

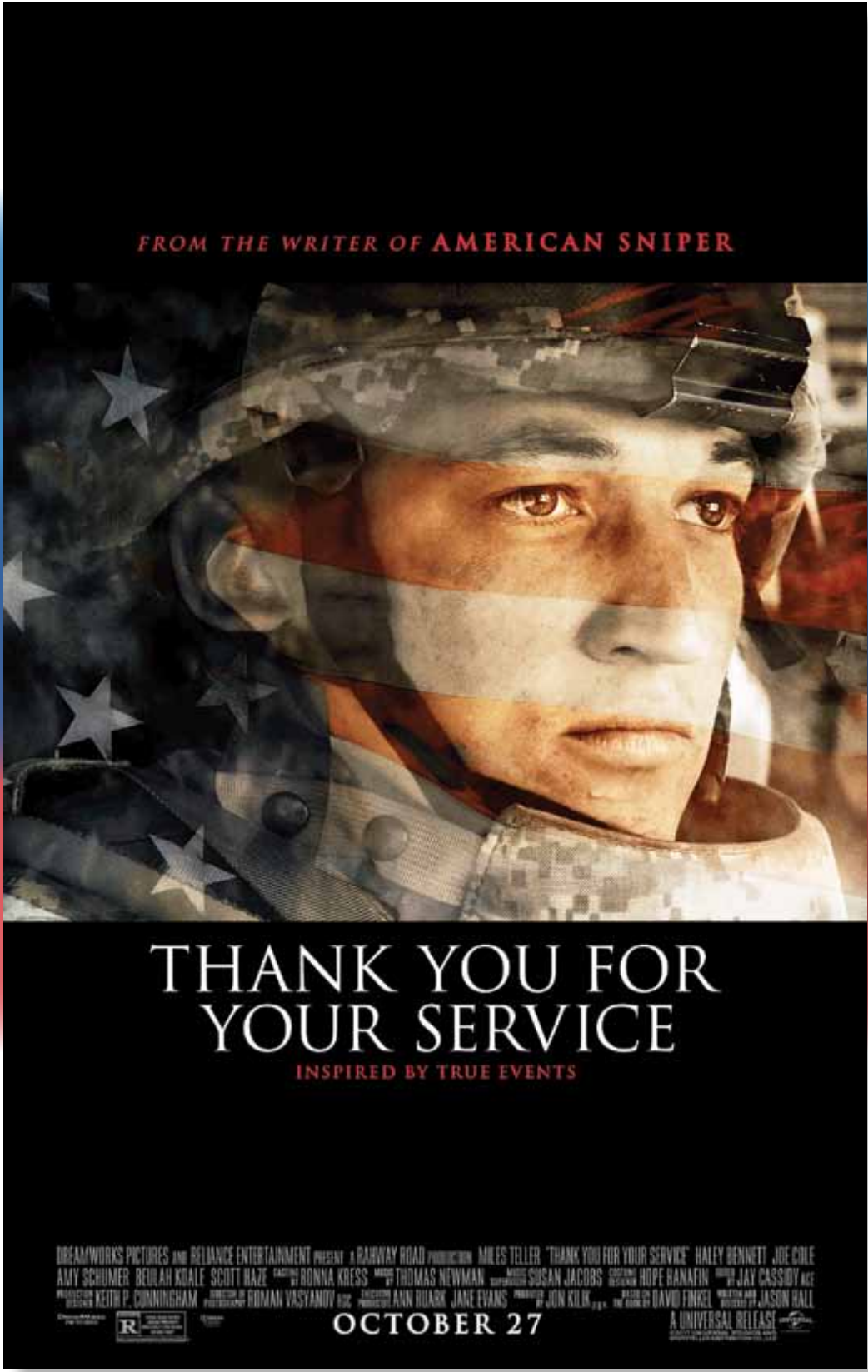


CHRONICLE

The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 6

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017



FROM THE WRITER OF AMERICAN SNIPER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS

DREAMWORKS PICTURES and RELIANCE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT A RAMWAY ROAD PRODUCTION MILES TELLER "THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE" HALEY BENNETT JOE COLE AMY SCHUMER BEJAH KOALE SCOTT HAZE CAST BY RONNA KRESS MUSIC BY THOMAS NEWMAN COSTUME DESIGNER SUSAN JACOBS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS HOPE HANAFIN PRODUCED BY JAY CASSIDY ACE PRODUCED BY KEITH P. CUNNINGHAM DIRECTED BY ROMAN VASYANOV EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANN HUARK JANE EVANS PRODUCED BY JOHN KILB WRITTEN BY DAVID FINCKEL DIRECTED BY JASON HALL
R
OCTOBER 27
A UNIVERSAL RELEASE



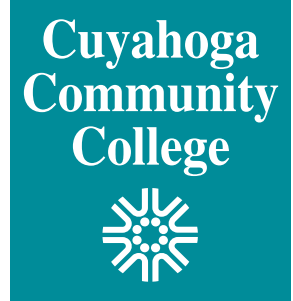
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On the Cover

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

DreamWorks Pictures' *Thank You for Your Service* follows a group of U.S. soldiers returning from Iraq who struggle to integrate back into family and civilian life, while living with the memory of a war that threatens to destroy them long after they've left the battlefield.

Starring an ensemble cast led by Miles Teller, Haley Bennett, Joe Cole, Amy Schumer, Beulah Koale, Scott Haze, Keisha Castle-Hughes, Brad Beyer, Omar J. Dorsey and Jayson Warner Smith, the drama is based on the bestselling book by Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and author David Finkel.

Jason Hall, who wrote the screenplay of *American Sniper*, makes his directorial debut with *Thank You for Your Service* and also serves as its screenwriter. Jon Kilik (*The Hunger Games* series, *Babel*) produces the film, while Ann Ruark (*Beautiful*) and Jane Evans (*Sin City*) executive produces. www.ThankYouForYourServiceMovie.com

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VETERANS UPWARD BOUND AT TRI-C

The Veterans Upward Bound program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, is designed to motivate and assist veterans in the development of academic and other requisite skills necessary for acceptance and success in a program of post-secondary education.

