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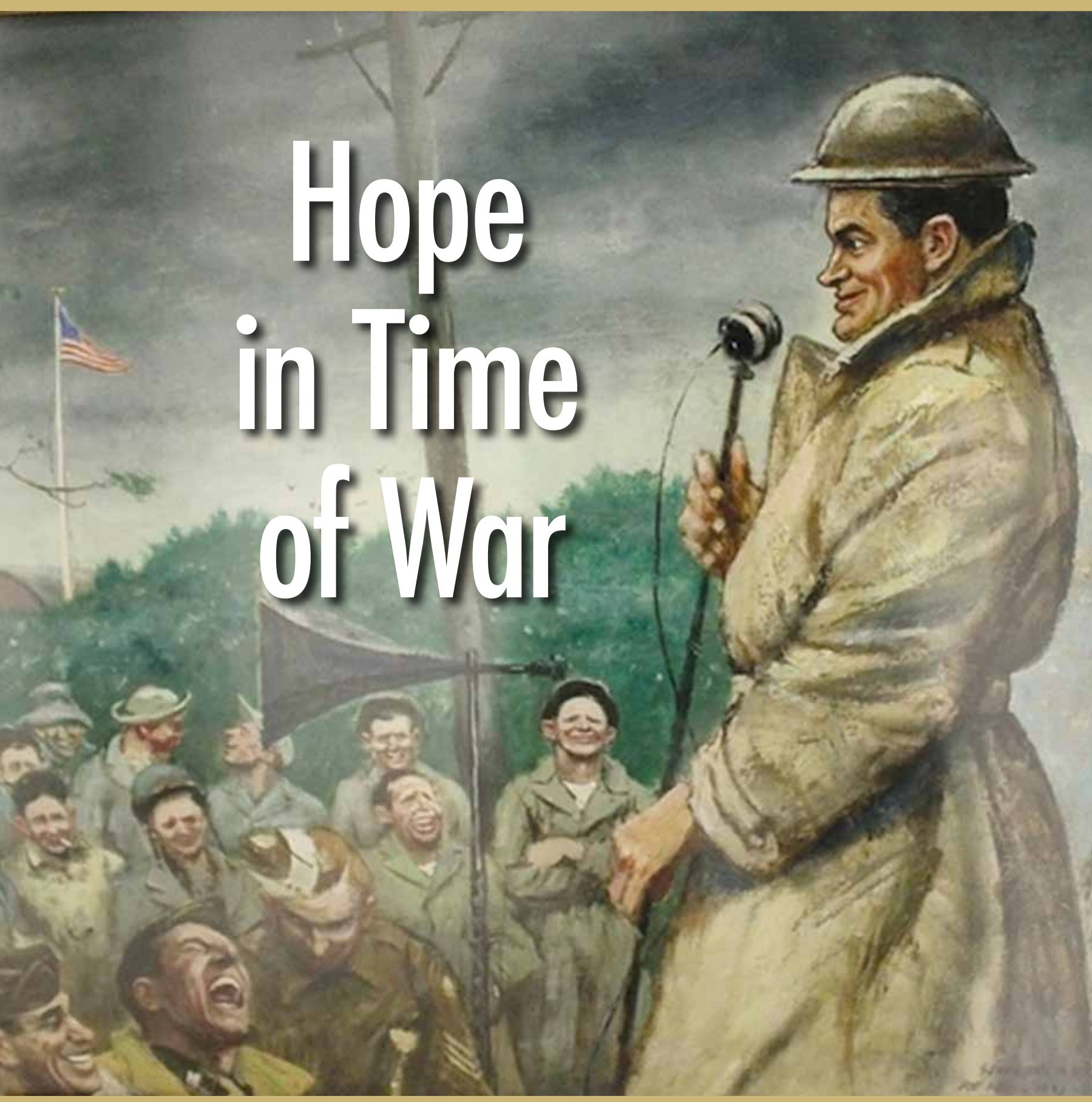


CHRONICLE

The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 4

MAY/JUNE 2014



Hope in Time of War



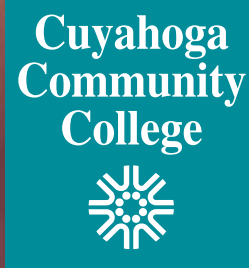
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CHRONICLE

The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

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STAND AT EASE By John H. Tidyman, Editor

"It's very dramatic when two people come together to work something out. It's easy to take a gun and annihilate your opposition, but what is really exciting to me is to see people with differing views come together and finally respect each other."

Fred Rogers, *The World According to Mister Rogers: Important Things to Remember*

Phillip Morris, *Plain Dealer* columnist and one of Cleveland's best and most thoughtful writers, recently wrote about concealed carry. His style is to not rant or rave, but to set the table for debate, and hope the guests are mannerly.

The recent history of toting guns under one's shirt or suit jacket seems to be working well, e.g., stories about licensed, gun-toting idiots misusing their guns are few and far between. I am right about that, am I not? I say that because the number of concealed carry tragedies seems miniscule when compared to the number of license holders.

But the two sides of the issue don't

want to listen to the other. What a shame.

There is always room for intelligent, spirited debate. Just look at the writing of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. But there is no room, and no solution, when debate descends to name-calling, illogical rhetoric, or fear.

(Before I forget, and I often do, it's legal to carry a gun in the open. My late, great friend, Bill Spellacy, was a Cleveland cop. He was sent to an assignment where a citizen saw a man carrying a gun in the open.



Bill told the complainant that the gun-toting guy wasn't breaking any law. Bill followed the guy with the gun for a while, but, again, no crime was committed.)

Do you think concealed (and open) carry is just part of our heritage? Do most concealed

(and open) carry advocates have a family history with guns? Do cities, towns, and states keep and maintain records of incidents involving concealed carry? It would be interesting to see the number of concealed carry

incidents v. number of license holders. Should this little ditty be part of education: He who fights and runs away lives to fight another day?

Personally, I'm in favor of concealed carry, with a few stipulations: Proper and complete training, including the many laws that govern concealed carry; More clear legislation re the legal use of firearms; Refresher courses, say, every three years, on changing laws and applications.

I would add that only American-made handguns be sold, but that would be interfering with our freedom of choice, something I'm not prepared to support.

Mail Call

Serendipity

I happened to come across your newspaper that someone left in the lobby of my apartment. I enjoyed reading it and appreciate the effort to bring these stories and information to people on the local level.

As a woman who has never served I always read stories of our guys' heroism where ever I run across them, even in the 'dying' Plain Dealer. The challenge I see is seeing that teens and young adults understand the sacrifices these men made for us.

I don't know the meaning of DD 214 and would suggest there be a short explanation of it running in every edition. Thanks.

Janice Gabrovsek

Editor's Note: DD 214 is the military discharge document and recognized by every veteran.

Siskel & Ebert Revisited

I'm sitting here reading the DD214 of March/April 2014. I'm enjoying every page, and I come to the movie reviews.

Is this guy on narcotics? Professor Meehan, Stalag 17 is a dark com-

edy? I was watching the wrong Stalag 17 all this time. I gave it five stars in the book as one of the most chilling psycho-dramas of all time, and it's a comedy?

