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CHRONICLE

The Newspaper for Veterans and All Who Love Them.

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 6

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

“As we peer into society’s future, we – you and I, and our government – must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering, for our own ease and convenience, the precious resources of tomorrow. We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage. We want democracy to survive for all generations to come, not to become the insolvent phantom of tomorrow.”

— Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower



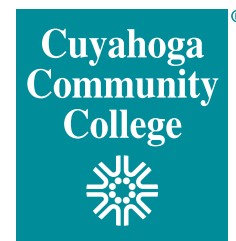


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STAND AT EASE *By John H. Tidyman, Editor*

The Nobel Peace Prize; Presented by Idiots to a Commander-in-Chief Enamored of War

I've always had trouble with a volunteer Army. First, it creates an insular and unnecessary divide between society and its fighters. Second, if America is to go to war, all of America should be going to war. In WWII, unless a male had flat feet or a glass eye, he was en route to the processing station. It worked well.

In Vietnam, deferments were as common as dandelions in spring. Being a father or student meant staying home. Or being Dick Cheney, who said he was busy doing other things.

With draftees making up the bulk of troops, Vietnam was Lyndon Johnson's war to win or lose. Thanks to morons like Robert Strange (yes, that's his middle name,) McNamara,

architect of the Vietnam War, America didn't win. McNamara later talked about his regrets in the war. Regrets? Tell that to the families and friends of the baby-faced troops who breathed their last in the jungle.

To fight in the Middle East, the military draft was replaced by an all-volunteer Army. Troops have been recycled and the national media does little to cover their challenges, both in combat and at home.

Life in America goes on as if there were no war. If Congress has a backbone, it is made of Silly Putty.

If there were still a military draft, would we be in the Middle East? Would



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mothers and fathers, students and professors, friends and neighbors stand for the insanity? We'll never know, but given the anti-war sentiment and action during Vietnam, I bet no one would support another costly, unwinnable war. (Except war profiteers.)

The cost of war in Vietnam and the Middle East is unfathomable; hundreds of billions of dollars. Even worse, horrible suffering and death.

Our current Commander-in-Chief, in his remarks after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, said, "But perhaps the most profound issue surrounding my receipt of this prize is the fact that I am the Commander-

in-Chief of the military of a nation in the midst of two wars. One of these wars is winding down. The other is a conflict that America did not seek; one in which we are joined by 42 other countries -- including Norway -- in an effort to defend ourselves and all nations from further attacks."

Who paid off the Nobel committee, and what the hell were they drinking? The President couldn't hold a candle to Emma Goldman, Martin Luther King, Jr., or Pete Seeger, among many others.

Two additional questions: where did we get all this money to piss away in Nam and the Middle East, and, what are the returns for this insane spending? I mean, in addition to the Nobel Peace Prize?

Robert O'Brien: One of a thousand good reasons we celebrate Memorial Day

DOGFACE CHARLIE

A book review by JC Sullivan



going to die," he told his father. He blinked and Kim was no longer there. Later, when his remains were returned to St. Mary's, Ohio, his Dad viewed them. He saw the wounds on Kim, just where he had seen them in his dream.

Sgt. Mac, now a Cleveland attorney, penned several chapters in the book, one being "The Price of a Smile." It describes his encounter with a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) machine-gunner in an irrigation ditch on a rubber plantation.

"He waited until my eyes met his, pleased by the shock he saw in my face; his smile was big and sinister." McLaughlin vividly describes how in a split second his life flashed before his eyes. He thought of what his mother's reaction to his death would be and yet somehow managed to survive the moment while the NVA machine-gunner did not.

After finishing the book, I came away with several distinct impressions. The men who contributed to this book were quick learners and jungle-savvy; the hostile jungle encouraged learning.

Their contributions in this book have been a catharsis for many. Those who have suffered Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for years have experienced somewhat of a healing in finally having a platform to speak of their noble contributions in the war - to their comrades and to their nation.

Perhaps Bob O'Brien's demons might have been purged if he had contributed to the book. But, then again, he did. He inspired it, in an unlikely fashion.

The book can be purchased at the First Division Museum, Cantigny Park, IL or on Amazon.com or other on-line booksellers.

Sullivan resides in Northfield Village, Ohio. An internationally-published writer, he is a U.S. Army veteran who served with the 2nd Armored Division in the U.S. and Europe.

lin, "but if we had been able to notify the others, many would have come to pay tribute to a fallen brother and offer condolences to his wife and son."

Out of that sad trip to Florida, and more than forty years since they had seen others from the unit, the idea of a reunion was spawned. Tom Mercer, another Dogface Charlie veteran, took a leadership role and searched intensely for others. Eventually many with whom they had served were located. Planning moved ahead and a joyful reunion was held in Tennessee.

Out of that came the idea of a

Robert (OB) O'Brien's September, 1985 funeral in Florida began an unforeseen chain of events that reverberate to this day.

Only two of his military comrades attended his funeral. Patrick (Mac) McLaughlin and John (OC) O'Connor. Both had served with him in Vietnam in the "Big Red One," the First Infantry Division. Although Mac had been in touch with OB in the intervening years since their separations from the Army, they had disconnected with others with whom they had served.

"Only John O'Connor and I attended OB's funeral," said McLaugh-

Veterans, especially combat veterans, are most comfortable discussing their "war stories" with other veterans. Outside of veteran circles, who's going to know who's legitimate and who's not? After all, we've all seen phonies who have "stolen valor."

The reminiscences in this book are just that - legitimate war stories from legitimate veterans. It's as if we outsiders are eavesdropping on their conversations about what happened to them. If they told these stories to civilians, many would think they were making them up.

It's just that - they are incredible stories of humanity, bravery, friendship, and they're almost unbelievable. Readers of Dogface Charlie will come away with a new measure of respect for these men and the horrors they never talk about.

Until now. The chapters in this book come from the men of Dogface Charlie and family members of those who did not return. I had chills go through my body while reading about the death of fellow Buckeye Kim Deeter. His sister Dalene described a dream their father had on the night of Kim's death.

He awoke in the middle of the night in a cold sweat. An apparition of Kim was standing at the foot of their bed. "Oh, my God, Dad, I'm

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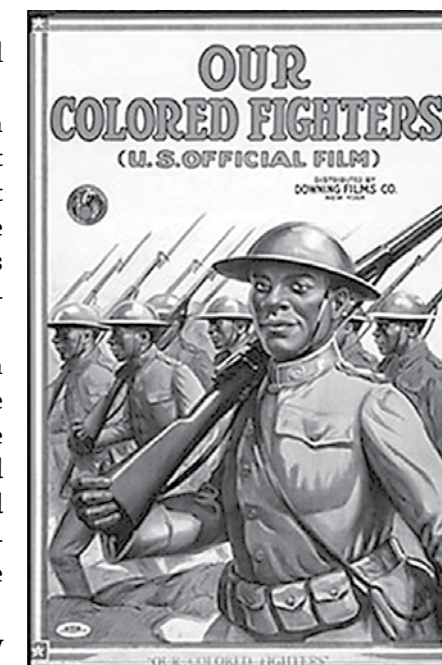
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BLACK WARRIORS

Robert P. Madison, decorated black WWII veteran, kicked down the door marked, "White Only" at Western Reserve University (among other doors)

By Bruce Gunsch



When the subject was WWII veterans and education, the G.I. Bill was the resource. Troops coming home, doffing their uniforms and donning civilian clothes were offered an opportunity unlike any in history: Go to college and it will be paid for by the government.