•••

The program provides assessment and enhancement of basic skills through counseling, mentoring, tutoring and academic instruction in the core subject areas. The primary goal of the program is to increase the rate at which participants enroll in and complete postsecondary education programs

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Days of Our Lives in Newspaper Headlines

- Radio host quits after he's told to be nicer to Trump
Or, if you can't say someone nice, don't say anything at all.
- Woman who hid loaded handgun in her vagina gets probation
I wonder what law she broke.
- Church of England admits it helped hide sexual abuse by bishop
RHIP
- Family sues nursing home after gator kills grandma
Pet policy to be changed.
- Defense Secretary Mattis: Weapons we gave to Kurds are just loaners
But they all put down security deposits.
- Mom who left kids to die in hot car wanted to 'teach them a lesson'
Lesson learned



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...
WELL, DD214 CHRONICLE!

Not to blow out our own candles, but with this edition, we begin our eighth year of service to veterans in northern Ohio.

We have lots of men and women and businesses and institutions to thank for this birthday, and Terry Uhl is always first on the list. Terry and I have been friends for a couple decades.

We were sharing a lunch table, lamenting the loss of the Cleveland Press and the evisceration of the Plain Dealer. We had troops going back and forth to the Middle East, veterans of Vietnam, major changes in the Veterans Administration, but no medium to support them.

From the ideas and concerns at that table, DD214 Chronicle was born. Terry said he would remain for one year with The Chronicle. At the same time, he was working with a slew of public and private entities. He lost lots of sleep that year.

So Happy Birthday to The Chronicle, and thank you, Terry. Without you, we wouldn't be here.



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

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Editorial Statement

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

The Chronicle would not exist without its advertisers. Make the effort to patronize them.

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Cuyahoga Land Bank has a home ownership program crafted just for Veterans

The Cuyahoga Land Bank offers a special program crafted just for Veterans – HomeFront Cuyahoga County. This program offers assistance to eligible veterans interested in purchasing a renovated move-in ready home from the Cuyahoga Land Bank.

Veterans interested in purchasing a home are eligible for a discount of up to 15% of the purchase price. All homes meet the Cuyahoga Land Bank's Housing Quality Standards and all applicable point-of-sale requirements and the Cuyahoga Land Bank is paying closing costs.

"This is a fantastic program that makes it so much more possible to own a home without getting into a huge loan," said U.S. Army SPC Holden Gibbons, who recently renovated a home in Euclid through the Program. "The single biggest factor that I can point to as to why dealing with the Land Bank was such an

enjoyable experience was the people. You feel like you're dealing with family at every stage of the process."

Veterans who may not yet be bankable but have had steady employment for at least one year, may qualify as lease-to-own buyers. The Cuyahoga Land Bank will work with these veterans to promote home ownership through lease-to-own options.

"This program is an opportunity for us to give back to the men and women that have risked their lives for our country," said Cuyahoga Land Bank President Gus Frangos. "We are able to provide a chance for veterans to own a home on very flexible terms as well as to establish immediate equity."

In order to renovate a home through the HomeFront Veterans Program, the veteran must:

- intend to live in the property as their primary residence for at least three years;
- provide satisfactory documentation to the Cuyahoga Land Bank

that shows they have the ability to obtain financing for a home;

- agree to follow all the rules and policies as promulgated by the Cuyahoga Land Bank;

- sign a Cuyahoga Land Bank purchase/renovation/lease-to-own contract where applicable;
- have a minimum credit score as determined by the Cuyahoga Land Bank;
- have been employed for at least two years;
- Other terms and/or conditions may apply.

All renovated properties or properties under renovation in the Cuyahoga Land Bank's inventory are available to veterans via the Homefront – Cuyahoga County, a Veterans' homeownership program.

More information on Homefront – Cuyahoga County is available on the Cuyahoga Land Bank website at: www.cuyahogalandbank.org/homefront or please call 216-698-8853.



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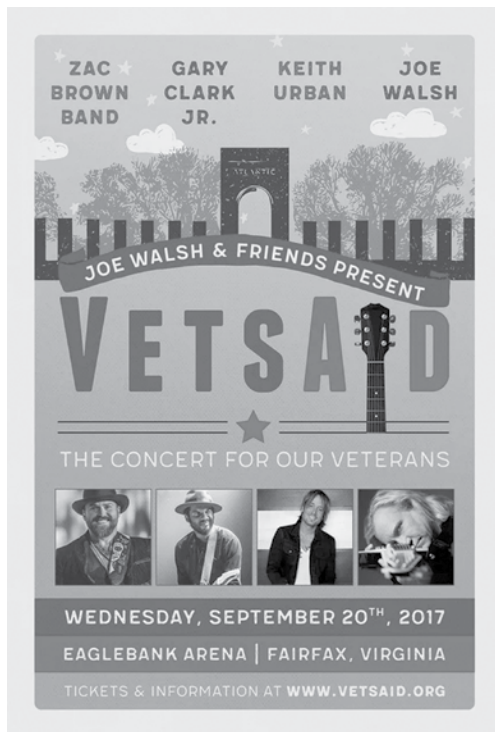
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Joe Walsh's VetsAid concert to benefit veterans' causes

By Barry Goodrich



Like many members of Gold Star families, Joe Walsh never knew his father, a flight instructor for the first U.S. operational jet powered aircraft – the Lockheed F-80 Shooting Star. Robert Fidler died on active duty while being stationed in Okinawa when his son was just 20 months old.

“War is hell for everyone involved,” said Walsh in a statement on his website. “I lost my father when I was a baby, before I could even make a memory of him.”

That loss has always been in the back of Walsh's mind as he has been involved with veterans-related causes for years, supporting various charities and making regular visits to the wounded veterans at the Walter Reed National Medical Center. He has also been a supporter and campaigned for Illinois senator Tammy Duckworth, an Iraq War veteran and double amputee.

Walsh, who honed his guitar skills by playing in bars on the campus of Kent State University

before moving finding fame with The James Gang and fortune with the Eagles, has formed VetsAid, his own non-profit foundation based in Washington D.C. And he has enlisted Zac Brown Band, Keith Urban and Gary Clark Jr. for a VetsAid benefit concert Sept. 20 at the Eagle Bank Arena in Fairfax, Va.