This guy must have thought One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest a laugh riot.

What's he do at funerals, juggle? *Don't you love opinion?*
Eli Beachy

Veterans Treated Like Crap at American Legion Hall

My dear friend Paul and his wife, who reside in Queens, N.Y., and my wife and I residing in Hartville, Ohio arranged a mini reunion in Gettysburg, Pa.

Paul and I have not seen each other since the invasion of Okinawa in June 1945.

However we have kept in touch. We are both U. S. Navy World War II veterans. The four of us had a wonderful reunion discussing our war time experiences with our wives.

We stayed at a beautiful "bed & breakfast" a little out of town. The bed & breakfast manager informed

us that there was an American Legion Post just a few blocks from where we were staying that was serving a steak dinner that night. Wonderful, now we don't need to fight the



hold a 109th anniversary celebration of Cleveland's Kosciuszko monument and observe the 223rd anniversary of the May 3rd, 1791 Polish Constitution. This event will be organized and sponsored by the Polish American Cultural Center, JP II. We would like to invite all Veterans and their families to share the afternoon with us as we recognize and celebrate an American Hero and Polish Patriot of the American Revolutionary War along with recognizing the Polish Constitution. The first European constitution and Kosciuszko was also a defender of the Polish Constitution.

Sincerely,
Gary Kotlarsic
216-513-6646

Education Benefits Students, of Course, and It Also Benefits Our Community

traffic or parking to find a restaurant for dinner.

Now comes the good part --- we walked to the American Legion and were greeted by the doorman. I showed him my VFW Card and told him Paul and I both were World War II veterans and came for dinner.

We were not permitted to enter. The doorman said "Veteran or not, no American Legion cards, no admittance." Paul had been a member for many years but did not have his card with him. (I had my VFW card with me and showed it to him again.)

He repeated, "no card, no admittance". We left and walked back to pick up our car and head downtown to try to find a restaurant and parking.

Paul and I just don't understand American Legion policy. We both would like someone to explain what happened that evening. We are all in our eighties, don't drink, don't smoke, don't cuss and are very quiet. Just a couple of old World War II veterans and our families.

Kind'a wondering, what this world is coming to?

Walter E. Stine

American Hero and Polish Patriot
On May 3rd, 2014 at 2:00pm we will

Every day we hear about the impact that scholarships make in the lives of our students at Cuyahoga Community College. Scholarships help our students to complete their education.

You can create opportunities for our students with your gift to support scholarships. One gift can help enable a student to earn a college degree. When a student earns an associate degree, he or she is on the path to a better life.

Earlier this month, the Pew Research Center released a report, The Rising Cost of Not Going to College, indicating that individuals with a college degree are better off financially than those without a degree. The report shows the widening gap of income between those who have only a high school diploma and those who hold a two-year degree.

I hope you will consider investing in our students. Your return will be a better community for all of us.

Gloria J. Moosmann
Vice President,

Development & Tri-C Foundation
Cuyahoga Community College
Foundation

700 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland,
Ohio 44115

216-987-4868 foundation@tri-c.edu

The Commander-in-Chief on Receiving the Nobel Peace Prize

President Barack Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009. Here is part of his remarks:



"To begin with, I believe that all nations — strong and weak alike — must adhere to standards that govern the use of force. I — like any head of state — reserve the right to act unilaterally if necessary to defend my nation. Nevertheless, I am convinced that adhering to standards, international standards, strengthens those who do, and isolates and weakens those who don't.

"The world rallied around America after the 9/11 attacks, and continues to support our efforts in Afghanistan, because of the horror of those senseless attacks and the recognized principle of self-defense. Likewise, the world recognized the need to confront Saddam Hussein when he invaded Kuwait — a consensus that sent a clear message to all about the cost of aggression."

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Lorain County Community College

Friends, Romans, and Countrymen, Lend Me Your Ears

By Bennet Nettleton

One reason, and an important one, the Romans were able to create the Roman Empire, was its military. Recruits were well-trained and fit. The Roman army, with its sophisticated strategies and techniques, conquered lands and people with the ferociousness of an attack dog. New recruits, however, had some restrictions. Because of their inexperience in battle, they were placed on the front lines. The more experienced and valuable soldiers were behind them. This strategy prevented the fresh soldiers from succumbing to fear. And severe punishment was the order of the day if they left before the battle was won.

Memorial Day originated during the Civil War, when some southern women chose May 30th to decorate soldiers' graves. The honor was for the dead of both the Union and Confederate armies. It is believed that Cassanda Oliver Moncure of Virginia was the one responsible for this event.

Walter Reed Hospital, in Washington, D.C., was named for the Army pathologist who led experiments that proved yellow fever was transmitted from a mosquito bite. He was born in 1851 and went to his appointment with the Big Doctor in the Sky in 1902.

War is not only horrible, it is profitable. In World War I, arms manufacturers made money hand over fist. In World War I, troops had quite a selection of side arms, odd because a pistol isn't accurate



from trenches. The handguns included: Colt M1892, Colt M1911, Colt Model 1903 Pocket Hammerless, Colt New Service, and Smith & Wesson Model 10.

In World War I, air power proved to be a deadly enemy to shipping. It was one of the reasons more powerful aircraft were developed.

In 1925, atheism and religion battled in court. It was known as the Scopes Monkey Trial, and pitted Tennessee against John Scopes. Scopes taught evolution and the state invoked the Butler Act, which made teaching evolution a crime.

Also in 1925, the Charleston dance was created and enthusiastically embraced by young people. The dance and dancers were blamed for the catastrophic collapse of the Pickwick Club in Boston. Forty-four peo-

ple died and many suffered injuries.

In 1927, 'talkies' made their way into movie theaters, and the entertainment business would never be the same. One of the first movies came from Warner Brothers, "The Jazz Singer."

Japanese-Americans, eager to fight against the Axis powers in World War II, were sent to the European theater because posting them in the Pacific theater would likely cause confusion. The largest Nisei unit was the 442nd Infantry Regiment, and its motto was, "Go for Broke." It was known as the "Purple Heart Battalion" for the number of casualties it suffered. About 14,000 men served and they earned 9,486 Purple Hearts, 4,000 Bronze Stars, 1,200 Oak Leaf Clusters added to the Bronze Stars, 560 Silver Stars

by Choice, Killing by Profession," although a more subdued motto was, "The Legion is Our Strength."

The 82nd Airborne is known as the "All-Americans" because when the division was formed in 1917, original members came from every state in the Union.

The 2nd Armored Division's nickname, "Hell on Wheels," was the prescient phrase of George Patton, who predicted the unit would live up to its nickname on the field of battle.

The famed 101st Airborne Division is known as, "Screaming Eagles," a reference to the eagle head on the shoulder patch.

The 1st Infantry Division's nickname, "The Big Red One," comes from its patch, which is a bright red numeral one on an olive background.

with 28 Oak Leaf Clusters, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 15 battlefield commissions, and 23 of our highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor.

This will surprise you. During WWII, 30,000 conscientious objectors performed alternative service. They were battlefield medics, hospital attendants, and workers in the Civilian Public Service camps.

