

DISPATCHES

MILITARY WRITERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA



Rescuing History One Story at a Time
www.militarywriters.com

Summer 2014

2014 Conference Information

MWSA 2014 Awards Finalists
WEM 2014 Award Winners
MWSA/PPD Writing Award Winners
Sharing Stories of the Lost World War II Soldier Remembered
MWSA Recognized by Dayton VA
MWSA Members Step Up for a Good Cause
Jim Alexander Photography
In Memoriam - Ed Slater



Staff

Pat McGrath Avery - Editor

Columnists

Dwight Jon Zimmerman

Jim Greenwald

Bob Doerr

Jennifer Holick

Farrell J. Chiles

Features

Jennifer Holick

Farrell J. Chiles

WEM Winners

Student Writers

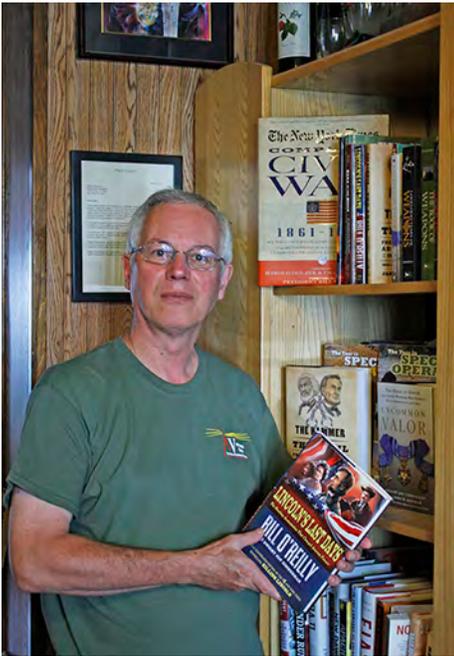
Joyce Faulkner - Design



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Dwight Jon Zimmerman

Welcome to Dispatches! The big news this issue is the list of all our 2014 book award finalists. Congratulations to you all! Our fiction and memoir categories, traditionally our most popular, are once again well represented. Given my background, I'm pleased to see so many medal candidates in the non-fiction categories of History, Biography, and Reference. And, as before, there are some categories in which there are only one or two candidates.

It's important to remember that regardless of whether or not there is one title or ten titles in a category, the competition is not against other books in the category, nor is it, like the Academy Awards, a popularity contest where the one with the most votes wins.

Each book is judged against a detailed criteria that covers every aspect of the book from content to design. Each judging item has a numeric value, and

it is the total score that determines the book's medal qualification. What this means is that a solo book in a category is not guaranteed a gold medal. Nor is that book guaranteed at the minimum a bronze. And this is also why there can be multiple gold, silver, and bronze medalists within a category.

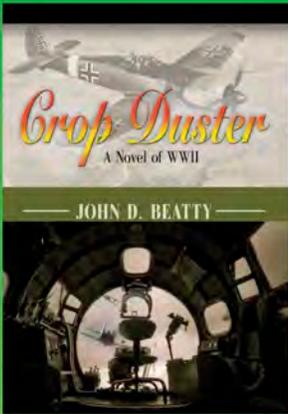
The bottom line is that all winners can be assured of the integrity and impartiality of the judging process. I can personally affirm the impartiality of the process having received on the one hand the Founder's Award, our organization's highest honor, for *Uncommon Valor* and for not receiving any medal for *The Book of Weapons*.

Our conference in Phoenix is going to be an exciting one. Be sure to check out the updated schedule of events elsewhere in the issue and make your reservation now. Hope to see you there!



JIM ALEXANDER - PHOTOGRAPHER

MWSA member and Portland, OR citizen Jim Alexander is also active in the Military Vehicle Preservation Association. He currently helps restore military vehicles for collector Steve Preston. His photos frequently appear in MVPA's publications. Throughout this magazine, you will see examples of Jim's photography at the 2014 MVPA National Conference which took place in St. Louis, MO. Enjoy!



Crop Duster
A Novel of WWII
— JOHN D. BEATTY —

Crop Duster
A Novel of World War
Two
By John D Beatty

A new breed of air warriors fought in the skies of Europe: flyers of bombers that devastated cities, and flyers of fighters that tried to stop them. The odds of war and the laws of nature fought them as much as they fought each other.