The urgent needs of America's returning soldiers are the platform of VetsAid and what Walsh hopes will become an annual concert. VetsAid plans to support several established and tested veterans-based charities with a proven track record in physical, mental and emotional care for veterans and their families.

“I stopped counting the number of friends I lost in the Vietnam War or that came home forever scarred, mentally or physically or both,” said the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member. “And in Afghanistan, the longest war in American history continues to drag on with no end in sight.”

Walsh hopes his high profile will

serve as a way to bring attention to the ongoing needs of the 50,000 plus wounded soldiers who have returned from wars in the Middle East. Those soldiers have a 50 percent higher suicide rate than other civilians.

“I had to do something and seeing as though rock and roll seems to be what I do best, it's also the least I can do for those who have served and continue to serve our country,” he said. “We're all in this together as Americans and it seems to me lately that people are forgetting that. I asked my buddies Zac, Gary and Keith to step up and I'm so grateful that they did. Let's put on a show, raise some money and celebrate our vets...and let's do it every year.”

Walsh will also be reuniting with the Eagles as they perform at the Classic Northwest Concert Sept. 30 at Safeco Field in Seattle. He continues to tour throughout the country as a solo performer.

For more information on VetsAid and the benefit concert, visit www.vetsaid.org.

The Remarkable Journey of Martha Garreau, Part Two

By John H. Tidyman, editor

After eight years, she was honorably discharged. She left because her next assignment was Korea and it was for a year. Troops are allowed to turn down one assignment, but it comes with a price: No re-enlisting. “I wasn't going to be without my family, so it was eight years and out.”

Her next big assignment was marriage. She married a fellow soldier and had two children.

She should have known, with her own military experience, marriage would be a long distance. They were in same unit but her husband was often in the field. His next duty station was Egypt.

With her husband gone and her working, she felt like a single Mom.

Then came the attack on the World Trade Center and all hell broke loose. She had no idea what was happening in the Middle East. Official sources told her that husband was safe, but she didn't hear from him for a few days. His unit returned from Egypt on Thanksgiving.

There was much to be thankful for, but much to cause severe anxiety. At Christmas, he was en

route to Afghanistan. She suffered a breakdown and her husband was sent home to be at her side.

“Okay, my husband was coming and everything was going to be better.” It wasn't. They didn't talk for three weeks, didn't talk about what he was going through and didn't talk about what she was going through. He stayed by himself and she felt ashamed. “I was not the supportive spouse.” It tore them apart.

The marriage fell apart, but not the deep friendship. “I can't remember anytime we questioned each other or argued about the kids.”

She returned to the reservation. A year later, he took the children while she sought work. She was working long hours and weekends. She got a trailer, but it needed much work. She is many things, including a very hard worker. The children came home for holidays, but again, she felt like a working mom with four children.

When her situation worsened, the children went with their father, stationed in Okinawa. She was able to find better work, and was able to

help her husband. She lived simply and often sent money to the father of their children.

As her oldest made ready to graduate from high school, her thoughts went to her own education. If she didn't use the GI Bill, its benefits would run out.

She went to college and did well. It was difficult, but she did well. Her tenacity and hope propelled her. With a 4.0 GPA, she joined the Bismarck Tribune, where she put together the Sunday edition, layouts, tabloids, ads, photo sizing and more. When she graduated, she joined the Bismarck Heritage Center.

While her life seemed more organized, her husband and she were able to share their children, including her fast-growing children. The parents didn't need a court decree for support; when they were with their father, she sent money and when they were with her, he sent money. “That's what you do. No legal papers, no judges.”

When her husband was discharged, he worked as an electrical engineer,

including work in Afghanistan. When he settled in Ohio, she prayed that he would ask her to move there. He called. “I need your help more than money. I need you here with me and the children.” It was a prayer answered.

She arrived in 2012. Her husband gave his house to her and moved in with his girlfriend. She had graphic arts experience along with an excellent work history. She couldn't work in Lorain County, and had no interest in working in Cleveland. Too long a drive and too much time away from her family.

It was her father-in-law who found an ad for an administrative assistant in Lorain. It was the Lorain County Veterans Service Commission. She applied, was interviewed, and hired. She found the job she prayed for: Plenty of responsibility, being with her children, working with veterans and the Commission staff, close to home and her children, and 9 to 5, off weekends and holidays.

“I'm not church-going, but I have beliefs and my faith. God answered my prayers.”

The Reluctant Lieutenant

By Jerri Donohue

As Lt. Dan Weist and others arrived in Vietnam, they reached for their carry-on bags, en route to a war zone that would forever mark them.

"It was absolute mayhem," Weist said. "Our gear was never off-loaded. I had no copy of my orders."

Little wonder. Weist landed in Vietnam on the first day of the Tet Offensive, in January, 1968. The enemy was shelling the Saigon airport. The commercial airliner diverted to Cam Rahn Bay, only to find it under attack also. So was the airport in Da Nang.

Low on fuel, the plane returned to Saigon, where a fuel truck waited – and 150 American soldiers rotating back to the States.

While the new troops headed to the front door, homebound troops surged into the rear door and pushed the new troops out the front. The homebound troops had finished their tours and were frantic to begin their journey back to, "The World."

Jumping off the plane, Weist ended up in a bunker with 30 other

men, four weapons and orders to help defend the airport.

Weist was a reluctant officer. The Army selected him for Officers Candidate School after basic training, but the draftee didn't want to serve the required extra year. He relented after three weeks in a miserable job, and was commissioned in May, 1967.

Weist anticipated his duties on the battalion staff would be near Cam Rahn Bay as a personnel officer.

It was the Honest John missile battalion, where the new lieutenant was to be assigned to handle requests for leave, minor discipline issues, and other routine tasks.

But the enemy had destroyed telephone communications and Weist could not confirm his assignment.

The Army promptly delivered him by helicopter to an artillery outfit



Dan Weist

as a forward observer.

On his fourth day in Vietnam, Weist was traveling in the command track when the North Vietnamese struck the formation's right flank. He briefly

fired toward the enemy's location until his commander stopped him – American infantrymen occupied the area between the enemy and their vehicle.

Instead, Weist helped medics retrieve men lying in the field.