Unless you were black, Robert P. Madison learned. The Cleveland veteran dreamed of becoming an architect since childhood.

The decorated combat veteran was denied admission to Western Reserve University's School of Architecture. WRU had never admitted a black student and, veteran or not, was not about to start in 1946.

The admissions office clearly did not know whom it was dealing with. The next day, Madison appeared again, but this time in his uniform, which bore his awards: Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and five combat ribbons.

That was still not enough.

The dean agreed to admit Madison, but only if he were able to pass some preliminary tests.

Madison passed the tests, became a student, and went above and beyond expectations of the administrators.

Packing away his cap and gown, Madison headed to Harvard for further education, and then to a teaching position at Howard University, the predominantly black university founded after the Civil War. He served Howard University

as an assistant professor in architecture.

From there, it was back home again. Madison wanted to form his own architectural firm. Again he found himself a stranger in a strange land: the year was 1954 and there were no black-owned architecture/engineering firms in the state.

For Madison, it was yet another major hurdle. He cleared it.

A half dozen years later, racism reared its aging claws. Madison wanted to move from Glenville to Cleveland Heights, where the edu-

cation of his children would be far better than in Cleveland.

He designed a home for his family in Cleveland Heights. The Heights wanted nothing to do with the new black family in town, and expressed its strongly-held prejudice with vandalism, threats, and racism. It likely slowed Madison, but it hardly stopped him. He lived in his Cleveland Heights home for four decades.

Among his many, many contributions to Cleveland and architecture are: Cleveland Browns stadium, the Louis Stokes Wing of Cleveland Public Library, the Rock'n'Roll Hall of Fame, and the Horseshoe Casino.

The list of honors and accolades earned by Madison and his firm fill more than one wall. There is no civic medal for Courage Under Fire, but if there were, Robert P. Madison would have been honored with it a long time ago.

Red Tails in the Sky

By John H. Tidyman, editor

You're young, strong, smart, and patriotic. After Pearl Harbor, you're eager for battle on behalf of your country. Only one obstacle: You're black. That would mean low-level assignments in mess halls, laundries, supply depots, as well as overt discrimination.

Now comes Yancey Williams, a student at Howard University, who sought to fly in the war. The Army Air Force had plenty of Southerners, and as a group, wanted nothing to do with the idea, much less a program. The Army Air Force official answer

was clear and simple: Forget about it. Williams was not about to forget about it. He took his case to court, backed by the NAACP.

He won. Sort of. The Air Corps agreed, however reluctantly, to create a segregated unit to train black pilots and support troops. Williams couldn't know, but it was the very beginning for the Tuskegee Airmen.

The name, now well known for its exploits in the air war, came from Tuskegee Army Air Field, which was near Tuskegee, Alabama. Pilot and

maintenance candidates learned their skills from white officers and staff.

Once in the air and on missions, the Airmen put together an impressive combat record, though their enemies were not restricted to enemy troops and targets; there was also the Army Air Force itself. Having black pilots in cockpits reserved for white fliers fanned the flames of racism.

The Tuskegee Airmen seemed oblivious to the hatred, although to think the Airmen weren't aware of the hatred is to be naive.

Maybe they seemed oblivious, but, well-trained and eager for battle, they took to the dangerous skies with the insouciance that marks youth.

The Airmen, it seemed, were born to fight in the skies. Airmen fought in North Africa, Sicily, and other points in Italy. The best-known Airmen were the fighter pilots of the 332nd Pursuit Group and the 477th Bombard Group.

It was a highly decorated unit and all black troops played a role: pilots, navigators, bombardiers, instructors, maintenance, and support staff.

Suffering from diabetic nerve pain? Take a chance with Lyrica

By Harry Beshare

Good things about Lyrica: If you suffer diabetic nerve pain, Lyrica may ease the discomfort. In a recent ad, a fat guy on a golf course was quoted, "I was prescribed Lyrica for my diabetic nerve pain and it helped me. I'm grateful for it." His name is Michael, though no last name is given. He is described as a former pro golfer.

Lyrica is a very soothing name.

Troubling things about Lyrica: It may cause suicidal thoughts, but only about 1 in 500. (Better than the Lottery.)

You are to call your doctor if, after taking Lyrica, you develop any of the following: suicidal thoughts or actions; new or worse depression; new or worse anxiety; panic attacks, acting aggressive, being angry, or violent; acting on dangerous impulses; have trouble breathing; suffer swelling of your face, mouth, lips, gums, tongue, throat, or neck. (You should also hope your doctor is in.)

Possible side effects include: dizziness, blurry vision, weight gain, swelling of hands or feet, and trouble concentrating. (All of which will affect your putting, whether you're a pro golfer or not.)

You're taking a chance if you plan to become a father. It is not known whether or not problems seen in animal studies can happen in humans. (If there were a call for human volunteers, little wonder the research was limited to animals.)

Need more information? As the ad reads, "This is only a brief summary of important information."

There's more?

Military humor in the computer age: duffelblog.com

By Ben Steenblik

There is humor and there is military humor. Military humor often focuses on the rough-and-tumble life of men and women in uniform. The rules and laws enjoyed by civilians are left at the post gate. We are told what to wear, what time to get up, how and whom to salute. We become familiar with terms unknown in the civilian world: grunts, gunny, SOS, fire for effect, forward observer, brig, stockade, corpsman, spit shine, mess hall, OP and LP, and hundreds of others.

A couple days ago, we stumbled on a modern variation of military humor. The web site is duffelblog.com and the *DD 214 Chronicle* staff highly recommends it.

It is a big site and covers all military branches. It consists of attention-grabbing

headlines along with stories that seem, at first glance, to be serious. At second glance, it is clear the stories are not.

Here is a fistful of current headlines:

"Spike in Combat Casualties Blamed on Life Insurance Benefit"

"Pentagon to Disband 'Useless' War-warrant Officer Corps"

"Coast Guard Finally Shoots Something"

"Navy Adds Intense Creative Writing Course to SEAL Training"

"Sailor Claiming Made-Up PTSD has Nightmares of Not Receiving Disability Check"

"Dozens Wet After Coast Guard Cutter Capsizes Off Florida Coast"

So far, our favorite is, "North Korea Executes Dennis Rodman."



News from a Parallel Universe

President Obama has decided to leave all armaments and vehicles in Iraq. "We're going to teach the different warring factions to properly use them," he said. "It's a strategy that will allow our many enemies there to kill each other, at which point we can declare victory." When asked if the Army saw any problems with this multi-billion dollar giveaway, the



Commander-in-Chief said, "Well, we find both our friends and enemies there have trouble learning to drive stick shifts, but if Congress will allocate \$9 billion for driving classes, we anticipate no problems. You might know that in the Middle East, there are no women drivers."

Wal-Mart announced its "Welcome Home, Troops - We Have Jobs for You" program. U.S. Chief Marketing Officer Stephen Quinn told CBS News, "It's our way of thanking our troops. As you know, veterans

often have trouble securing good jobs with excellent benefits. We believe our program can ease the anxiety for them." In addition to starvation wages, Quinn said Wal-Mart stores will add staff to assist veterans filing for welfare benefits.

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said her platform will include a very wide plank for veterans. "My administration will list every soup kitchen and the days and times of operations."