Most military units have nicknames. Even the French Foreign Legion, "Living by Chance, Loving

by Choice, Killing by Profession," although a more subdued motto was, "The Legion is Our Strength."

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You're Invited! Say Goodbye and Good Luck to former VA Med Center Director William Montague; Not Just Going to the Slammer, but has to Pay Back \$400,000

By Buddy Glazer

(Cleveland, O.) Bad Bill Montague, whose tenure at the VA was somewhat marred when he was convicted of filling his garage with a shopping cart of loot from contractors building the new VA Center, will be feted by friends, relatives, contractors not yet in jail, and federal prosecutors.

Bad Bill agreed to charges that included mail

fraud, money laundering, and bribery.

"But none of this means I'm a bad person," he said at his trial. "I mean, I was the big enchilada at the VA for fifteen years. Shouldn't that count for something?"

It is not yet clear whether his pension will be forfeited or donated to the Ohio Lottery.

Van Halen's cover of "Bad Bill (is Sweet William Now)," will be the show-stopper, and the St. John's Cathedral Choir will perform "Billy, Don't be a Hero."

The sendoff is scheduled for April 1, at the Bars & Bunks Saloon, from noon to midnight. There is no charge, and veterans will not be charged for cocktails.

From Mean Streets to the Marine Corps to Cuyahoga Community College to a Career: One Man's Inspiring Story

Lorenzo McCoy made changes in his life to survive and succeed. That led him to the U.S. Marine Corps after high school and later brought him to Cuyahoga Community College.

McCoy grew up in Cleveland, moving from neighborhood to neighborhood throughout his childhood. He had more addresses than years in school and often found trouble on the city's streets. "I was with the wrong crowd," he said.

And it almost killed him. A day on the East Side in 2006 ended with McCoy pistol-whipped and beaten. The moment changed his life. "I was going to die out here if I didn't do something," he said.

Soon after the incident, McCoy walked into a U.S. Armed Forces recruitment office and loudly asked, "Which one of you is the hardest in

the world?" A Marine Corps recruiter spoke up. McCoy decided then to become a Marine Reserve officer.

McCoy trained to become a data network system specialist who builds and maintains computer systems. He served six years as an active reservist with the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines Regiment, 4th Marine Division in Brook Park. During that time, McCoy deployed to Afghanistan for a yearlong tour with an infantry unit and spent three months in Australia training soldiers to complete amphibian-style missions.

The military gave McCoy discipline and guided him down a new life path.



Lorenzo McCoy

Last year, he turned to Tri-C to build his résumé and find success as a civilian.

His mother encouraged him to utilize the U.S. Department of Labor's Technical Skills Training Program,

which provides tuition, books and certification exam fees. The program gives priority enrollment to veterans to become network support specialists.

McCoy was accepted into the federal program and enrolled at Tri-C. In April 2013, he completed his network support specialist training. He quickly earned his professional certifications and began an internship that turned into full-time work at

FIT Technologies in Cleveland.

Today, he is a lead network engineer at Vista Data Systems in Akron, where he installs, configures and troubleshoots computer networks for companies large and small.

McCoy credits the 16-week program at Tri-C with catapulting him into his new career and bridging his transition from the military. (He remains an Individual Ready Reservist.) He said the College and its experienced instructors introduced him to the latest technology and equipment while providing him an opportunity to earn credentials needed to enter the workforce.

"I am in a profession where the certifications Tri-C prepared me for are considered premier," McCoy said. "It was pretty easy to find a job once I finished the program."

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"... undaunted concern for his comrades at the cost of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army."

By Rich Hockman

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Cpl. Bennett distinguished himself while serving as a platoon medical aidman with the 2d Platoon, Company B, during a reconnaissance-in-force mission. On 9 February the platoon was moving to assist the 1st Platoon of Company D which had run into a North Vietnamese ambush when it became heavily engaged by the intense small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and rocket fire from a well-fortified and numerically superior enemy unit.

"In the initial barrage of fire, 3 of the point members of the platoon fell wounded. Cpl. Bennett, with complete disregard for his safety, ran through the heavy fire to his fallen comrades, administered life-saving first aid under fire and then made repeated trips carrying the wounded men to positions of relative safety



from which they would be medically evacuated from the battle position. "Cpl. Bennett repeatedly braved the intense enemy fire moving across open areas to give aid and comfort to

his wounded comrades. He valiantly exposed himself to the heavy fire in order to retrieve the bodies of several fallen personnel.



Cpl. Thomas W. Bennett

"Throughout the night and following day, Cpl. Bennett moved from position to position treating and comforting the several personnel who had suffered shrapnel and gunshot wounds.

"On 11 February, Company B again moved in an assault on the well-fortified enemy positions and became heavily engaged with the numerically superior enemy force. Five members of the company fell wounded in the initial assault. Cpl. Bennett ran to their aid without regard to the heavy fire. He treated 1 wounded comrade and began running toward another seriously wounded man. Although the wounded man was located forward of the company position covered by heavy enemy grazing fire and Cpl. Bennett was warned that it was impossible to reach the position, he leaped forward with complete disregard for his safety to save his comrade's life.

"In attempting to save his fellow soldier, he was mortally wounded. Cpl. Bennett's undaunted concern for his comrades at the cost of his life above and beyond the call of duty

are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army."

Born in Morgantown, West Virginia, Thomas W. Bennett was sociable and deeply religious. A student at West Virginia University, he formed the Campus Ecumenical Council during his freshman year.

When he was placed on academic probation after the fall 1967 semester, he considered his options should he lose his academic deferment. Deeply patriotic, but opposed to killing on religious grounds, he opted to enlist as a conscientious objector who was willing to serve. This classification is different from a conscientious objector who will not assist the military in any way. He was trained as a field medic.

Cpl. Thomas W. Bennett arrived in South Vietnam on January 1, 1969, and was assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. The unit began a series of strenuous patrols in the dense, mountainous terrain. On February 9, 1969, the unit came under intense fire, and Cpl. Bennett risked gunfire to pull at least five wounded men to safety. That evening, his platoon sergeant recommended him for the Silver Star.

Over the coming days, Cpl. Bennett repeatedly put himself in harm's way to tend to the wounded. On February 11, while attempting to reach a soldier wounded by sniper fire, Cpl. Bennett was gunned down. On April 7, 1970, his posthumous Medal of Honor was presented to his mother and stepfather by President Richard Nixon.

A dormitory tower at West Virginia University's Evansdale Residential Complex is named in his honor.

A medical clinic at Fort Hood is named in his honor.

Bennett is one of the reasons we stop, remember, and celebrate the lives of our troops.

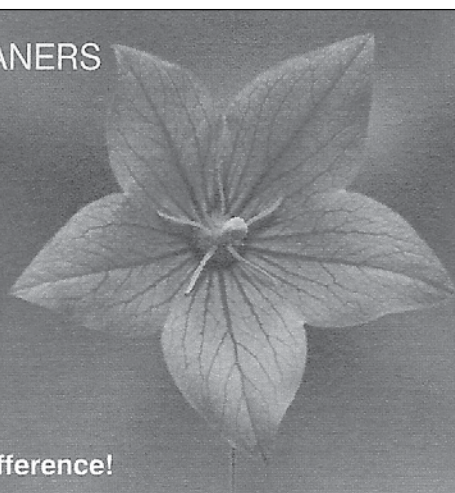
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THE VOW

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On The Cover:
PFC Matthew Zajac, U.S. Army
with his father, Mike Zajac



THE GREATER CLEVELAND FISHER HOUSE



An Officer, a Gentleman, and a Physician: "We protected you in war and still have something to offer you in peace."