Back atop the command track, a rocket-propelled grenade struck its side, killing four other men. Tossed several feet, the lieutenant was knocked unconscious, temporarily deafened and soon evacuated to Saigon for surgery to remove shrapnel. Weist recovered in Camp Zama, Japan, and then returned to Vietnam as a fire direction officer.

With just a platoon of infantrymen to guard their perimeter, Weist's unit somehow repelled wave after wave of enemy soldiers during an all-night attack. Weist received a Bronze Star and came to the attention of a Special Forces lieutenant colonel who insisted Weist help build an effective artillery firebase at Parrot's Beak near the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Special Forces troops made incursions into Cambodia from this spot, and the enemy mortared it every night.

By the time his tour ended, Weist had seen enough blood, counted enough dead bodies, and stayed awake when moonless nights provided cover for the enemy.

He was eager to board "The Freedom Bird" when the Army offered another option. If Weist would sign on for another year in Vietnam, captain bars would be pinned on his shoulders.

He refused.

"Hell, I was lucky to make it through this one," Weist said.

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

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



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Miles Teller and Beulah Koale

Director's Note

With the Army as his answer to a slew of college rejection letters, my older brother shipped off to the Middle East in 1991. Our family huddled around the TV watching dust-clouded news feeds of U.S. forces as they drove Saddam out of Kuwait. After a speedy victory, my brother came home with his arms and legs and

sense of humor intact. He told us war was boring and hotter than hell, but another story seemed to vibrate behind his pale eyes. Ground combat lasted a mere 100 hours, but it had altered him. Like my uncle who fought in Vietnam, and my grandfather who flew in WWII, my brother would never talk about it. It became the unspoken space between us.

In 2013, I was introduced to "Thank You for Your Service" by

mare otherwise known as the VA, the book was a sprawling, winding masterpiece. Still, it needed a narrative structure, a heartbeat and a hero if it were ever to become a film.

We found our hero in Adam Schumann. Like my brother, he came home changed. The war still echoed through his existence, fracturing his identity and uprooting his future. But in his struggle I found a tale of survival and hope.

That was the story I hoped to tell anyway. At that time, I had just finished writing *American Sniper* and had watched Chris Kyle emerge from his own battles with PTSD only to be tragically murdered. Adam's story struck me as a way to continue the conversation, to transition from Achilles to Odysseus, and see a warrior home.

The men of the 2-16 didn't come back to book deals or popular acclaim—they were normal grunts hoping to return to normal lives. But for many of them that dream was gone. Finkel earned their trust by following them into battle; I endeavored to do the same. They carried me across their war, reliving every lacerating memory that still echoed inside them. In doing so they empowered me to paint a personal picture of their sacrifice, in hopes that it may lead to a deeper understanding of the unthinkable sacrifice that all our veterans have made in the service of this country.

— Jason Hall

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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World's Smallest Drug-sniffing Police Dog Retires

By Jerri Donohue

When Geauga County deputies suspected drugs inside a car during a routine traffic stop, they summoned Sheriff Dan McClelland. He soon arrived with Midge, his drug-sniffing Chihuahua-rat terrier.

The car's occupants recognized the dog.

"They asked, 'Oh, my gosh, is that Midge? Can we take her picture?'" McClelland recalled.

"But we said, 'Why don't you wait a minute? We might be taking yours.'"

During her long career, Midge appeared on "Animal Planet," "The Today Show," MSNBC, CNN and local television stations. TV programs in Japan, England, Germany, Switzerland, Israel and Canada featured her.

Readers of *People*, *National Geographic Kids Magazine*, *InTouch* and even *Playboy* learned about her, and she also earned a place in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

Midge was a novelty, a pint-sized police dog certified to detect marijuana, hashish, cocaine, crack,

heroin, meth-amphetamines, Percocet and Fentanyl.

McClelland met Midge when she was 10 weeks old. At that time, he was looking for a small dog to train for narcotic work. Meanwhile, a dispatcher's parents were seeking a home for the runt

of their pets' recent litter. The sheriff considered a "small" police dog to weigh from 25 to 40 pounds, but he agreed to see the 2-pound puppy in his office.

Midge explored the room, sniffing everything from McClelland's chairs to his boots to his pen. Impressed by her curious nose, McClelland took the dog home for a sleepover. Midge found her forever home when she promptly bonded with Buffy, the family's 19-year old Benji-type mongrel.



Midge and Sheriff Dan McClelland

The tiny puppy was so toy-like, McClelland and his wife, Beverly, named her "Midge" after their (now grown) daughter's favorite childhood doll.

When McClelland donned his uniform each day, he dressed Midge in a tee shirt embroidered with

her badge number.

Like other police dogs, Midge worked for praise and play, not treats. She began narcotic training at age three and a half months.

"Midgie, go get the dope," McClelland would tell the little dog. She learned to stop and stare him in the eye whenever she found it. They trained in buildings, parking lots, in fields, and to the cacophony of barking dogs in the animal warden's office.

Midge participated in her first

mission, a school search, when she was six months old. The day after her first birthday, she underwent the certification test administered by the Ohio Attorney General's Office for marijuana detection.

Midge excelled at finding drugs in car interiors and trunks, and unlike heavier dogs, she didn't scratch upholstery or cause other damage.

A frequent presence at community events, she helped build trust between the public and law enforcement personnel. "Poison-proofed," she refused food from strangers unless McClelland gave his permission. In schools, she darted to him whenever a child tried to pick her up. The sheriff seized such moments to teach kids about dangers from strangers.

Midge will celebrate her 12th birthday on November 6. Although she and McClelland retired at the end of last year, they are often out and about and recently visited nursing home residents. People sometimes ask if Midge does tricks.

"She finds dope," McClelland said.

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A Path to Your Light

By Paul Robert Ernst

A warm hello to all my brothers and sisters in the military, their families and loved ones, and those who care for them.

I work in the field of mental health. I love it and have been doing it for years. I still go to work every day with a smile, and pray that I open my heart to whatever comes before me, but some days, I gotta tell you ... well, you know.

Last year I went through a mental health crisis myself.