Investigators from the U.S. Army Graves Registration unit announced this week it has found the bodies of nine veterans in the waiting rooms at VA hospitals. An Army spokesman said autopsies will be performed on each cadaver.

"We expect to announce the causes of deaths before the end of this decade," she said.

United Airlines spokesperson Karen May announced a new program to reward Middle East troops. "We call it, 'Fly the Friendly Skies, Trooper,' and it's our way of thanking the men and women who protected us from Iraqi invasions of Manhattan, Palm Beach, and L.A." Troops accepting the generous offer will be placed in the cargo holds for flights.



There will be no charge, Ms. Weiser said, for oxygen masks. Because of the inaccessibility of cargo holds, no refreshments will be served. Ms. May explained, "What, they have no canteens?"

SSgt. Paul Fortune appealed to *DD 214 Chronicle*, writing, "We're running out of toilet paper in Iraq. Please send a couple bundles of *DD 214 Chronicle*. The newspaper will not be wasted." Consider it done, Sarge.

The first thing a traffic cop is going to see is your rear license plate

Not saying it will get you out of a speeding ticket, but a good way to subtly brag about the sacrifices you made to America is veteran plates.

And bragging about the time, energy, and service you gave your country ain't bragging. It's a way of reminding the driver in the car behind you that you served our nation.

Here are some of the special plates available:

- National Guard Retired
- Bronze Star Medal
- Combat Action Badge
- Korean Service Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Disable Veteran
- Former Prisoner of War
- Global War on Terrorism Afghanistan/Iraq/Grenada Medal

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Mission: To Help Vets Match Skills and Experience to Secure Jobs

By: Angela Terez, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

COLUMBUS, OHIO - The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) - in partnership with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation and the Ohio Department of Veterans Services - is committed to helping veterans transition from military life to civilian life, get job training if they need it, find jobs and build successful careers.

Free employment help for veterans is available both online at OhioMeansJobs.com and in person at county OhioMeansJobs Centers. OhioMeansJobs.com is the online job center ODJFS and operates in partnership with Monster.com. On any given day, it lists tens of thousands of job openings around the state. The website also features a resume builder and rater, a budget calculator, skill and interest assessments, online tutorials, free college entrance practice tests, links to local training programs for in-demand careers, and more.

Veterans visiting the site should

click on the "Veterans" icon with the picture of the cardinal. They'll be taken to a special part of the site just for veterans. One of the best features here is a skills translator. This feature helps veterans write a resume by identifying civilian terminology and occupations that match their military skills and experience.

At local OhioMeansJobs Centers, veterans can get in-person help from workforce specialists who are veterans themselves. These specialist help veterans with their job searches, let them know about workshops and other training programs, help them find apprenticeship programs, and help them find in-demand careers that match their skills and interests.

At both OhioMeansJobs.com and the OhioMeansJobs Centers, veterans are given priority of service. This means that if a veteran meets all the qualifications for a particular program, he or she has priority over

non-veterans for that program. And if an employer searches OhioMeansJobs.com for résumés with particular skills, the résumés of veterans with those skills will be listed first.

Recently, Ohio launched an additional service for employers wanting to hire veterans: a Veterans Business Support Center. Through the center, employers can get online, phone or

face-to-face help finding skilled veteran candidates. Employers can access the business support center through OhioMeansJobs.com.

As a nation, we owe a tremendous debt to our veterans. These services are just one way we can try to repay that debt, for the benefit not just of the veterans themselves, but for all of Ohio.

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An All-American at Baldwin Wallace University

By Grady Tylerman

Many of us are unfamiliar with leaping from one society to another. Veterans know of what I speak. It is more than society; it is understanding lifestyles.

In the armed forces, we give up our Constitutional rights and instead conduct ourselves according to the military code of conduct. We agree to be sent all over the world, to meet and work with men and women who know little about us. And we know little about them, their history, culture, and goals.

Therein lies a major challenge: To move from a military society to a civilian society. Going from one culture to another means learning the laws, practices and procedures, customs, clothes, and status are different.

Enter Daniel Terry, the forty-two year old veteran/graduate stu-

dent at Baldwin Wallace University. Long before he registered, he served two terms in the Mideast war zone, the first as part of Desert Storm and the second Iraqi Freedom. He is 42-years old with the easy laugh and big smile of an 18-year old freshman. Terry comes from a long line of veterans.

One shocking memory stands out: Fourteen year old kids with Kalashnikovs and ready to use them. When Terry was fourteen, he was enjoying sports.

He's known about Baldwin Wallace University since he was a child.

He was an ardent and talented athlete — you name the sport and he's played it well — and amateur sports were important parts of his youth.

The Berea Jaycees Track and Field competition was at BWU's stadium.

Unlikely he was thinking about graduate school while tying his track shoes, but BW made an impression.

He is modest when he talks about himself. "I like to think I'm not the dumbest guy in the crowd," he said. Not to worry.

After picking up a degree in business management, he heard the clarion call from his old stomp-

ing grounds, Baldwin-Wallace University. He will soon be part of the Alumni Club, with a master's degree in business management. He has reached the halfway point.

Terry was a natural athlete, but not a natural student. In the service, he came to appreciate the many virtues of education. Service schools taught him much, but the idea of education and its many benefits he developed on his own.

He was uncomfortable when he started at BWU, but that didn't last long. He knows students today are different, yet he enjoys their company and their conversations. In addition, he joins with other veterans to talk about their histories as well as the current assignments.

Athlete, soldier, veteran, student, husband, father — now that's an All-American résumé.

Daniel Terry joins with other veterans to talk about their histories as well as the current assignments.