Crop Duster is the story of two warriors caught up in the Bomber War; a war not of their making, but theirs to fight—and survive!

Available at Booklocker and other fine booksellers
in paperback and e-formats!

JDB Communications, LLC



SHARING THE STORIES OF THE LOST

Written by Jennifer Holik

On A Foreign Shore

We stand on a foreign shore surrounded by a thunderous, deafening noise. War is definitely hell. Men are screaming in agony and shadows of death can be felt and seen everywhere. We are somewhat in shock, yet the fear we feel is overpowered by the ferocious desire to fight and live through this hell.

So many thoughts race through my mind. I think of my parents, wife, siblings, children, and friends at home. Will I return unharmed, unchanged, whole? Or will I sleep forever in this foreign soil?

Will I be among the lost?

If I am, who will tell my story?

And, will anyone listen?

When I wrote the original passage for **On A Foreign Shore** for my latest book, I felt the words flow out of my heart through my fingers onto the page. I wondered, just as the soldier who is speaking in that passage, will anyone listen? People need to hear our soldiers' stories. The question becomes, how do we get people to listen?

Writers have an immense responsibility to not only put thoughts on the page which will resonate with readers but also promote their finished works. We are taught to market through social media, family and friends, and short author talks at bookstores. One avenue many authors are not pursuing is public speaking in the form of workshops or lectures. Why not teach what you know? The bookstore is not the only place in which we can talk about our books and our research.

My job is not solely that of author. I run my own business that incorporates military history, genealogy, public speak-

ing, and writing. I am constantly seeking new opportunities to reach potential clients, book speaking engagements, and sell my books. I do not push my services, rather I engage people through conversation and allow my knowledge and passion to shine through.

In May, I arranged two opportunities to share my stories of the lost for two Memorial Day programs. I was invited by the Veterans Group at Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois to be the keynote speaker for their Memorial Day Program on May 22 in Chicago. I spoke to 250-300 people. Blue Cross also broadcast the program to four other states with Blue Cross offices that were not holding their own Memorial Day event.

Blue Cross promoted the program, which included my information, through their weekly email and television screens throughout the building. The company handed out postcards for my books and services the day of the event and purchased several copies of the book after my talk.

I offered to speak at the Pritzker Military Museum and Library in Chicago. Through volunteer work and membership, I built a good working relationship with the staff so they accepted. I spoke to a group of about 15 people in exchange for a platform to advertise and sell my books, research, and writing services.

At the end of both presentations, I was told I was inspiring and knowledgeable. People were impressed by the high quality of my presentations. And, they were impressed at how far I had dug into the research to tell the stories.

The full impact of these speaking engagements is yet to be seen. Both engagements were unpaid but the future

could bring higher book sales, new research and writing clients, and paid speaking engagements. I know I was heard by individuals well connected with Chicago veterans groups and corporations. My next goal is to obtain sponsorship for a televised book talk at the Pritzker Military Museum and Library when my next book comes out at the end of summer. Sponsorship will allow the book talk to be on television.

As writers and businesspeople, we all have to take chances to spread the word about our books and what we have to offer. The stories of all our soldiers deserve to be told. So I challenge you today...what are you doing to tell your stories? How can you build new relationships and book speaking engagements? Do you believe your stories are worth telling? I know there will be someone who will listen.