Walking around the house feeling useless; my life force just left me, and I couldn't get out of these blues. Didn't want to go to work, just wanted to die. Tried Prozac, Wellbutrin, and a couple other meds. For me, just made it worse.

That's not unusual for guys, especially those who have suffered trauma.

Guys are reluctant to get help. Let's say your car was falling apart and you

couldn't get to work. You'd get it fixed quickly.

So last year I underwent therapy myself. Had to get myself fixed. Was driving my beloved nuts with my depression.

This is just about one aspect of my therapy. I refer to it as an adjunct to therapy for PTSD, depression, low self-esteem, and more.

My therapist gave me homework every week. One of the things he said was, "Make a list, every day, of things that went well."

For years, my wife and I would share things we were happy about, things that put a smile on our faces that day. We've gotten out of that habit, sorry to say.

So we started that back up. I started exercising again.

I worked hard to be totally honest



in therapy, to face those demons that frightened and depressed me. It wasn't easy. I think of it as running up a hill. Difficult, but I could see the top.

I tried to be cognizant of, "what went well." I was doing that list every day and I really enjoyed it. Then I saw something on Facebook. It was a

picture of a Happiness Jar. It struck a nerve and I wanted to try it.

I started January 1. Here's a picture of my Happiness Jar, about eight months into the year. The lid is never screwed on.

That's what I wanted to share with you. I want to gently encourage you to do this yourself. Find a jar and start writing some good things about today. Every day. And watch the jar fill up. (Throw away the lid.)

Think about giving yourself or the troubled person in your life a Happiness Jar. It doesn't have to be fancy; dig it out of your recycling bin.

It will make a difference. Your heart will find light where it used to be hidden.

I send you goodness and light. From my heart to yours.

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Navy Veteran Finds Career Helping Other Veterans Navigate System after Their Service

Navy veteran Thomas Blackburn was driving tractor-trailers for 10 years after he got out of the service in 1994. When his truck was hit by another big rig he spent some time during his recuperation deciding if he wanted to go back to driving as a career.

"A lot of the problems the Veterans Administration was having started to become front page news at that time," Blackburn said. "That's when I decided I wanted to do something to help veterans improve their lives."

The Portsmouth, Ohio, native and his wife were living in Columbus but moved to Lorain County four years ago to be closer to their children and their grandchildren. "We didn't want to miss them growing up," he said.

He also found Lorain County Community College where he earned an associate of applied science degree in public administration and got involved with other activities that would prepare him to help veterans after graduation.

"I started at LCCC just as the college was extending its outreach to veterans," he said. "So, the time was right and I got a job as a student worker in the newly opened Veterans and Military Service Members Center."

Blackburn went on from there to working in the enrollment services area with Carrie Delaney assisting veterans. This work included participating on the Veterans Programming and Advisory committee on campus and partnering with the Lorain County Veterans Service Office and Veterans Administration on events and activities to aid veterans.

"These and other out-of-class experiences were quite valuable and had an impact on my career path after graduation," Blackburn said.

Shortly after graduating last May, Blackburn started working as a Veterans Service Officer with the Lorain County Veterans Service Office.

"When I began at LCCC, I knew I wanted to help veterans in some way but I wasn't exactly sure in what capacity," he said. "As I went along I became more interested in directly aiding them, to make sure they got the benefits they earned through their service to our nation."

He helps veterans and their families navigate the full menu of services offered to veterans, which can be a frustrating experience.

"There are so many great programs set up to help veterans but they can be challenging to access," Blackburn said. "Helping to smooth out these bureaucratic processes for clients is very rewarding."

For more information on services for veterans at LCCC call (440) 366-7685 or visit www.lorainccc.edu/veterans.

For more information on services for veterans at the Lorain County Veterans Services Office, call (440) 284-4625 or visit www.loraincountyveterans.com.



Thomas Blackburn



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

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



THANK YOU
Cleveland

Welcoming the Stranger

Catholic Charities Office of Migration and Refugee Services has a long history of answering the call to welcome the stranger. They are one of the frontline organizations in Greater Cleveland that provide a safe and hopeful refuge for our new neighbors.

"Our efforts give individuals resources they really need to improve their lives," said Tom Mrosko, Director of Catholic Charities Office of Migration and Refugee Services. "It's the first place they come and our priority is to help them learn English, find a place to live, get a job, help their children connect with day care or schools, navigate social services, and so much more."

"In addition to the hard working staff, we really depend on our devoted volunteers who make important contributions to meeting needs," said Mrosko.

"Tessa Laubacher is one of our valued volunteers who help refugees adapt to their new surroundings. Tessa serves in the Sisters of Humility of Mercy Volunteer Program and



Rubi Deng with Tessa Laubacher, a Sisters of Humility of Mercy volunteer who shares her time and offers tremendous support to help refugee families feel at home.

provides outreach and advocacy for new refugees, including Rubi Deng."

Rubi Deng is a soft-spoken Sudanese refugee making a new life here with her young son. Rubi fled a violent marriage before making her way to Cleveland. "I am very happy here and this is a place where I feel very welcomed. This is my new homeland," said Rubi.

The day we met with Rubi, she

settling into day care.

We were most impressed that Rubi loves that people work hard here and she wants to be one of those people that works hard. She is determined to give back and is well on her way to doing just that.

Rubi is, "very grateful for the caring people from Catholic Charities who have accepted me like family. It's good to be in a new home where I feel welcomed and accepted."

There is an incredible display of compassion and service by Catholic Charities Office of Migration Services to the refugee community as they answer the biblical call to welcome the stranger among us.

For more information on the Catholic Charities Office of Migration and Refugees, please call 216-281-7005.

shared good news that she will be starting work soon on the Refugee Farm. It was also her son's first day

"If Light Is In Your Heart You Will Find Your Way Home."

— Jalaluddin Rumi

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Ohio Department of Higher Education promotes scholarship opportunities such as the Ohio War Orphans Scholarship, Ohio Safety Officers Memorial Fund and Ohio National Guard Scholarship. It also helps connect students with financial aid resources through the Federal GI Bill or state-based initiatives like the Ohio College Opportunity Grant.

VA PENSION – AID AND ATTENDANCE PROGRAM

Veterans or their spouses who are age 65 and older or permanently and totally disabled may be eligible for monetary support to meet their home care, assisted living and/or nursing home expenses.