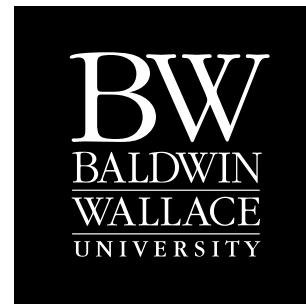
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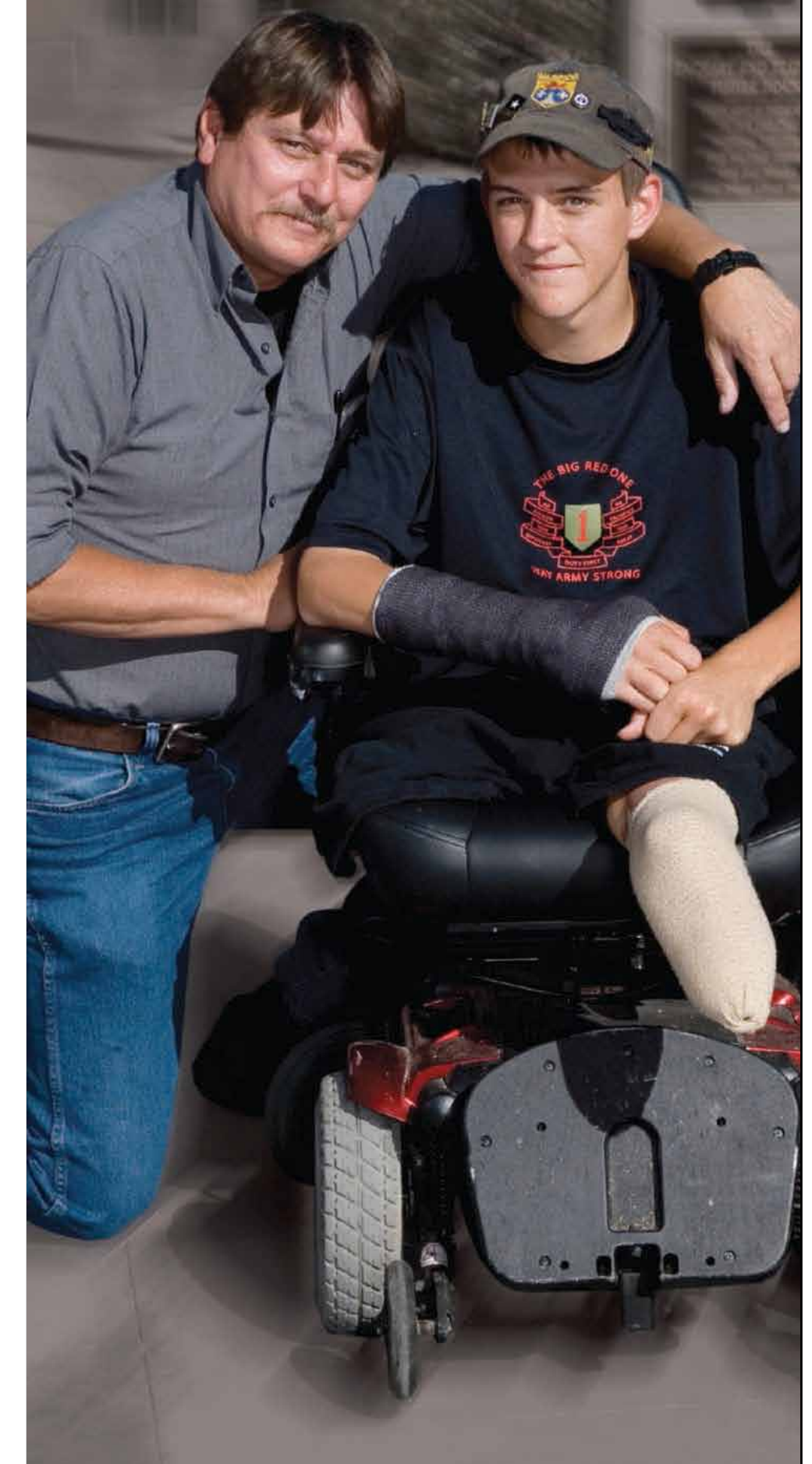
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On The Cover:
PFC Matthew Zajac, U.S. Army
with his father, Mike Zajac



THE GREATER CLEVELAND FISHER HOUSE



What We Listened to Before We Left, While We Were There, and When We Came Back: Armed Forces Radio Network

By Edward J. Senko

1968

North Vietnamese Launch Tet Offensive

In a show of military might that catches the US military off guard, North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces sweep down upon several key cities and provinces in South Vietnam, including its capital, Saigon. Within days, American forces turn back the onslaught and recapture most areas. From a military point of view, Tet is a huge defeat for the Communists, but turns out to be a political and psychological victory for the enemy. The US military's assessment of the war is questioned and the "end of the tunnel" seems very far off.

Battle for Hue

The Battle for Hue wages for 26 days as US and South Vietnamese forces try to recapture the site seized by the Communists during the Tet Offensive. A religious retreat in the middle of a war zone, Hue was nearly leveled in a battle that left nearly all of its population homeless. Following the US and ARVN victory, mass graves containing the bodies of thousands of people who had been executed during the Communist occupation are discovered.

Hey Jude - The Beatles

Young Girl - Gary Puckett and the Union Gap

People Got to be Free - The Rascals

Mrs. Robinson - Simon and Garfunkel

Love is Blue - Paul Mauriat

Beautiful Morning - The Rascals

Those Were the Days - Mary Hopkins

MacArthur Park - Richard Harris

This Guy's in Love With You - Herb Alpert

Simon Says - The 1910 Fruitgum Company

1969

News of My Lai Massacre Reaches US

Through the reporting of journalist Seymour Hersh, Americans read for the first time of the atrocities committed by Lt. William Calley and his troops in the village of My Lai. At the time the reports were made public, the Army had already charged Calley with the crime of murder.

Policy of "Vietnamization" Announced

Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird describes a policy of "Vietnamization" when discussing a diminishing role for the US military in Vietnam. The objective of the policy is to shift the burden of defeating the Communists onto the South Vietnamese Army and away from the United States.

Aquarius - The Fifth Dimension

Sugar, Sugar - The Archies

Honky Tonk Women - The Rolling Stones

Get Back - The Beatles

Crimson & Clover - Tommy James and the Shondells

Dizzy - Tommy Roe

Jean- Oliver

Build Me Up, Buttercup - The Foundations

Touch Me - The Doors

Hair - The Cowsills

1970

Kent State Incident

National Guardsmen open fire on a crowd of student antiwar protesters at Ohio's Kent State University, resulting in the death of four students and the wounding of eight others. President Nixon publicly deplors the actions of the Guardsmen, but cautions: "...when dissent turns to violence it invites tragedy." Several of the protesters had been hurling rocks and empty tear gas canisters at the Guardsmen.

Number of US Troops Falls to 280,000

Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head - B.J. Thomas

Let It Be - The Beatles

Band of Gold - Freda Payne

I'll Be There - The Jackson Five

Close to You - The Carpenters

The Love You Save - The Jackson Five

Bridge Over Troubled Waters - Simon and Garfunkel

Ball of Confusion - The Temptations

Signed, Sealed, Delivered - Stevie Wonder

War - Edwin Starr



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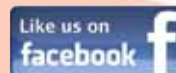


VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

If you have a disability that you feel is connected to your time in service, please call our office to speak with a Veterans Service Officer. Our VSO's hold accreditation through the Ohio Department of Veterans Services and the National Association of Veterans Service Officers. They are the duty experts on the claims process and serve as your liaison to the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

440.284.4625

Services are provided free of charge to Veterans of Lorain County ONLY



Ursuline College Adult Program

Veteran Adam Reed: From Kosovo to Top of his College Class

Adam Reed is tough. He has high expectations of himself and of others. Why would we expect anything less? An Army veteran of two tours in Kosovo as a Psychological Operations Specialist, Adam thought he would continue his college education through the traditional route of semester-long classes at popular public institutions. But as a returning veteran, he had grown and changed in ways that most typical college-aged students could not relate to or understand. "I felt as if I was a number at those colleges", Adam explained, "and I became frustrated with taking classes with 18 year olds. I just wasn't getting much out of the experience," he said. "Still," he continued, "I knew that completing my degree was important not only for any future career, but as a personal goal as well. I wanted to excel, stand out, and stand apart from the crowd. And I really wanted to set an example for my kids."

Adam discovered the Ursuline

College Adult Program (UCAP) while managing Ursuline's account with his family's company. He scrutinized and evaluated all aspects of the UCAP program and found that it met his standards for a high quality education. "I thought UCAP was the best value for the dollar," Adam explained. "The focus is on educating the student personally and professionally. I liked the way the program was laid out, taking one course every five weeks. I had just had a son, and the format allowed me to continue to spend time with my family."

Adam selected the psychology program with the Industrial/Organizational emphasis. When he enrolled, his academic advisor asked, "What's your goal?"

"Straight A's," Adam replied. His advisor, Laurel Yuratovac, remembers replying, "That will be tough to accomplish in the UCAP program. UCAP students must be motivated, committed and focused to succeed on that level."

Adam recalls that Laurel guided him through his program requirements. "The UCAP staff knew me and cared about my success," Adam related.