By Colonel Edward P. Horvath, M.D., Deputy Commander, Clinical Services
256th Combat Support Hospital

The recent cover story in the *Chronicle* ("Thank you for your service — Helpful or Harmful?" by Bridget Ludwa O'Hanlon, January-February 2014), deserves a measured response. While grateful for the assistance she provides veterans in her role as Student Advisor at Cuyahoga Community College, I'm concerned that the misconceptions contained in her article could prove detrimental to the very veterans she serves.

The author's main points seem to be: (1) "Freebies" given to veterans by businesses create an "entitlement mindset", (2) others who also provide service to society (e.g. police, firefighters, teachers, volunteers) are not accorded the same honor and respect as the military, and (3) honoring these personnel on a "similar level of enthusiasm" would alleviate the sense of "otherness" many veterans experience on returning home.

At last count, approximately 200 businesses nationwide offer discounts to active military or veterans; most of these are in the range of 10-15 percent. The majority of those who take advantage of these discounts (and many do not) save no more than one to two hundred dollars annually, if that. It's difficult to imagine how a dollar or two off a meal at Wendy's creates a sense of entitlement or isolation. The author fails to mention other more substantial benefits available to qualifying veterans: free or inexpensive health care, low interest loans and loan for-

giveness, disability payments, and financial support for education.

The monetary value of these benefits dwarfs those discounts which are of such concern to the author. If an entitlement mentality exists among the veterans or military population (and it does in a few cases), it's because of these more substantial benefits and not an occasional discounted cheeseburger.

The author states uniforms are being worn "unnecessarily", and that veterans use their service to circumvent established procedures, but provides no examples of either alleged abuse.

Uniform wear is either "authorized" or "unauthorized", not "necessary" or "unnecessary". Whether a uniform is authorized for wear depends on one's military status (active component, Reserve, retired) and specific circumstances (engaged in active duty or drill, on travel, during special events of a military nature). Uniform wear is subject to literally hundreds of pages of regulations and can be confusing, even to soldiers. It's doubtful any civilian would be able to distinguish authorized from unauthorized wear in most circumstances.

Military-trained personnel are more conscientious than most in complying with rules, regulations, and procedures. What may appear to a civilian as deliberate circumvention or seeking special privilege may simply be a convenience offered a soldier in



Colonel Edward P. Horvath

Throughout human history, societies have accorded special status to its warriors, recognizing that citizens depended on them for the very survival. Our country is no different. It's not surprising that the American public has consistently regarded the U.S. military as one of the nation's most trusted and admired institutions.

It is the sacrifice, dedication, and courage of America's military which sets them

apart. A feature article in *Time* magazine ("An Army Apart: The Widening Military — Civilian Gap, November 21, 2011) explored the increasing isolation of America's military from the rest of society.

A number of factors were cited as an explanation of this phenomenon — none of them had anything to do with "freebies" or other benefits. Most-often mentioned was the relatively small proportion of Americans who serve in the military, less than 1% of the population (another 7% are veterans). As Army veteran Ron Capps stated, "There's no challenge for the 99% of the American people who are not (currently) involved in the military. They don't lose soldiers who die overseas, they're not being forced to pay for the wars, and there's no sense among the vast population of what we're engaged in." As another soldier reported, "America's not at war — America's military and their families are at war. The rest of America is at the mall, shopping."

Once again, the media is part of the problem. During my year-long deployment in Iraq, as American involvement wound down, the media reported that the war was already over — President Obama had brought all the troops home and American soldiers were no longer dying in the desert.

Continued on page 18

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven

By Jonah Fortune

What a remarkable place is Hospice of the Western Reserve.

Its mission is simply stated, yet challenging to fulfill. The Hospice provides remarkable care for those of us about to finish our lives.

The Hospice staff is well trained and experienced. It provides palliative end-of-life care, caregiver support, and bereavement services.

If that sounds as if it is a dirge, the opposite is true: Hospice of the Western Reserve provides a safe, bright, comfortable facility where staff members insist on making the last days a comforting, pleasant and rewarding experience.

Staff cares for its patients and provides support for family members and friends. Saying goodbye to those we love is never easy, and the Hospice staff understands the many reactions of family members.

Some family members will grieve for a long time; others will express

grief but also gratitude because their loved ones were able to leave us with dignity and comfort.

Hospice is the rare facility that understands and provides compassion, dignity, and comfort. Hospice facilities are built with the patient's needs; they are bright, open, and comfortable.

ates with openness and pride.

Training is provided to employees, insisting the staff understands the diverse needs of both patient and families.

In addition to staff, volunteers are also taught Hospice mission and application of the special skills needed.

some, it may be offering comfort during a difficult human experience. For others, it may be a way of expressing gratitude for life. For still others, it may be a celebration of the goodness found in their own hearts.

It is a communal experience, not simply a way of saying goodbye.

Let us raise our glasses to staff and volunteers who understand life and death, who provide shoulders upon which to grieve, who dedicate themselves to a most human mission.

By giving back, you help ensure that Hospice of the Western Reserve care will be available to other Veterans and families in need. Your contributions help the agency provide services to all seriously ill patients, regardless of disease, age, or ability to pay. As a non-profit organization, all contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. To make a donation, visit www.hospicewr.org/donate, or call 855.475.0245.

Saying goodbye to those we love is never easy, and the Hospice staff understands the many reactions of family members.

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Hospice's reputation is important, and for that reason, the facility oper-

ates with openness and pride. What sort of person can provide service to patients and family members? It's not for everyone, but those among us whose hearts are generous, those who understand the sadness as well as the joy found in every life.

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From Jarhead to Baldwin Wallace University student: Where does Chad Welker get his energy?

By Kathy Steenblik

A few years ago, Chad Welker surprised his parents when he announced his near-term future would be in uniform. It was not a decision he made lightly.

After a few heart-to-hearts with his parents, they came to understand and support him.

Challenge was, he didn't know which branch of the service he wanted to join. He visited all the recruitment offices, and it came down to the Marines. That's what he wanted, to be a Marine.

He asked himself, once he arrived at Parris Island, "Oh, God, what did I do?" But the tough training there, the military education, and the camaraderie with his fellow troops soon answered that question: He was where he was supposed to be.

Once he finished boot camp, it was off to infantry school. Five of his friends from boot camp came with

him. "We were close and that made all the difference."

Observant comment, that. When troops are first tossed together, training can be intimidating. But with the development of friends, it becomes much easier. The friendships formed in uniform are unique; it doesn't mat-

The friendships formed in uniform are unique; it doesn't matter if your parents were millionaires or migrant farm workers.

ter if your parents were millionaires or migrant farm workers. Doesn't matter if you're a born-again Christian or an avowed atheist. The commonality between young troops is the basis of friendship, understanding, and commiseration.