The veteran must have 90 days or more of active military service with at least one day during a period of war.

The veteran's discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable and the disability must be for reasons other than the veteran's own willful misconduct.

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- WWII: December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946.
 - Korean War: June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955.
 - Vietnam War: August 5, 1964 (February 28, 1961 for "in country" service) through May 7, 1975.
 - Gulf War: August 2, 1990 to present.
The disability does not need to be service related.
- Applicant requires assistance in personal function of daily living, bedridden, or in a nursing home.
 - Applicant must have limited assets and income. There is no set limit for assets. Each case is based upon the care needs of the applicant.
 - Applicant must have actual expenses relating to the care and assistance. These expenses are used to calculate the benefit.
 - VA pension can be received in conjunction with other government benefits.



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Polish Partisans Protected Downed Flier

By Jerri Donohue

Richard Hansler knew that German fighter pilots sometimes fired upon Allied fliers who parachuted from crippled planes. Hoping to escape their notice, the navigator delayed opening his parachute when he jumped from a B-17 on September 13, 1944.

The ploy worked. "When my 'chute opened, I wondered if I might be in Heaven," the 93-year old Pepper Pike resident said. "After all the chaos of being in the plane, [there was] the complete silence, and the beautiful surroundings of the fields and the mountains."

Hansler's crew had dropped their bombs on a synthetic gas manufacturing plant in Blechhamer, Germany.

As they left the target, an explosion knocked out two engines, the radio and their oxygen system. Enemy fighter planes attacked when they were forced to drop altitude in order to breathe. Realizing the

aircraft would never reach Allied territory, the crew bailed out.

Hansler landed in what was then Slovakia. Farmers who witnessed his descent hid him in the woods.

After dark, a man took the American by oxcart to a nearby village. The Germans arrived for a house-to-house search and Hansler slipped away and fled up the mountain. His helpers then turned him over to Polish partisans who led the flier across the border into Poland. He reunited with three crewmembers and learned the Germans had captured five others.

"The Major," a middle-aged veteran of the Polish army, led a band of 50 partisans who lived in tents while the airmen usually slept in



Richard Hansler

local homes. They gathered at a designated spot for meals, surviving on eggs, potatoes and cabbage. Hansler carried a pistol and took his turn at guard duty.

The partisans occasionally blew up bridges or ambushed enemy convoys. Hansler participated in one such mission, but the Germans retreated as soon as a nervous soldier opened fire.

The Poles wanted nothing to do with the approaching Red Army.

"They hated the Russians as much as they hated the Germans," Hansler said.

The Major knew the Soviets could get the fliers home, however, and so he delegated Hansler and a Canadian to make contact. A Russian patrol delivered the two

men to a drunken sergeant who assumed they were Germans and prepared to shoot Hansler. Nobody spoke English, but a sober corporal realized Hansler was American and interrupted the intended execution.

Hansler and the Canadian fetched the other Allied airmen – which by then included an Australian, a New Zealander and another American crew. The Russians trucked them all to the rear where Hansler collapsed with pneumonia. He spent six weeks in a Red Army field hospital before traveling alone by train to Odessa.

Shortly before the war ended in Europe, he sailed to Naples with hundreds of other Allied servicemen stranded in Russia.

Hansler's ordeal was over, but his family's was not. For months the navigator had been listed as Missing in Action. He sent his parents a telegram from Italy to confirm he was alive.

"My poor parents suffered a lot more than I did," Hansler said.



We provide two basic services:

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

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- Utilities: Gas, Electric and Water
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- Transportation to and from VA Medical Centers in Cleveland (Louis Stokes Hospital), Parma and Akron CBOC's, Ohio
- Grave markers and flags
- Free Notary for Veterans & Families

Service Assistance:

- Preparations of forms and paperwork
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- Submission for awards decorations and medals
- Notary Public & DD 214 Certification



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We'd like to thank all of our Veterans and Military for their on-going sacrifices to ensure our way of life shall never perish from this earth. May God Bless you and your families this upcoming Veterans Day.



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A HEART OF SERVICE

WALSH GRADUATE, FORMER SOLDIER ENCOURAGES VETERANS TO ACHIEVE ACADEMIC GOALS



James Sanders

When Sergeant James Sanders arrived at Walsh University in 2013, he wanted to do more than earn his college degree. He wanted to make a difference. And in four years at Walsh, he's done just that. Sanders left a legacy on campus that has enriched the entire University community while benefitting future members of the military who choose to attend Walsh.

Growing up in Marysville, Ohio, Sanders enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard after he graduated from high school.

"I was looking at my next steps and coming from a family

with a long history of military service, I realized that was the best path for me as well," said Sanders. "I enlisted a month after I turned 18 and in total served for seven years with one deployment to Afghanistan."

While in the Army National Guard, Sanders was employed for five years in food operations and spent the last two years of service in public affairs. As he prepared for deployment in 2012, Sanders began to think about what he wanted to do when he returned home to civilian life.

"Before I deployed, I began to explore my college options through the G.I. Bill. When I visited Walsh, I knew it would

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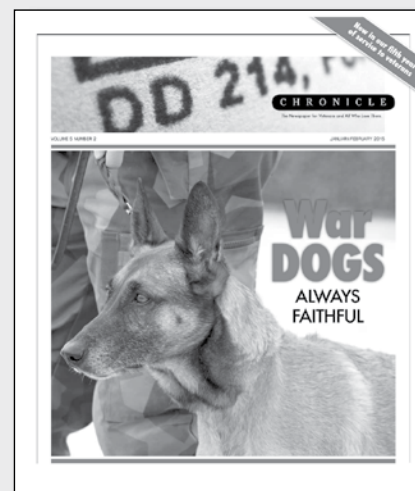
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be the right fit for me. I was 21 when I started as a freshman and still in active duty," said Sanders. "Coming into Walsh's values-based environment really helped me a lot. All of the support from faculty and staff at Walsh made the transition into college that much easier."