And Adam did become a huge success as a UCAP student. He was inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda, the national honor society for adult students. Only the top 10 percent of UCAP students receive this honor.

"I came to appreciate the classroom discussions. In fact, I learned from the experiences of my classmates," said Adam, who added that this enhanced the quality of his education. "I really appreciated all the personalized service I received from the staff. My advisor guided me toward completing my degree," he said.

When asked about what advice Adam would give to other veterans interested in completing their education, he responded, "Get all the facts about your benefits first. Understand what your educational benefits will cover, then use them for that purpose.

Seek out the best value and highest quality education you can. My choice was the Ursuline College Adult Program".

The Ursuline College Adult Program (UCAP) offers 12 bachelor degree and certificate programs. Students focus on one course at a time over a five-week period, meeting one time per week for four hours. Hybrid and online options are available, but most UCAP students prefer the face-to-face, in-class discussions with their peers. UCAP courses are not delivered in the typical lecture format.

UCAP is proud of its veteran students and graduates and appreciates their contributions of service. We welcome the opportunity to reciprocate by delivering the finest education and personalized, one-on-one, face-to-face service to veterans who desire to complete their bachelor degree. For more information, call 440-684-6130 or go to www.ursuline.edu/ucap.

You served us. Now it's time to serve you.



Ursuline College's Adult Program (UCAP) is a perfect fit for veterans.

- Classes meet once a week for 5 weeks during evening hours or on Saturday morning.
- Earn up to 27 credits per year.
- Enjoy the freedom of stepping out for a session as your life requires.
- Complete your degree in as few as two years.
- Ursuline is a Yellow Ribbon school allowing veterans the opportunity of a high quality private college education at little or no cost.

For more information visit ursuline.edu/ucap.

Ursuline 

UCAP Ursuline College Adult Program

440 684 6130
ucap@ursuline.edu



Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.

— Malcolm S. Forbes

New Program Approved; Will Provide Uniform College Credit for Veterans' Military Training and Experience; Ohio Board of Regents to Create Standards; Ohio has Sixth-largest Veteran Population

By Annabelle Lee Dowd

The GI Bill just got better. Earlier this summer, Gov. John Kasich signed legislation that will create standards for 15 Ohio colleges and universities. Previous to this legislation, for example, a paramedic could get credit at The Ohio State University, but not necessarily at other institutions.

That situation is just one of many examples. This confusion is changing; the new law will create state standards for two- and four-year colleges and universities. A veteran who served as a medic will get credit

for his service, whether at The Ohio State University, Ohio University, the University of Akron, Cuyahoga Community College, or Cleveland State University.

The goal is to make education far less complicated and more efficient. It will be developed by the Military Strategic Implementation Team, which includes student-veterans, members of the military and representatives from more than 15 institutions of higher education. The important changes will take effect in July, 2015.



Veterans For Peace Chapter 39-NEOH

Formed in 1985, now with 140 chapters worldwide, VFP is a global network of service veterans dedicated to informing the public of the true costs of war, and ending war as an instrument of U.S. national policy. We include veterans of Gulf and recent Mideast wars, Vietnam, Korea, World War II and other U.S. military conflicts.

We want to work with all veterans to end the scourge of war.

Visit our website: www.veteransforpeace.org. Then call Art Dorland (216-371-6056) or Walt Nicholes (216-751-7150)

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WE HONOR VETERANS



To volunteer with fellow Veterans, call **800.707.8922**, or visit hospicewr.org/volunteer



Jon Reiss, Executive Director, the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission: He Walks the Walk and Talks the Talk

By Grady Tylerman

We would be hard pressed to find a more competent, experienced and dedicated executive director at the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission.

Jon Reiss' one-year anniversary comes up in November. He leads an equally determined staff at the Commission, including a five-member board: Clayton Uzell, Daniel T. Weist, Mel Baher, Bob Potts, and Frank Pocci. Lorrie Slivka is the executive secretary to the executive director, though that hardly describes her many duties and responsibilities.

When Reiss was hired to replace retiring director Robert Schloendorn, Reiss inherited a staff and commission dedicated and experienced in offering strong hands to those veterans who find themselves on rocky terrain.

Reiss brings to the Commission more and different experience. He understands the needs and the experiences of veterans.

Little wonder.

Reiss started his military edu-

cation at the tender age of 17, when most of us were worried about a date for the prom. He joined the Army Reserves.

After four years of college, which included ROTC service, he served five years

as an Army signal officer. His service included tours in Kuwait and Iraq.

Even after hanging up his uniform, Reiss was not finished

Jon Reiss knew his veterans were different than most vets, and he set about learning their problems, fears, and hopelessness.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
1849 Prospect Avenue,
Ground Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
Hours: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

with service to his troops. For more than two years, he was the admissions coordinator at the veterans domiciliary on the Wade Park campus of the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He was also responsible for outreach operations and processing admissions for homeless veterans.

He was also responsible for outreach operations and processing admissions for homeless veterans.

It was there he continued to learn. Providing service to homeless veterans was far more than ordering veterans into treatment. He learned how to handle those veterans who were reluctant to receive help and medical service.

Reiss learned the value of patience, a virtue rarely mentioned in the armed forces. But Reiss knew his veterans were different than most vets, and he set about learning their problems, fears, and hopelessness. Not all deserving and needy veterans were quick to accept his offer, usually delivered on mean streets.

He built, among his charges, a sense of trust. Often, it took a half dozen street meetings to convince the vet that Reiss represented hope, comfort, and treatment. His successes were not the stuff of newspaper stories; his success was privately celebrated in his own heart.

Reiss continues an Ohio veteran service tradition started in 1886. He carries the mantle of leadership as if he were born to it.

He was.

Weather and War

By Ben Story

The only element the Allies couldn't control on D-Day, in June, 1944, was the weather, and weather was the linchpin in the massive invasion.

Weather forecasters were as good as their technology, and there were no Doppler radar stations or weather satellites.

The Allies in England were massed and ready to go. D-Day would be history's largest invasion: 4,000 warships, nearly 10,000 aircraft, and about 160,000 invasion troops.

The enormous gamble came down to one element: Weather.

The invasion was scheduled for June 5, and on June 2, Eisenhower and his generals met with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The topic? Weather and the tides.

Trying to land on the planned D-Day would have been a disaster, and not because the Germans were waiting. Given the weather forecast --- storms, high winds, heavy clouds --- the last thing the enemy expected

was an invasion.

Eisenhower decided to wait for a day, when a break in the weather would allow the Allies to hit the beaches. He could only hope the break in the weather would appear. Furthermore, if the invasion had to be postponed, the tides would ensure the wait would be two weeks. Would German forces learn of the Allied plans for invasion?

We'll never know; Eisenhower's decision proved to be correct.

Why Do We Call Tanks Tanks?

Tank warfare started in World War I, in the Battle of the Somme, in northern France. Building the innovative weapon of war was top secret; workers were told the vehicles were to be used to carry water. But calling tanks Water Carriers, or WC, shared the commonly-used initials for water closet, or toilet.

Instead, workers began calling them water tanks, and then tanks.

Some Reasons the VFW is Dying a Slow Death

By Lydia Davey

The VFW just tried to recruit me, and failed. Badly.

In yesterday's mail I received a large manila envelope stamped with these words:

A U.S. Marine veteran by the name shown below is being sought in regard to unclaimed benefits.