He suffered serious injury while training and was asked to turn in

his uniform. So the dream of singing tenor in, "From the Halls of Montezuma," came to an end.

His next step? College.

After prepping at a local college, he turned his sights on Baldwin Wallace University, in Berea.

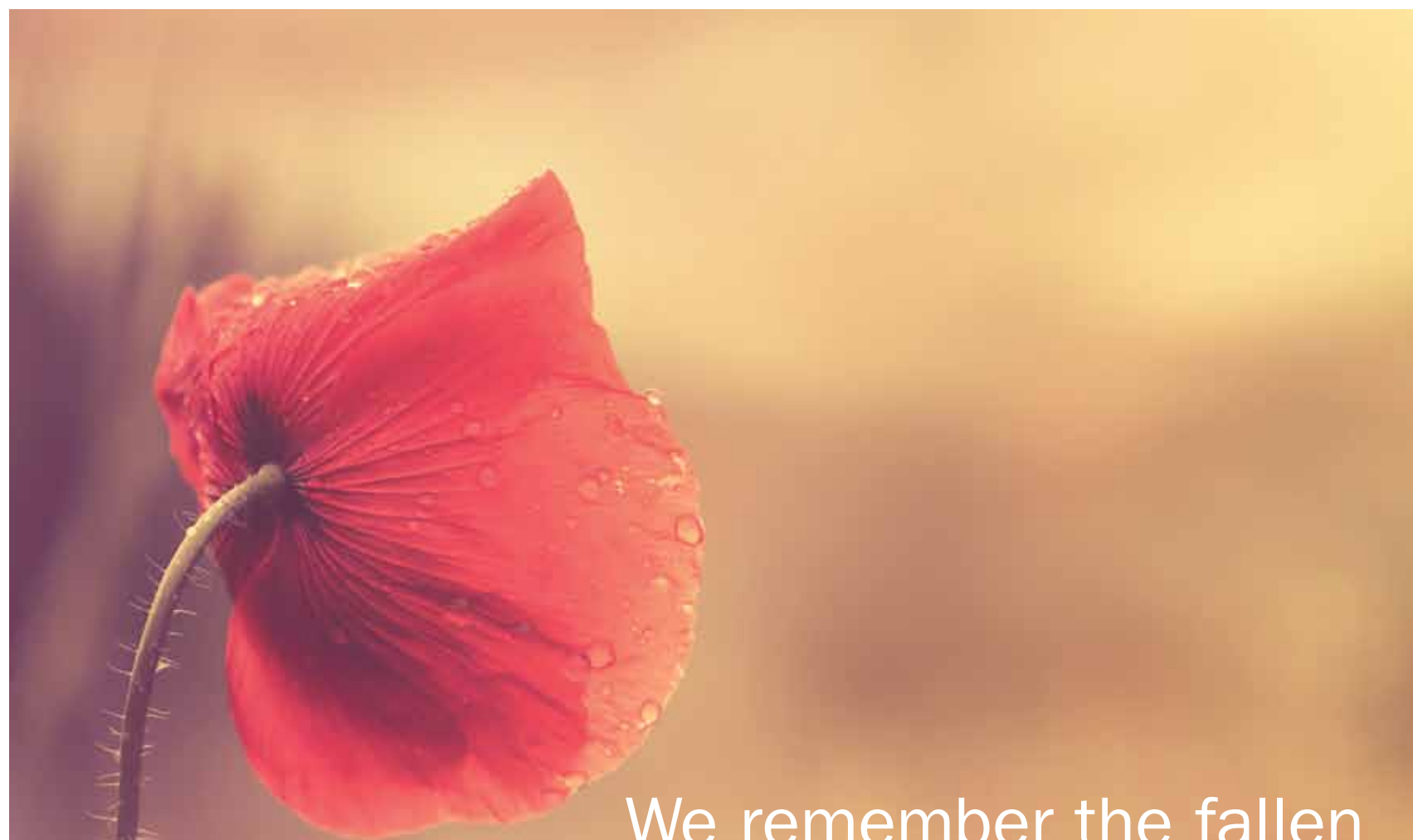
He was pleasantly shocked with

care about your education as well as your life outside the classroom."

Small classes and excellent professors will do that.

Welker is busier than mustard trying to ketchup. But his energy hardly lags. He is husband, father, and student. At the same time, he's a Red Cross certified lifeguard at BWU and has applied for head life guard. It's all part of his plan to join recreation management. He is active with the veterans organization there. Along the way, he plans to become certified as an outdoor trip leader.

Three items are worthy of adding to his story: BWU is a Yellow Ribbon school and experienced in guiding students through the maze of Veterans Administration's education benefits. Second, Welker finds comfort in the veterans' facility, and third, he talks more about BWU than he talks about himself.



We remember the fallen

Rob Erb, Cuyahoga County Veterans Commission: A Family History of Service

By Barbara Bemis

Some guys give and take. Not Rob Erb: He gives and gives some more.

Erb is a veterans service officer with the Cuyahoga County Veterans Commission. That's his second career. His first was a 22-year hitch with the Navy. The Euclid native explained that after his discharge, "I wanted a life-changing event where I could help people and help veterans."

He got it at the Commission, where the staff handles all sorts of problems and difficulties for

veterans. Between his service as a Chief Petty officer and his MBA, he's a good fit. But even with that experience and education, training for the Commission position took a great deal of time.

Veterans come in with a panoply of problems and that's where the Commission comes in. The Commission is like a shirttail relative of the Veterans Administration with a major difference: The Commission speaks

English instead of governmentese.

Not only do Commission officers speak both English and governmentese, they battle for us. Many times the battlefield is not easily traversed, and that's where the combination of speaking two distinct languages

gives the Commission the upper hand.

"We're the veterans' advocate, not their representatives. We try to get for veterans and their dependents the maximum federal, state, and local entitlements and as-

sistance," he said.

His workday may have five clients or as many as 15. It can be as simple as a request for a DD 214, or as detailed as compensation for unknowingly inhaling the poisonous Agent Orange.

In addition to his training at the Commission, he brings a couple virtues to work with him: He truly enjoys talking with veterans and helping get back on their feet.

He makes an impact on the lives of veterans.

Some of his successes are modest, others are life-changing. When he assists a veteran getting off the streets, it is the first step to vets returning to some normalcy of life.

His clients can go to school, rebuild lives they thought were lost, even join the rest of the country in buying homes and pledging their troths.

Erb is challenged at his new position, but he loves the challenge and loves even more having a direct hand in the success of veterans.

Perhaps one of the reasons Erb is good at his new position is experience. In the Navy, he learned about other cultures. His duties took him to the Persian Gulf, Bahrain, England, Puerto Rico, Okinawa, Australia, Japan, Italy, Hawaii and a number of stateside assignments.

It was his father and both grandfathers who influenced his career choice. None talked much about their service, but his father was part and parcel of WWII's most dangerous operation: Normandy.