Sanders quickly became involved on campus as an ambassador with the Alumni Association and the Walsh University Student Government (WUSG). He served as a student Senator in his first semester and held almost every WUSG position available including President, Senate Chair and Senate Commissioner. He was also a member of the Walsh Track and Field Team, American Marketing Association, Lean in Club and the Walsh Business Club. He graduated in May 2017 with his bachelor's degree in Corporate Communications and double minors in Economics and Marketing. Through his work in Walsh's DeVille School of Business student organizations, he secured a job several months before graduation and is currently employed in the Management Development Program at Keenan Advantage Group in Stark County.

"I didn't know what to expect when I started at Walsh. The way I balanced everything was by jumping into as much stuff as I could. It forced me to hone my time management skills," said Sanders. "I know for some veterans, the idea of going back to school may seem overwhelming after being a part of the huge military culture. But I want them to know, it's really not. Especially if you get involved. And then, it's just like anything else you've done in the military. You adapt to the environment. You adapt to the culture."

While Sanders immersed himself in the community at Walsh, it is the work he did on behalf of his fellow veterans that makes him the proudest. During his first full year on student government, Sanders spearheaded the formation of a Student Government Veterans Commission to address the needs of military students on campus.

The Commission organized Veteran specific programming on campus and coordinated service projects such as a care package drive through the Walsh Campus Ministry for those serving overseas.

"We tried to initiate programs that would bring awareness to the Veterans among us on campus. One of my first goals was to begin a formal Veterans Day Flag Ceremony on campus. We researched and created a completely original program to honor U.S. veterans and those currently serving in our Armed Forces around the world. It has now gone on for four years,"

said Sanders. "Walsh University helped me make the transition, and I wanted to do something to give back to the University community before I left. All of these initiatives build off of each other and will help those who come after me enjoy a successful college experience like the one I was blessed with at Walsh."

Walsh University has been honored for seven consecutive

years as a Military Friendly School by *G.I. Jobs Magazine* and is also a proud participant in the Yellow Ribbon Program, a financial provision arrangement for military students as part of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. For more information about Walsh's commitment to attracting and supporting military students, visit www.walsh.edu/veterans.

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MICHAEL CORCORAN

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

By JC Sullivan



J.C. Sullivan



It began with a paragraph in the on-line Encyclopedia of Cleveland History. Michael Corcoran, a veteran of the 8th US Cavalry, was buried in Calvary Cemetery, and had been a recipient of the Medal of Honor (MOH).

Established in December, 1861, to boost morale during the Civil War, it is America's highest award for military valor.

Upon learning this, I wondered if there was an MOH stone at his gravesite. I phoned Thomas J. Kelley, then-Director of Business Development at Calvary Cemetery, Cleveland. He checked and was surprised to learn that "we had him." And, no, there was no MOH stone. "We never realized he was a Medal of Honor veteran."

Next I contacted a Hibernian brother, Mike Finnin, Columbus, thinking he would know someone who could secure a proper MOH stone. Mike led me to Amanda, Ohio resident Raymond J. Albert, a member of the National Medal of Honor Historical Society.

Through his efforts we secured a government-issued commemorative

white marble marker. Kelly added they would waive any fees associated with placing it at Corcoran's final resting place.

We were hoping the stone would arrive in time for us to plan a ceremony on Veterans Day, complete with full military fanfare; color guard, rifle salute, a bagpiper, bugler, and Catholic Chaplain. And I was hopeful we might locate any Corcoran descendants that might still reside in the area.

I contacted *The Plain Dealer* and reporter Janet Cho was given the assignment. She met us at a local restaurant. In a series of stories, she wrote that we were looking for descendants. "What would make everything complete," I said at the time, "would be if we could have family members present at the honor ceremony."

The morning it appeared, Corcoran's great granddaughter broke into tears as she read Cho's account of our search for her family. "I started crying, realizing that the family he was searching for was me and my family," Patty Corcoran Krutowskis of North Olmsted said.

She immediately called her sister Donna Gingrich, Brunswick, to tell her about it. They had spent years trying to track down information about Michael, who emigrated from County Cork, Ireland, and tried unsuccessfully to obtain a commemorative Medal of Honor marker for his grave.

He had enlisted in the Army in Wheeling, W.Va., and was assigned to the 8th U.S. Cavalry, operating out of Camp Whipple in the Arizona Territory, where they protected white settlers on the western frontier from the Apaches.

We don't know exactly what individual actions Corporal Corcoran took on that August day in 1869 when they engaged a band of Apaches between the Agua Fria and Rio Verde rivers, but he may have been among a group of 24 men who fought with a band of Indians, killing six.

We know he displayed courage, valor and unselfishness when he took action against an enemy. Nonetheless, it tells us much about his character. In 1916 the government dropped 911 names from the roster of the Medal of Honor. Michael Corcoran's name was not

one of them. His discharge papers simply say, "He was a good, sober and faithful soldier."

Despite a temperature of 42 degrees, about 80 people turned out for the Veterans Day event at Calvary Cemetery, including about 25 Corcoran descendants, several veterans groups, and dozens of strangers who simply wanted to honor Veterans Day with other veterans. "I just want to thank everybody here for what they've done for my grandfather," a teary-eyed Bob Corcoran said. At his home in Pembroke Pines, Florida is the Medal of Honor awarded to his grandfather.

James Corcoran, Brooklyn, said of his grandfather: "He died in 1919, never talked about fighting Apaches or the Medal of Honor he received for his bravery in combat. We, as does the nation, remember him as a hero. I don't know what he would think of it, because he never talked much, but I'd like to have had him see it."

Sullivan, a U.S. Army 2nd Armored Division veteran, is a fellow Desert Rat, having also served in the Arizona Mojave Desert in an operation dubbed "Desert Strike."

* Fly Fishing

NETS LASTING BENEFITS FOR DISABLED VETS

By Jerri Donohue



Since Mike Paris began overseeing the Akron program of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) three years ago, he has watched disabled veterans develop skills - and friendships.

"They help one another," Paris said. "Two or three of the guys are exceptional fly-tiers. They help the newbies. That's what we are interested in, that camaraderie."

Paris' counterpart in Cleveland, Monte Casey, agreed.

"That's the healing part," Casey said. "They gather in groups, and they start talking with one another and enjoying good conversations, as well as doing the activities."