*Seeking: Lydia Davey
Re: Unclaimed Benefits
Probability Factor: High*

There was no return address. I opened the packet to find the following goodies:

A set of personalized return labels with the image of an American flag superimposed over a screaming eagle

The promise of a free, lightweight, stainless steel multi-tool if I returned my application and some money "today!"

A paper calendar

The entire thing reeked of scam and wasted resources. Not only were their opaque recruitment tactics off-putting, but the free gadgetry and paper products were more suited to an 85-year-old male veteran than a 30-year-old female Marine living in Silicon Valley. No disrespect intended. My grandpa would have loved that multi-tool.

Recent national news coverage of the VFW always seems to circle back to a single issue: declining membership. As a veteran, I have huge respect for the good and powerful work the VFW has done on behalf of America's war fighters. But as a Millennial, I'm turned off by their current approach.

Here are four reasons the VFW is losing its battle for members, and what they can do to start turning the tide.

1. Lack of relevance

CHALLENGE: Nearly half of all Millennials prefer to interact with brands engaged in social causes. Our generation has the time and desire to engage with the world in meaningful ways. Although the VFW has a proud heritage of effective policy-making, the more tangible aspects of social responsibility and activism are either lacking, or poorly communicated.

SOLUTION: Take a page from the books of organizations like Team Rubicon, Team Red White and Blue, and Sierra Club Military Outdoors. Engage with local communities in ways that involve meaningful physical service outdoors, and provide opportunities for young veterans to interact directly with each other and the folks we're serving.

2. The headache of bloated hierarchy

CHALLENGE: Across industries, Millennials value peer feedback and collaboration more than top-down guidance. We left the military for a reason, and the last thing we want is to subjugate ourselves to another overbearing authority figure. This is especially true when we're trying to accomplish something helpful, and we have to wade through a lengthy internal approval system.

SOLUTION: Empower members who have good ideas - regardless of our age or rank. Give us timely support to execute the plan. Don't hold us back with lengthy meetings or unnecessary formalities. We're huge fans of using collaboration and action to solve problems.

3. An unwelcoming vibe

CHALLENGE: I first entered a VFW Post in 2007 - just weeks after returning from Afghanistan. My friend, a male veteran, was escorted into the member meeting and greeted with cheers. I was stopped at the doors by the bartender and some other grizzled fellas and told, "You can't go in there." It took me five minutes to discover they didn't think I was a veteran, and one second for me to claim my place at the table. My story is not unique.

SOLUTION: The VFW's stated mission is to foster camaraderie among US veterans of foreign wars. Do that for all of us. Veterans no longer sound, act, or look a certain way. Greet every newcomer with a smile and a welcoming attitude, and ask some low-key discovery questions. Open your minds; you may be surprised by the value we bring.

4. Dated recruiting practices

CHALLENGE: Official-looking envelopes with no return address? Sneaky-feeling documents that make you read three paragraphs before discovering that the VFW is simply after membership dues? Vaguely threatening phrases in red ink? Are you trying to scare or trick us into joining?

SOLUTION: To quote one of the best creative agencies in America, "Modern brands are defined by what they do, not what they say." When you send out recruiting materials that aren't transparent, you raise questions about the virtue of the organization as a whole. I can't help but wonder what portion of my membership dues will be set

aside to pay for some other veteran's personalized return labels. Educate us about what you've been doing recently (like in the last week) to make lives better, and let us know how we can get involved. We'd like that.

Bite the bullet. Win the war.

My grandfather was a lifetime member of the VFW and every time I think of the organization, I think of him. The Post was his place - it's where his friends gathered from their small farming community to talk about the glory days; it was one of his favorite places to be. I have a special place in my heart for the VFW, and I'm primarily writing this because I care what happens to the organization that has done so much good for so many folks. I don't want it to fade into obscurity.

The VFW is filled with many honorable people who offer amazing assistance to veterans, family members, and survivors - such as claims advocacy and military family assistance. These services are free to all veterans - whether you're a member or not. VFW headquarters communicates regularly and well about these programs from their primary website and across social platforms like Twitter, YouTube, and Google+.

Still, the organization will have to make a valiant, intentional, sustained shift at the Post level to attract and retain younger members. It's time to get out of the building and into the community. Trade that poker night for a citywide cleanup day. Join forces with other national veteran organizations. Put down the beer and pick up a shovel. Use social and traditional media to let your town or city know about the good work you're doing. Bite the change bullet, and turn the tide to win a worthy war.

Thanks for all you've done, and here's hoping you can right the ship.

Lydia Davey is an entrepreneur, published author, speaker, and media relations pro. She is the Founder/CEO of Moriah Creatives PR. She served as a Marine sergeant for eight years. She deployed to Afghanistan in 2006, and has worked extensively throughout Africa, Asia, and Europe.



Bill Anderson, of Fairlawn, is serving a two-year fellowship in the office of Congresswoman Marcia Fudge. He was hired through the U.S. House of Representatives' Wounded Warrior Program. Anderson formerly served two deployments in Iraq with the Marines, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines.

You're a Veteran – You Deserve To Own Your Own Home

By Kathy Folk, Realtor®



The Veterans Administration has made it possible for you to do just that. Qualifying credit, sufficient income and a Certificate of Eligibility is all you need to get started. You won't need to have a down payment. Your loan is guaranteed by the VA, you won't have to pay private mortgage insurance.

In Cuyahoga County, over the last six months, 193 homes sold to Veterans who took advantage of their VA benefits — from Bay Village to Woodmere, 39 communities, sale prices from \$46,485 to \$415,000. The average year built 1960, average square footage 1,860, average sale price \$152,894. (Information from 2014 NEOHREX – Northeast Ohio Real Estate Exchange a/o 8/6/14).

Your first step is to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility, which can easily be done online www.eBenefits.va.gov or with the assistance of a VA authorized lender. There are many lenders out there - but, you want to be sure that the lender you choose is directly authorized by the VA to underwrite

and approve VA loans.

You will also want your lender to educate you on the process and review your finances to determine the purchase price best suited to your budget. A letter of pre-approval should be issued by the lender to add strength to your offer to purchase the home of your choice. The next step is to hook up with a Realtor® and start shopping.

Many years ago sellers would shy away from "VA" buyers, fearing the "process" would take too long or they might be required to make too many repairs to meet standards set by the

government for homes guaranteed by the VA.

The first VA buyer I worked with was a good friend, in the early 1990's, but it took eight weeks to close his loan. The "process" at that time was cumbersome. The delays resulted in an unhappy buyer, an unhappy seller and a friendship on the rocks. The loan finally closed, title transferred, our friendship survived - our new homeowner is still living there and happy - no thanks to the "process."

Today, guidelines for homes

guaranteed by the VA are no more restrictive than guidelines set for homes financed any other way. The "process" today is seamless.

"VA buyers enjoy some of the best benefits available to any homebuyers in the market today," say my fellow associates, Nancy Peyton and Steve Weixel. "Many of the old property restrictions related to VA lending have been removed, and Veterans can still buy their first home or a move-up home with no down payment, no mortgage insurance; and they can even have the seller pay their closing costs."

Choosing a Realtor® and VA authorized lender you can trust will unlock the door to your future home. Your hard work and dedication as a Veteran can make your dream of home ownership come true.

Kathy Folk has enjoyed being a Hanna Realtor® for 25+ years; Steve Weixel and Nancy Peyton are also seasoned mortgage professionals and are able to assist wherever clients may have a need in Northeast Ohio. You can find all three by calling 440-333-6500.