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Sheriff Mike DeWine's First Gambling Raid on VFW and Legion Posts Nets \$68.23; Fourteen Vets (including one barmaid) Charged with Disobeying Him

By Joe Glorioso

Columbus, O. — Ohio State Attorney General Mike DeWine said he is preparing a request to the General Assembly that will add an extra \$6.5 million to battle what he called, "These VFW and Legion halls and their outrageous, illegal, nefarious, insulting, bodacious, under-the-counter, outlawed, prohibited, banned, punishable activity, has to be stopped and the miscreants properly punished."

"If northeast Ohio veterans want to gamble, there is the Horseshoe Casino, conveniently located in downtown Cleveland."

He added that penny ante poker games and raffle machines in veterans' halls are an insult to those citizens who play the Lottery and Bingo in church basements. "When Ohio voters finally recognized the value of the Lottery --- by studying the numbers racket --- we realized we were leaving money on the table."

Sheriff DeWine added, "When veterans, their families, and the charities better understand what I'm doing, I think the veteran vote will make a big difference in my upcoming election."

He said the additional \$6.5 million earmarked to battle the miscreants will provide squealer jobs for criminals being released at Ohio prisons. "Criminals have a difficult time securing good jobs," he said, "and this program will allow them to work at minimum wage."

The sheriff, whose history doesn't include military service, said that as soon as he cleans up the gambling



problem and issues the proper indictments, he will take on other criminal enterprises, including political and corporate embezzlement, child abuse, repairs to interstate highways, political bribery, dust in the Statehouse hallways, and drivers exceeding the speed limit between Cleveland and Columbus, or, as the sheriff said, "What's wrong with these drivers? We didn't put in the interstates so drivers could exceed the speed limits, endangering wildlife including, skunks, deer, possum, and the state bird, the turkey vulture. "When criminal enterprises, such

as the VFW and Legion, flagrantly disregard the law, they align themselves with rapists, murderers, graffiti artists, arsonists, embezzlers, and jaywalkers, and I simply won't have it," he said, stamping his feet.

The sheriff shrugged off the news that his campaign manager, Jim Hadden, serves the Ohio Veterans and Charitable Coalition.

"Well, in the interest of being fair and accurate, I suggest you refer to him as my former campaign manager."

The Coalition has hired former Ohio Supreme Court Andrew Douglas to represent their views in court.

The sheriff added, "I can only remind you that my former friend Andrew should also be referred to as the former Supreme Court Justice. What does that mean? It means the only two opponents to my efforts to stamp out criminal activity don't even have real jobs."

Drugs and Why You Should Take Only What Your Physician Recommends

By Arthur Foxworthy

Seroquel XR. If that doesn't sound like a new model from Honda, I'll be a monkey's uncle.

It isn't, of course. It's a drug from our friends at AstraZeneca (which sounds like an expedition to Mexico.) Seroquel XR, according to a recent ad, "Is proven effective to treat manic highs and depressive lows of bipolar disorder. Seroquel XR is a once-daily extended-release tablet, which means medication is released around the clock."

For those of us suffering manic-depressive disorder, it sounds like a drug that can relieve the terrible symptoms.

In the ad there is a picture of a pretty woman, her hair mussed, wearing purple sweat shirt and jeans. She has a fielder's mitt on her right hand, and the picture suggests she's playing softball.

She is quoted as saying, "There's a space between my manic highs and depressive lows. It's where I feel like me. That's where I want to be."

We all want her to be there. But in addition to the half-page ad is two and half pages of cautions. Here are a few:

Call your doctor if you have any of the following symptoms: high fever, excessive sweating, stiff muscles, confusion, and changes in pulse, heart rate, and blood pressure.

The most common side effects are drowsiness, dry mouth, constipation, dizziness, increased appetite, upset stomach, weight gain, fatigue, disturbance in speech and language, drowsiness, and trouble swallowing.

Don't drive while under the influence of Seroquel XR until you know you can do so safely. Do not drink

alcohol while using this drug.

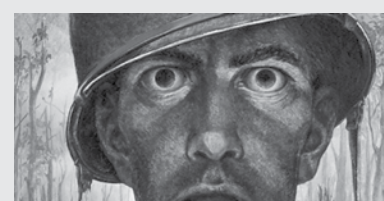
Tell your doctor about any movements you cannot control in your face, tongue, or other body parts, as they may be signs of a serious condition called tardive dyskinesia (TD). TD may not go away, even if you stop taking Seroquel XR. TD may also start after you stop taking Seroquel XR.

Tell your doctor if you have a history of low white blood cell count or seizures.

Other risks include feeling dizzy or lightheaded on standing, decrease in white blood cells. The ad goes on to say, "This not a complete summary of safety information about prescription Seroquel XR."

There's more?

To learn more you have to read the next two pages. Full pages. Small type.



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St. Bede the Venerable
9114 Lake Shore Blvd., on Saturday May 17th & Sunday May 18th at all the masses.

CWV Post 1959 will be placing American flags on the graves of veterans on May 22nd at All Souls Cemetery.

If Ever We Needed to Review our Policy of Being "Policeman to the World," It's Now

By Willy Grossner

So much for former President Bush's idea about a professional Army. According to a report from Associated Press, the number of troops being keelhauled for criminal activity has more than tripled — tripled — in the officer ranks. That's just in the last three years.

Enlisted troops are just as bad; 5,600 asked to clean out their foot lockers in 2007, and last year, more than 11,000.

One of the reasons cited is the constant redeployment of troops. The reason is understandable. Sending troops, whether officers or enlisted troops, back and forth to a combat zone, where one misstep can mean a closed casket funeral, is senseless.

If Harry Truman's observation, "the buck stops here," holds water, the Commander-in-Chief's responsibility to taxpayers, troops and the families of troops, and the regard in which the U.S. is held by other nations, is unfulfilled.

The buck should be passed along to members of Congress, who are



afraid to challenge the status quo and instead should demand the White House evaluate the strategy of sending our young men and women to combat zones where success is a fantasy. What does the Administration think our troops are, yo-yo's?

The U.S. strategy of pursuing wars we have no chance of winning is beyond comprehension. The costs

of such adventures — in terms of troops losing their lives, limbs, and sanity — will boggle the educated minds of the next generation of political scientists and historians. They will study hard to figure out how and why the U.S. assumed the role of Policemen to the World.

Is the debacle in Vietnam so easily forgotten? The men and women

who served in that useless and futile war still suffer the wounds of combat. Taking up arms to suppress and change cultures foreign to our own is hubris in the extreme. The citizens of those cultures want nothing to do with American invasions. For America, it is a matter of jerking on Superman's cape.

That Congress can be so intentionally blind to the waste, both human and economic, is shameful.

Veterans groups and the Veterans Administration do all they can, but they are hardly in positions to influence Congress. What veteran groups and the VA do is mop up the mess created by the Commander-in-Chief and his lackeys in Congress.

There are and will be repercussions and criticism of our addiction to interfering with the countries and cultures of people around the world.

War profiteers rub their palms, not because it is cold, but because the money they swindle is legal tender. If there is a heaven, God will have only one thing to say to war profiteers, and it will be, "Go to hell."

This Memorial Day: Visit Those Who Fought For Us, and Offer Up a Little Prayer of Thanksgiving.