Navy veteran Ed Nicholson, who grew up in Wadsworth, co-founded Project Healing Waters in 2005. Nicholson realized fly fishing gives disabled veterans physical, psychological and social benefits. The project provides instruction in fly-tying, casting and rod building and organizes several outings each year. Participation is open to veterans injured in civilian life as well as those who sustained injuries during military service. There is never any cost to the veteran.

"The tactile skills are so important for some of the vets that have handicaps with arms or legs," Paris said.

Casting or working with flies strengthens certain muscles and improves hand-eye coordination.

Casey noted that fly-tying also helps veterans with traumatic brain injuries to improve focus.

"It takes concentration to do fly-tying and it takes motor skills," he said. "It's not very difficult, but it takes those two things."

During several PHWFF outings each year, vets apply what they learn. The neighbor of a participating veteran recently invited the anglers to fish his large private pond in Clinton, and he hosted a barbecue for them. Pine Lake Trout Club in Chagrin Falls treated the veterans to lunch and a day of fishing in June, and other groups have welcomed them.

Casey said such organizations can provide dedicated, skilled volunteers. Members of Firelands Flyfishers currently work with vets at a location in Sheffield Village. Casey hopes to expand Project Healing Waters to an eastside location, and to one in southern Cuyahoga County. To do this, he needs volunteers willing

to commit their time on an ongoing basis.

The Akron program, which extends to veterans as far south as Columbus, meets twice each month. Paris praises the volunteers who make this possible, including a man active in Western Reserve Trout Unlimited out of Wadsworth.

Both Paris and Casey would like to recruit veterans as volunteers, and they encourage more disabled vets to try Project Healing Waters.

Casey uses his own experience to illustrate the benefits of fly fishing. Several years ago, a car accident left him with a shoulder injury that could not be repaired surgically. When a doctor recommended activity to reduce his pain, Casey tried fishing with a fly rod.

"When you are on the water, the sound of the water, the tranquility of it, and watching your line to get a bite, it does something to you," Casey said. "It takes your mind off whatever your problem is."

For information on the Akron program, contact Paris at 330-452-6475 or at mike.paris65@gmail.com. For the Cleveland program, contact Casey at 440-773-8064 or phwffcleveland@gmail.com.

THE TRI-C VETERANS INITIATIVE Celebrating A Decade of Success

For over 53 years, Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) has demonstrated its obligation to the men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces by providing Veterans with access to affordable education and workforce training programs that enable them to successfully transition from military to civilian life. Cuyahoga Community College enrolls the sixth largest number of student Veterans in Ohio. This past year the College, for the eighth consecutive year, earned the designation as a "Military Friendly School" by GI Jobs Magazine. More importantly Tri-C was ranked fifth in the nation in service to veterans out of 700 community colleges participating in the survey conducted by Victory Media and the global accounting firm of Ernest & Young.

"It is estimated some 30,000 veterans have had their futures begin at Tri-C since the College opened its doors," said retired U. S. Coast Commander Rick DeChant, the Executive Director of the Tri-C Veterans Initiative. "This November marks the tenth anniversary of the roll out of the Colleges formally established Veterans Initiative. In that decade, the College's Veterans Initiative has assisted 35,800 Veterans and military family members in preparing for college and has helped them as they transition into academic programs or fast-track workforce training programs that are aligned with the needs of area employers." During the past decade the Cuyahoga Community College's Veterans Initiative has:

- Has conducted contact with 7,000 Veteran and military families annually through activities and community outreach events
- Served a diverse student and community base of 65% male, 35% female, and 35% minorities
- Offered academic assessments and guidance for developing academic and career plans
- Connected Veterans with the College's fast-track certificate and degree programs
- Linked Veterans with College-Staffed Success Teams on each campus. The teams oversee connections with counseling, tutoring and numerous other resources provided by the College
- Connected Veterans with support available through the GI Bill and assists Veterans in obtaining other financial assistance, including scholarships provided through the Alfred Lerner Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund

Serving as a key component of the Veterans Initiative, Cuyahoga Community College's Veterans Services Centers provide outreach and support services to Veterans at the College's Arconic Foundation Metropolitan Campus Veteran Center, the RPM

Westshore and Brunswick Campuses Veteran Centers, the Kisco Foundation Crile Veterans Center and Archives at the Western Campus, and at the Alfred Lerner Veterans Center at the Eastern Campus.

"One of our proudest moments came on December 7, 2010 (Pearl Harbor Day) when, with the support of AT&T, retired Tri-C faculty member and veteran Ms. Bettie Baker, and the leadership at The Louis Stokes VA Medical Center, we opened the Veterans Education Connection Center," said DeChant. "The Veterans Education Connection Center at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in Cleveland is only the second college Veterans Center in the nation to be located in a VA hospital. Veterans receiving counseling and other services at the VA Medical Center can not only take online classes from Cuyahoga Community College, they also receive college counseling, learn more about their education and training options, register for classes, apply for GI Bill benefits and use a wide array of educational and career resources."

Over the past few years the Veterans Initiative has made a major mid-course adjustment to enhance its services. "One of the challenges of being a Veteran or military family member in Northeast Ohio is that there is only one major military base in the state, with none in this area. Veterans, retirees and families who live near major installations can go back to those bases for assistance and resources," said DeChant. "Knowing this gap existed, we changed our service model to, 'if you don't know

where to start for help, your welcome inside our fence line at Tri-C.'" This means you don't have to be a student veteran at the College to make use of its Veteran Centers and their resources. All Veterans and military families are welcome. The College has hosted numerous events for the Veteran -military community including but not limited to:

Planting of the Poppies: Memorial Day event held at the College's Veterans Memorial Garden

Veterans Benefits "Check Up": Conducted in partnership with the Veterans Benefits, the Veterans Health Administration, and the Cuyahoga Veterans Services Commission. The August 2017 event directly helped 530 Veterans who needed assistance with VA benefits claims issues

Hiring our Heroes Veterans Job Fair: This event attracted 67 regional employers and 166 pre-registered Veterans. 889 resumes were received at this event and 267 job interviews conducted. Nine jobs were offered on-site

So what does the next decade hold for the Tri-C Veterans Initiative? DeChant responded as any good sailor would, "It's all ahead full!"

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