Troops Gang Up

By Ted Conrad

Here's something to think about. According to a 2007 FBI report, recruiters have allowed gang members to join the military service.

Not just any old gang, but well-known criminal gangs such as the Aryan Brotherhood, Latin Kings, MS-13, Hells Angels, Gangster Disciples.

A year later, FBI gang investigator Jennifer Simon reported 1-2 percent of the U.S. military belong to gangs. More recently, the FBI's 2011 report,

"National Gang Threat Assessment," gang members were identified from more than 53 gangs.

It's not new, though the situation has not been front page news (or even jammed between the auto ads and the comics) in stories about the Mideast wars. Gang graffiti began showing up at the beginning of the war in Iraq, in 2003.

You Protected These Members of Congress:

Does the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Protect You?

Here are Republican members of the House
Jeff Miller, Chairman, Florida
Doug Lamborn, Colorado
Gus M. Bilirakis, Florida
David P. Roe, Tennessee
Bill Flores, Texas
Jeff Denham, California
John Runyan, New Jersey
Dan Benishke, Michigan
Tim Huelskamp, Kansas

Mike Coffman, Colorado
Paul Cook, California
Jackie Walorski, Indiana
David Jolly, Florida

And on the Democrat side of the aisle

Michael H. Michaud, Maine
Carrine Brown, Florida
Mark Takano, California

Julia Brownlee, California
Dino Titus, Nevada
Ann Kirkpatrick, Arizona
Paul Ruiz, California
Gloria Negrete McLeod, California
Ann McLane Kuster, New Hampshire
Beto O'Rourke, Texas
Tim Walz, Minnesota

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Ah, There's the Rub

By John H. Tidyman, editor

There are two kinds of therapy I've long enjoyed: psychological and massage. One for the mind and one for the body.

For my appointments with my psychologist, I arrive on time, and by the time I walk out, I understand more about me and my sometimes whack-job behavior.

For appointments with a massage therapist, pretty much the same, except before I set off, I shower, shave, and dress well.

Imagine my delight when She Who Must Be Obeyed presented me with two — not one! — gift certificates for massages. The certificates came from Everybody Massage, Inc.

It would not be with my regular masseuse, but a shop down the street on Detroit Avenue, in Lakewood. Because I had two gift certificates, I asked a friend if he would enjoy a massage.

You would think I just offered him a free pass to heaven. So I called and called Everybody Massage. No answers except a voice mail, no call backs. Its e-mail



address was inaccessible.

Instead of scheduling a massage for me and one for my friend, I was unable to make an appointment. Darn it. I was looking forward to it. According to its website, the masseuse was certified and further educated in massage.

Disappointed that I couldn't get an appointment, I looked up the company on the web.

There was a review from a fellow Ranger.

Now I'm glad I was unable to schedule an appointment. Here is her review:

Worst massage I have ever had. I

purchased a Groupon and scheduled my appointment. When I arrived 10 minutes prior to my appointment like the website instructed, I found a locked door and a clipboard with a form to fill out. Turns out my masseuse was outside smoking a cigarette right before I got there. Despite the creepy room, I followed her instructions and laid face down on the STAINED sheets. She began with my back, legs and feet. After turning over, she then moved on to my face without washing her hands. Eww!! Also, after turning over and laying on my back, all I could smell was cigarette breath and the worst BO.

The massage did nothing to relax me. I was in a brightly lit room and could hear sirens driving down Detroit. Like a previous post, you get what you pay for. I will never go back to this place and have instructed my friends to do the same.

I am not her friend, but I'll take her instructions. She Who Must Be Obeyed offered to rub my shoulders.

Next Issue: New Dentures and Eating Corn on the Cob.

"Off we go into the wild blue yonder, Climbing high into the sun"

by Jon Stasko

The list of job specialties in the Air Force is remarkable, especially when companies seek employees who are educated, trained, and experienced.

Of course the Air Force flies jets and other aircraft, but for the airmen who support pilots and plans, education and experience is vital.

Looking for an employee who hits the ground running, already armed with knowledge and experience? A new employee whose background includes the value of teamwork, technical training, experience, and a desire to further add to the American economy and society?

Here are some of the Air Force positions, most of which fit well into the American workplace. One more thing: Veterans understand the value and satisfaction of meeting and exceeding goals. The values they bring to the marketplace are priceless.

- Arts & Education
- Business, Operations & Administration
- Computers & Computer Science
- Electronics & Electrics
- Emergency Management & Response
- Engineering & Applied Science Facilities
- Fuel & Propulsion Systems
- Future Technologies
- Ground Vehicles
- Health & Medicine
- Intelligence
- Law
- Logistics & Transportation
- Maintenance & Repair
- Natural Science
- Space
- Special Operations
- Weaponry & Materiel

Innkeeper Wants to Say "Thank You" in a Very Special Way

I recently watched a video of Jim "PeeWee" Martin, a 93-year-old veteran of the Normandy invasion, who celebrated the 70th anniversary of D-Day by repeating his original parachute arrival in Normandy. He was quite nonchalant about it all, commenting that it wasn't as scary as his first jump because this time "no one was shooting at us".

I simply cannot imagine what he experienced.

I did not serve in the armed forces. I have never been physically threatened. I have never traveled to a remote land where my life would be in danger. I have never left behind a spouse or children, not knowing whether I would ever see them again. I have never had to jeopardize my life, my health, or my freedom in order to preserve those same precious ideals for others.

As a result, I am profoundly humbled by your actions, your service, your sacrifice. Whether you have served in times of conflict or times of peace, this American would like to say thank you!

My husband and I own and operate a bed and breakfast in a small town called Gnadenhutten, about 40 miles south of Canton, Ohio. We like to spoil our guests with peace and

quiet, privacy, beautiful antique furniture, and amazingly comfortable beds - plus a homemade breakfast cooked just for you in an awesome 1879 treasure of a home. We are located in the beautiful Tuscarawas Valley of east central Ohio, surrounded by rolling hills and small towns with friendly people. We're in the midst of so many great sites for tourists that we offer a "50 Places within 40 Miles" page on our website.

Just a few miles east of us you'll find the historic Dennison Railroad Depot in Dennison. The Depot is a National Historic Landmark, and is considered to be the best example in America of a WWII railroad canteen. The Dennison Depot was known by soldiers and sailors from all over the country as Dreamville USA. As a water stop for the troop trains during WWII, more than 1.3 million troops received the hospitality offered by members of the Den-

nison Salvation Army Servicemen's Canteen.

When we opened our B&B two years ago, one of the first decisions we made was to offer a discount to veterans and to active service military personnel. We also extend this offer to National Guard members and veterans. It's not much, but it's our way of letting you know your efforts, your service, and your sacrifice are appreciated.

(Many innkeepers would be honored to offer a discount to our military heroes, and it's a good idea to ask about a discount when you make your reservation.)

One of the most gratifying programs we've participated in as innkeepers is Beds For Vets. Each year on Veteran's Day, bed and breakfasts around the country offer free rooms to veterans as our way of saying "thank you!". The philosophy behind Beds for Vets is simple: You've served your country. Now let us serve you.

We did not realize the significance of this one, small act until we read the comments left by our Beds For Vets guests last November. The veteran had served with the Air Force in Vietnam, and the comments were left by his wife:

"We truly appreciate your gracious hospitality. (My husband) has spoken of how difficult it was to come home on leave in a uniform when our nation was in such turmoil. To finally be recognized for giving family and personal time up for our country is so meaningful. Thank you for caring for veterans."