By Larry Baugh

A fascinating and sobering history lesson is taught every day at Woodland Cemetery, the final resting place for 82,000 souls.

The cemetery is in Cleveland at 6901 Woodland Avenue and was built almost 160 years ago. One hundred-sixty years; in our young nation, that is a long time.

Among the bones resting there are black Civil War troops, Ohio's first black state senator, the man who created the home mail delivery system, the founder of the Cleveland Home for Aged Colored People, and a young basketball player who died at 17; to honor his love for the Boy Scouts, the Boy Scout emblem deco-

rates his grave.

Sara Lucy Bagby Johnson's grave is here. Just days before the Civil War commenced, she was prosecuted under the Fugitive Slave Act. Her prosecution was the last under that law.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer editorialized, "The seizure of the girl and the harsh manner in which she was treated by her captors caused the indignation of the people to rise to fever heat."

The graves of veterans go back to the War of 1812; Civil War veterans are there and there are three monuments to Ohio troops: the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry monument was

created in 1865; the 7th Ohio Volunteer Infantry monument was created in 1872; the Grand Army of the Republic's monument was dedicated in 1909.

One of the anticipated pleasures of a long visit on Memorial Day will be meeting Michelle Ann Day, of the Woodland Cemetery Association. The archivist-cum-historian has spent uncounted hours to learn about and document those interred. She is not without humor. "If all 82,000 people buried here were still with us, the cemetery would have a population bigger than Dayton."

Just where she gets her energy is unknowable. But she combines

energy and dedication, along with a platoon of volunteers, to honor America and our war dead, Cleveland history, and a beautiful plot of dedicated land.

Her job is much more than replacing headstones and polishing marble. She pores over old newspapers and census records, and searches for photographs.

When historians or families seek information, she is generous as well as knowledgeable.

On a more intimate level, her grandparents are buried there. The work she does there will live long after her, a fitting tribute for Michelle Ann Day.

Hollywood, WW II, and Korea

By Ken Kirchner

The only one who even comes close was Pat Tillman, who turned down a contract offer of \$3.6 million over three years from the Arizona Cardinals to enlist in the US Army after September, 11, 2001 and serve as a Ranger in Afghanistan, where he died in 2004. But rather than being lauded for his choice and his decision to put his country before his career, he was mocked and derided by many of his peers and the liberal left wing.

I submit that this is not the America today that it was seventy years ago, nor fifty, nor even thirty years ago. And I, for one, am saddened.

Here are some of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who put it all on the line:

Sterling Hayden, US Marines and OSS. Smuggled guns into Yugoslavia and parachuted into Croatia.

James Stewart, US Army Air Corps. Bomber pilot who rose to the rank of General.

Ernest Borgnine, US Navy. Gunners Mate 1c, destroyer USS Lamberton.

Ed McMahon, US Marines. Fighter Pilot. (Flew OE-1 Bird Dogs over Korea as well.)

Telly Savalas, US Army.

Walter Matthau, US Army Air Corps., B-24 Radioman/Gunner and cryptographer.

Steve Forrest, US Army. Wounded, Battle of the Bulge.

Jonathan Winters, USMC. Battleship USS Wisconsin and Carrier USS Bon Homme Richard. Anti-aircraft gunner, Battle of Okinawa.

Paul Newman, US Navy Rear seat gunner/radioman, torpedo bombers of USS Bunker Hill

Kirk Douglas, US Navy. Sub-chaser in the Pacific. Wounded in action and medically discharged.

Robert Mitchum, US Army.

Dale Robertson, US Army. Tank Commander in North Africa under Patton. Wounded twice. Battlefield Commission.

Henry Fonda, US Navy. Destroyer USS Satterlee.

John Carroll, US Army Air Corps.



James Stewart

Pilot in North Africa. Broke his back in a crash.

Lee Marvin, US Marines. Sniper. Wounded in action on Saipan. Buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Sec. 7A next to Greg Boyington and Joe Louis.

Art Carney, US Army. Wounded on Normandy beach, D-Day. Limped for the rest of his life.

Wayne Morris, US Navy fighter pilot, USS Essex. Downed seven Japanese fighters.

Rod Steiger, US Navy. Was aboard one of the ships that launched the Doolittle Raid.

Tony Curtis, US Navy. Sub tender USS Proteus. In Tokyo Bay for the surrender of Japan.

Larry Storch, US Navy. Sub tender USS Proteus with **Tony Curtis**.

Forrest Tucker, US Army. Enlisted as a private, rose to Lieutenant.

Robert Montgomery, US Navy.

George Kennedy, US Army. Enlisted after Pearl Harbor, stayed in sixteen years.

Mickey Rooney, US Army under Patton. Bronze Star.

Denver Pyle, US Navy. Wounded in the Battle of Guadalcanal. Medically discharged.

Burgess Meredith, US Army Air Corps.

DeForest Kelley, US Army Air Corps. **Robert Stack**, US Navy. Gunnery Officer.

Neville Brand, US Army, Europe. Was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Tyrone Power, US Marines. Transport pilot in the Pacific Theater.

Charlton Heston, US Army Air Corps. Radio operator and aerial gunner on a B-25, Aleutians.

Danny Aiello, US Army. Lied about his age to enlist at 16. Served three years.

James Arness, US Army. As an infantryman, he was severely wounded at Anzio, Italy.

Efram Zimbalist, Jr., US Army. Purple Heart for a severe wound received at Huertgen Forest.

Mickey Spillane, US Army Air Corps, Fighter Pilot and later Instructor Pilot.

Rod Serling, US Army. 11th Airborne Division in the Pacific. He jumped at Tagaytay in the Philippines and was later wounded in Manila.

Gene Autry, US Army Air Corps. Crewman on transports that ferried supplies over "The Hump" in the China-Burma-India Theater.

William Holden, US Army Air Corps.

Alan Hale Jr., US Coast Guard.

Harry Dean Stanton, US Navy. Battle of Okinawa.

Russell Johnson, US Army Air Corps. B-24 crewman who was awarded Purple Heart when his aircraft was shot down by the Japanese in the Philippines.

William Conrad, US Army Air Corps. Fighter Pilot.

Jack Klugman, US Army.

Frank Sutton, US Army. Took part in 14 assault landings, including Leyte, Luzon, Bataan and Corregidor.

Jackie Coogan, US Army Air Corps. Volunteered for gliders and flew troops and materials into Burma behind enemy lines.

Tom Bosley, US Navy.

Claude Akins, US Army. Signal Corps., Burma and the Philippines.

Chuck Connors, US Army. Tank-warfare instructor.

Harry Carey Jr., US Navy.

Mel Brooks, US Army. Combat Engineer. Saw action in the Battle of the Bulge.

Robert Altman, US Army Air Corps. B-24 Co-Pilot.

Continued on page 18

Ring the Dinner Bell! Internationally Acclaimed Chef Klaus Tenbergen Brings World Class Teaching Skills to Tri-C

By Paul Becka

Staff members at DD 214 Chronicle have petitioned Tri-C to become regular 'tasters' at the newly-expanded Hospitality Management Program. (No response yet.)

