalry unit in Germany, where he served five months. He then requested duty in Vietnam.

"I asked for the Vietnam tour because I felt, as a medic, I would be more useful over there."

Upon arriving in Vietnam, Combs was assigned to the 1/52nd and spent eight months in the field with Co. D as a combat medic.

During that time he was awarded the Bronze Star for valor for his participation in an action which he and several other medics treated wounded infantrymen while under fire.

Said Combs, "But I feel it's the infantrymen out there who should receive most of the credit, for they have the most dangerous job of all."

Combs does not regret his decision to serve, and feels he served without compromising his convictions. "I encountered only one circumstance where I felt I needed a rifle," he said. "That was when a water buffalo charged our squad. I wouldn't have hesitated to shoot at that particular moment. It wouldn't have bothered my conscience in the least."

VA Program You May Not Know About Program Description

Veterans may have been exposed to a range of chemical, physical, and environmental hazards during military service.

Veterans who believe they may have been exposed to toxins or certain vaccinations with side effects are eligible to receive a voluntary medical assessment that will help the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) track data on Veterans' health.

General Program Requirements

Registry examinations are not part of the Medical Benefits Package. You do not have to apply for health care to get a registry exam. There are no length-of-service requirements. For more information, please visit VA's Public Health homepage.

The following information will lead you to the next steps to apply for this benefit.

Application Process

To receive a medical exam, contact your local VA Environmental Health Coordinator. Contact information for local health coordinators can be found on VA's Public Health "Directory of Environmental Health Coordinators" page.

Program Contact Information

For more information about military exposures, visit VA's Public Health homepage.

If you have questions:

Visit the Inquiry Routing & Information System (IRIS) website to search Frequently Asked Questions or ask a question on-line

Call 1-800-827-1000

Call 1-800-829-4833, if you are hearing impaired

To apply for additional benefits and view your benefit status, open an eBenefits Premium account. eBenefits is a one-stop source for information on Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and services. With a free Premium level eBenefits account, Veterans, Servicemembers and their families can conduct self-service transactions such as checking claim status information, GI Bill enrollment, and obtaining copies of civil service preference letters, DD214, and other personal information. For further information and to register for a free Premium level account, visit the eBenefits website. <http://www.va.gov/>

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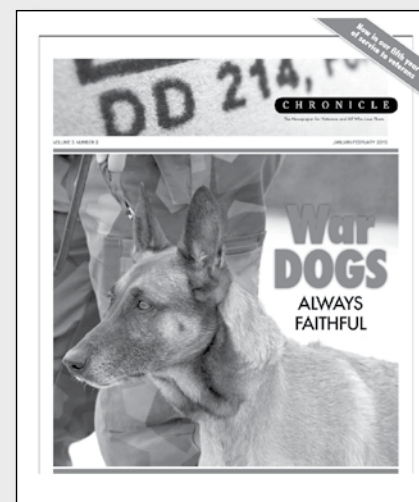
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Types of Military Discharges

From Honorable to Dishonorable

by John H. Tidyman, editor

Many years ago, I worked as a waiter in a restaurant. Tips were generous, and lunch was provided. It was hard work, but worth it. Nothing beats walking out every day with a full belly and a fistful of cash.

Even harder work was washing pots and pans by hand, and washing the dishes and silverware in the dishwasher. I knew our dishwasher, but only by first name.

One day he was gone. When I asked the boss, he said the dishwasher was let go because he had a dishonorable discharge. Kinda shocked me.

Turns out having a dishonorable discharge stays with you the rest of your life. It's like having a tat-

too on your forehead reading, "Dishonorably Discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces: Do Not Hire!"

A dishonorable discharge is the punishment that never stops.

Types of Military Discharges

There are five types of military discharge, and every single military member experiences one of them. The quality of one's active duty service determines the type of discharge he or she receives. The five military discharges are general, honorable, other than honorable, bad conduct and dishonorable.

Honorable Discharge

Honorable is a like a grade of A plus. The service member completed his

or her duty with admirable personal and professional conduct. Veterans with an honorable discharge receive full benefits. They also have an easier time finding employment since an honorable discharge reflects well on a résumé.

Other Than Honorable (OTH) Discharge

A judgment of OTH discharge occurs when a military member is in trouble with the civilian court system, for reasons such as a felony conviction leading to imprisonment. OTH is the most severe of the administrative discharges because people with OTH are banned from ever reenlisting into the army or any other part of the Armed Forces. OTH recipients do not receive VA healthcare or most benefits provided through the VA.

General Discharge

General denotes that a service member completed his or her service with less than honorable circumstances during duty or upon discharge. Conditions such as illness, injury or other determinants lead to a general discharge. An unaccept-

able behavior such as drug abuse initiates a general discharge as well.

A commander makes known the reason for a general discharge in writing. People tend to equate a general discharge with an honorable one. However, general discharges actually deem many veterans ineligible for certain benefits such as the GI Bill.

Bad Conduct

Bad Conduct discharge is a punishment for a military crime. It results in confinement to a military prison for a period of time. No benefits are available to veterans with a bad conduct discharge.

Dishonorable Discharge

A dishonorable discharge is also a punitive action against a military member. Serious offenses such as murder or desertion of one's duty will cause a court martial to order a dishonorable discharge.

Like a convicted felon, veterans with a dishonorable discharge do not receive ANY privileges to benefits, possession of firearms and so on. They are ostracized from the military community and will have a hard time finding employment.

One Toke Over the Line, Sweet Jesus, One Toke Over the Line

by John H. Tidyman, editor

The legalization of marijuana has some interesting precedents.

When the government finally realized Prohibition didn't work — except for bootleggers and organized crime — politicians returned booze to its former status, which was a great source of tax money.

When the government finally realized men and women would gamble, whether outlawed or not, it created the Lottery, and recently, casinos. Great sources of tax money.

Now comes Mother Nature's gift, marijuana. A tonic and a pleasure, states are legalizing weed. And collecting tax money.

In all three examples, the money-hungry politicians must have slapped their heads and exclaimed, "Holy moly! We had no idea how much money we could make on legalization!" Duh.

Why politicians would be so slow to see the benefit, money for them to steal and squander, is beyond me. Clearly, pols are unfamiliar with

recent history.

Furthermore, what we do in our own homes is not the business of government.

The tragic footnote is men and women jailed and imprisoned for gambling, booze, and weed. Felonies one day and source of tax revenue the next.

According to TurboTax research, government takes in almost a billion in gambling taxes and \$5.6 billion in alcohol taxes. Even for government, that ain't chump change.

Who knows what loot Congress will get from marijuana taxes? Or how it will waste it?

Me, I used to enjoy a joint every now and then, but preferred getting liquored up. I've dropped in the odd gambling joint, but never had the nerve for it. So I'm pretty boring: Don't drink, smoke, or gamble.

But I'm saddened and scared when the government insists on criminalizing smoke, booze, and gambling ... until it realizes it can make a boatload of money off them.

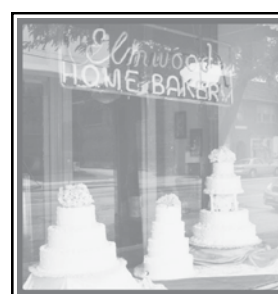


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