I had no idea. Truly. No idea that this one small act of hospitality could be so meaningful to a veteran and his wife.

I am honored and humbled by your service.

To you... our heroes, I offer a heartfelt Thank You!

*Cathy Marker, Innkeeper
Brick House on Main Bed & Breakfast
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Ohio Says Thanks to Its Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans

Ohio has paid veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars \$64.9 million since voters approved a bonus program in 2009.

Bonuses have been awarded to 80,511 veterans and surviving family members, the Ohio Department of Veterans Services says.

The agency announced a Dec. 31 deadline for veterans of the Iraq war who served between 2003 and Dec. 31, 2011, when U.S. involvement in the war ended. The bonus eligibility period expires three years after the official end of the conflict.

Because the U.S. conflict in Afghanistan has not been officially declared over, there currently is no deadline for applications by vets who served tours of duty in Afghanistan.

"I urge every veteran who served in Iraq to take the time to apply for the bonus," said Tim Gorell, state veterans services director. "We've had a great response to the bonus, but we're also going to keep working to get the word out."

The bonus was approved by Ohio voters in 2009 as a continuation of a state tradition dating back to the Civil War of awarding cash to vets. Veterans are eligible for the bonus if they served anywhere in the world during the Iraq or Afghanistan wars; the bonus is higher for those who served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

To qualify, veterans must have served at least 90 days on active duty, excluding training. They must have been Ohio residents at the time they entered service,

and when they apply. Those who served more than one tour of duty can apply for multiple bonuses, up to a total of \$1,500.

The bonus amounts to \$100 per month of service in Iraq or Afghanistan, up to \$1,000. Veterans who served elsewhere can receive \$50 a month, up to \$500. Veterans discharged for medical reasons for battle injuries are eligible for \$1,000, plus \$500 for months of service elsewhere. The family of military vets who are killed in action or died of related disease can get \$5,000 plus other benefits, up to \$6,500.

Information is available by calling 1-877-644-6838 and dialing option 2; going online to www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov, or visiting a county veterans service office.

Hard to believe, but Congress does something for student-veterans

By Grady Tylerman

Hard to believe, I know, but that group of gluttonous, self-serving bandits in Washington, D.C., otherwise known as Congress, has done something good for student-veterans.

Beginning next year, out of state students will pay the same tuition as in state students.

So if you're a veteran in Paducah, Kentucky, but want to study at an Ohio school, the Ohio school won't charge out-of-state tuition.

At present, out-of-state student-

veterans have to pay more than double to study in Ohio, or move to Ohio and live here for a specified time.

With various deployments, veterans often have difficulty establishing a home state.

William Hubbard is the vice president for government affairs for the Student Veterans of America. He said there are more than a half million student-veterans in colleges and universities.

The new program begins in 2015.

*"On becoming soldiers
we have not ceased to be citizens."*

— Oliver Cromwell's Soldiers (*"Humble Representation"*)

The Wrong Way To Lose a Boot

By SP4 Terry L. Williamson

LZ STINSON (198th Light Infantry Brigade)

A soldier can survive without a canteen or even a boot, but it's how you lose these items that can bother you. At least it bothered one soldier from the 198th Infantry Brigade. PFC Keith E. Beach, from Ekalaka, Montana, an infantryman with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd In-

safety of cover, another round ripped a hole in the instep of his boot. He looked down at the hole in his boot

then continued firing at the enemy position. In the tradition of all good point men, PVT. Beach continued walking point for his unit when the enemy fire had lifted, and found the location of his attackers. The enemy had fled from the torrent of machinegun

and M-79 grenade fire that Bravo Company had expended on the area. "It was only after the whole thing was over that I realized what happened," Private Beach said. "It was a shame too, because I had worn those boots for a long time." Private Beach did not come out of the incident completely unscratched however. He received one bright blue bruise on the instep of his right foot to remind him it could have been worse had it not been sole-y for his boot.



The Motley Crew of DD 214 Chronicle

La Bodega: One of the gems of Tremont

By Grady Tylerman

A few months ago, at a staff meeting here, one suggestion had particular merit: Restaurant reviews. As the idea was batted around, the majority agreed it would be a good idea. Among the reasons cited: 1.) Staff writers could put the tab on expense account; 2.) Staff writers, once out of the office, could enjoy a free lunch *plus* find a park bench on which to nap.

Editorial guidelines were equally brief: 1.) Only locally-owned restaurants. No sense going to a chain restaurant if the food and service (or lack of service) is the same whether in Pocatello, Idaho or Lick Skillet, Tennessee; 2.) If the reviewer finds the food and service to be seriously lacking, don't write about it. It's not as if a bad restaurant

doesn't know it serves bad food and provides bad service. Plus, we don't want to steer readers in the wrong direction.

Owners of local restaurants, along with cooks, dishwashers, and wait staff have responsibilities greater than those at chain restaurants. Owners have to create an esprit de corps among staff, work incredibly long hours, listen closely to patrons and customers, order raw materials (everything from food to plates, silverware, cleaning solutions, new equipment, et cetera,) maintain the books, and pay the electric and gas bills.

As it was pointed out at the staff meeting, "We're not really going to review restaurants, are we? We're really going to find local places that serve good food, right? I mean, we're going to be cheerleaders more than critics, it seems to me."

Exactly right. Except not so much cheerleaders as guides.

So off we went to have lunch at La Bodega, in Tremont, the neighborhood just south of downtown Cleveland, but it's over the river and

through the woods to get there. If there is a reason God created GPS, this is it. With GPS, the ride is quick and beautiful. We went by Lincoln Park, the ancient green where Union troops used to bivouac, past wonderful, old churches, a panoply of gorgeous housing styles and an example of how gentrification can work. Given enough time, that is.

La Bodega is more than a decade old, so the food must be good. In Tremont, if you don't like a restaurant, just walk to another one.

This place is small. In the front room, your order is taken over the counter and you are told it will be delivered to your table. The tables are in the next room. Only eight tables, which can be rearranged to seat your friends, family, pro-

duction officers, and ex-wives. A number of bar stools, along with a shelf, adds more seats. Bar stools seemed to be made from stainless steel, probably a great weapon in a bar fight.

I took with me Harry Besharet, a man comfortable with plastic forks as well as Gorham silverware. He had been there a few times and raved about it. He loved the atmosphere, the mix of customers, the simplicity and comfort.

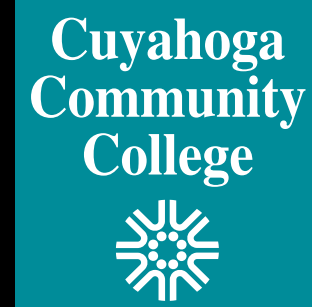
He had the roast beef; a vegetarian sandwich for me. I have never ordered anything from a vegetarian menu, but after that sandwich I'll give it additional thought.

It was purely wonderful. It was, as I recall, No. 20 on the menu. Six bucks, and for the value and size of it, worth more. Whatever was inside it tasted fresh and healthy. It was served on a pita. Not just any pita, but a pita obviously copied from a Frisbee. I ate only half of it and, filled to the brim, took the other half home.

For dessert Harry and I found a couple unoccupied park benches and took naps.



La Bodega
869 Jefferson Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
Mon-Fri, 11 to 7
Sat-Sun, 11 to 4



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