Leading the culinary charge is Klaus Tenbergen, who is charged with taking Tri-C's highly-regarded Hospitality Program to the next level. His goal is to make Tri-C "... a center of excellence and a leader in training for the hospitality industry."

While lauding the current program, Tenbergen sees growth and development for Tri-C and its students. With the burgeoning restaurant scene in northeast Ohio, the demand for talented, educated chefs is growing and not likely to stop.

More than that, the Tri-C pro-

gram will allow students to take their skills to other markets, even other countries. Tenbergen is the new Associate Dean and his goals are clear: equip students with cooking techniques, management responsibilities,

His passport reflects work in Latin and South America, South Africa, and the U.S.

and a host of related capabilities that the industry demands.

He smiles broadly when he looks to the future. "I'm going to set the bar very, very high. I want to ensure that we have the top program in the state and beyond."

The new associate dean brings an international perspective to the post. A German native, his résumé

includes formal training as a baker and, in 1977, becoming an apprentice. His passport reflects work in Latin and South America, South Africa, and the U.S.

Here's a note that brings a smile:

His South Africa bakery, Der Zuckerbaker, was a favorite stop of the international and highly-respected South African leader, Nelson Mandela. The long time African leader was especially fond of Bienenstich, a famous cake at the bakery.

His students might well leave town for additional training. Chicago, for example is only a five-hour drive from

our town, and the tourism there is a major economic contributor. Students may well go abroad, as well, to further their educations. "There's a great deal to learn and bring back to the education they're getting at Tri-C."

His regimen includes a great many cooking and kitchen management skills, but goes further. Properly frying an egg to a customer's specific demands, of course, is paramount. There is much more. "We look at the nutritional makeup of the egg, the nutritional content, protein coagulation, proper cooking temperatures in different modes of cooking."

One of Tenbergen's unheralded skills is his knowledge of the international cooking scene. His professional contacts almost circle the globe.

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Continued from page 16

Pat Hingle, US Navy. Destroyer USS Marshall
Fred Gwynne, US Navy. Radioman.
Karl Malden, US Army Air Corps. 8th Air Force, NCO.
Earl Holliman, US Navy. Lied about his age to enlist. Discharged after a year when the Navy found out.
Rock Hudson, US Navy. Aircraft mechanic, the Philippines.
Harvey Korman, US Navy.
Aldo Ray, US Navy. UDT frogman, Okinawa.
Don Knotts, US Army, Pacific Theater.
Don Rickles, US Navy aboard USS Cyrene.
Harry Dean Stanton, US Navy. Served aboard an LST in the Battle of Okinawa.
Robert Stack, US Navy. Gunnery Instructor.
Soupy Sales, US Navy. Served on USS Randall in the South Pacific.
Lee Van Cleef, US Navy. Served aboard a sub chaser then a mine sweeper.

Clifton James, US Army, South Pacific. Was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.
Ted Knight, US Army, Combat Engineers.
Jack Warden, US Navy, 1938-1942, then US Army, 1942-1945. 101st Airborne Division.
Don Adams, US Marines. Wounded on Guadalcanal, then served as a Drill Instructor.
James Gregory, US Navy and US Marines.
Brian Keith, US Marines. Radioman/Gunner in Dauntless dive-bombers.
Fess Parker, US Navy and US Marines. Booted from pilot training for being too tall, joined Marines as a radio operator.
Charles Durning, US Army. Landed at Normandy on D-Day. Shot multiple times. Awarded the Silver Star and Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts. Survived Malmedy Massacre.
Raymond Burr, US Navy. Shot in the stomach on Okinawa and medically discharged.
Hugh O'Brian, US Marines.
Robert Ryan, US Marines.

Eddie Albert, US Coast Guard. Bronze Star with Combat V for saving several Marines under heavy fire as pilot of a landing craft during the invasion of Tarawa.
Clark Gable, US Army Air Corps. B-17 gunner over Europe.
Charles Bronson, US Army Air Corps. B-29 gunner, wounded in action.
Peter Graves, US Army Air Corps.
Buddy Hackett, US Army anti-aircraft gunner.
Victor Mature, US Coast Guard.
Jack Palance, US Army Air Corps. Severely injured bailing out of a burning B-24 bomber.
Robert Preston, US Army Air Corps. Intelligence Officer
Cesar Romero, US Coast Guard. Coast Guard. Participated in the invasions of Tinian and Saipan on the assault transport USS Cavalier.
Norman Fell, US Army Air Corps., Tail Gunner, Pacific Theater.
Jason Robards, US Navy. was aboard heavy cruiser USS Northampton when it was sunk off Guadalcanal. Also served on the USS Nashville during the invasion of the Philip-

ines, surviving a kamikaze hit that caused 223 casualties.
Steve Reeves, US Army, Philippines.
Dennis Weaver, US Navy. Pilot.
Robert Taylor, US Navy. Instructor Pilot.
Randolph Scott, Tried to enlist in the Marines but was rejected due to injuries sustained in US Army, World War 1.
Ronald Reagan, US Army. Was a 2nd Lt. in the Cavalry Reserves before the war. His poor eyesight kept him from being sent overseas with his unit when war came so he transferred to the Army Air Corps Public Relations Unit where he served for the duration.
John Wayne, Declared "4F medically unfit" due to pre-existing injuries, he nonetheless attempted to volunteer three times (Army, Navy and Film Corps) so he gets honorable mention. And of course we have **Audie Murphy**, America's most-decorated soldier, who became a Hollywood star as a result of his US Army service that included being awarded the Medal of Honor.

Continued from page 10

Nothing could have been further from the truth — I know — I was there. The same misconception is evident as the U.S. presence winds down in Afghanistan. The war is over; no soldiers are dying, so it's not newsworthy. It's more important to report on athletes who make millions each year play boys' games, drug-addled movie stars, and feckless politicians — very few of whom have ever served in the military. Most agree that the growing military-civilian divide is not a good thing. Current military leaders are politically, culturally, and socially increasingly different from their fellow

Americans. This separateness creates a real risk of misunderstanding, and makes civilian control of the military more difficult to maintain. The current situation is really not the fault of the military or civilians, though. It developed over the course of recent history, over which neither current military nor civilians had much control. What to do? The military and veterans need to accept the fact that the vast majority of Americans have had no military experience, and never will. Even though they can't fully understand what we've gone through, the American people are

truly grateful — and it's not just yellow ribbons on bumper stickers and "thank you for your service" greetings at airports. Veterans who have served their fellow citizens can still do so. Most of us have grown, matured, and developed a new appreciation for the value of human life, human rights, and human dignity. We have much to offer the rest of society, if we choose to engage it without judgment. For their part, those who have never served must acknowledge they will never fully comprehend what our military and veterans have endured. There is no civilian proxy

for war. If we seem different, it's because we are. As the philosopher John Stuart Mill wrote long ago, "Life has a certain flavor for those who have fought and risked all that the sheltered and protected can never experience". This does not make us better than you — we freely choose to be your protectors. We share the same commitment to our communities and country. While we are thankful for your gratitude, but we do not want, or need, your sympathy. All we ask is that you listen to us now and then, and try to understand as best you can. We protected you in war, and still have something to offer you in peace.

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