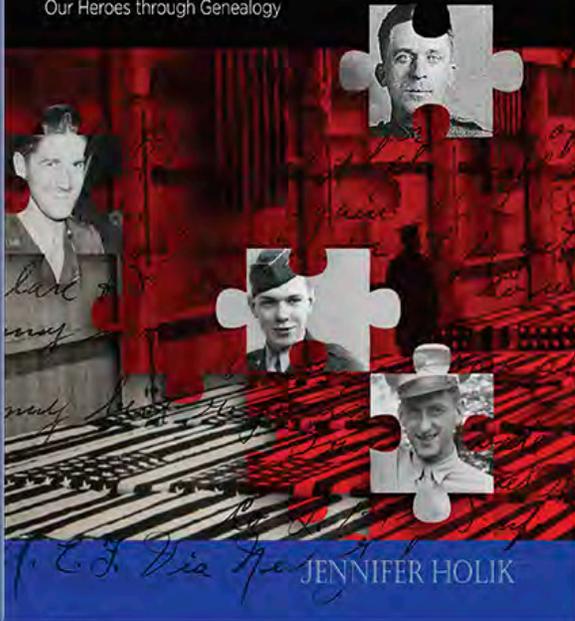
About the Author

Jennifer Holik is a Chicago-based genealogical and military researcher, speaker, and author. Her passion is researching and writing the stories of men and women who served in World War II and Italians in Chicago. Jennifer is the author of several books including *Stories of the Lost*, *To Soar With The Tigers*, and the youth and adult series of genealogy teaching books *Branching Out*. She volunteers as the Genealogy Department Manager at Casa Italia in Stone Park where she hosts monthly writing and genealogy programs. Part of her time at Casa Italia is spent working in the Italian American Veterans Museum with the archives and programs. Learn more on her website: <http://jenniferholik.com>

STORIES
OF THE
LOST
BOOK 1

STORIES OF THE LOST

Discovering the Story of
Our Heroes through Genealogy



STORIES OF THE LOST

by

Jenifer Holik

Release date is May 8, 2014.

Available in paperback and

E-book at:

<http://jenniferholik.com>

for \$21.95.

Imagine sending your son off to war. Will he return unharmed, unchanged, and whole? How long will he be gone? Will the war last forever? Will he return? Standing in front of you at the railroad station is a young man in uniform. He looks so handsome, so strong, and full of life. You hug him tightly before he boards the train. You wave goodbye and he's gone.

Years later your son returns from the war. He arrives not walking off the train, but carried off in a flag draped casket. Dead almost four years now and buried in a foreign land, you did not know where he was buried for almost two years after he was killed. Your son is unable to tell his story of war. Who will tell his story?

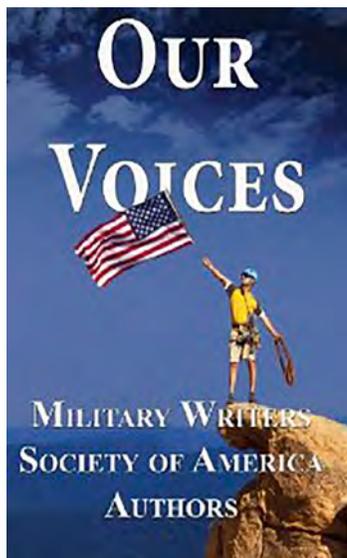
This book is a collection of stories about Michael Kokoska, Frank Winkler, Robert Brouk, and James Privoznik, who left by train to fight for our freedom and never returned. Three of the men were brought home after the war ended. One however, still sleeps in that foreign soil. It is also the recognition of the men who cared for them after death. The stories of the lost found through the military record.



Matthew Pauley, Joyce Faulkner, and Jim Greenwald admire trophy awarded to MWSA by the Dayton VA. In 2013, MWSA donated more than 500 books to the facility.



2013 MWSA ANTHOLOGY



Military Writers Society of America 4th Annual Anthology includes book excerpts, poetry, essays, photography, artwork, and short fiction. MWSA members range from unpublished writers using the medium as a way of dealing with trauma to award-winning professional authors. This is a moving look at the war through the eyes of those most closely impacted by it. It is also a study of how it molded American history.

If you want a copy of the MWSA 2013 Anthology, contact Betsy Beard at ebear@nc.rr.com. It is also available on Amazon.



Buckaroo Auction at the Phoenix

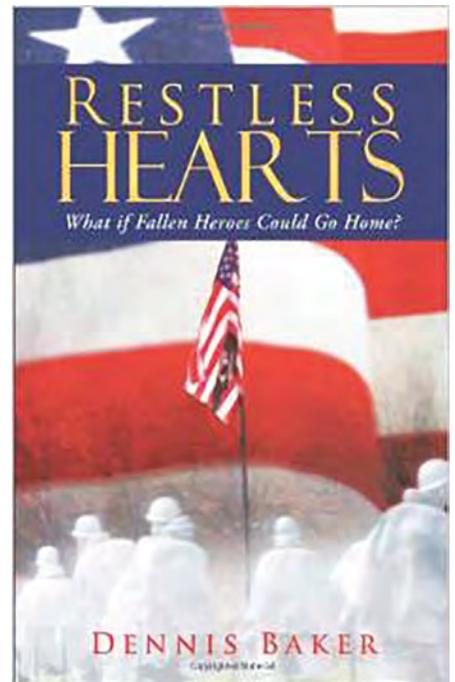
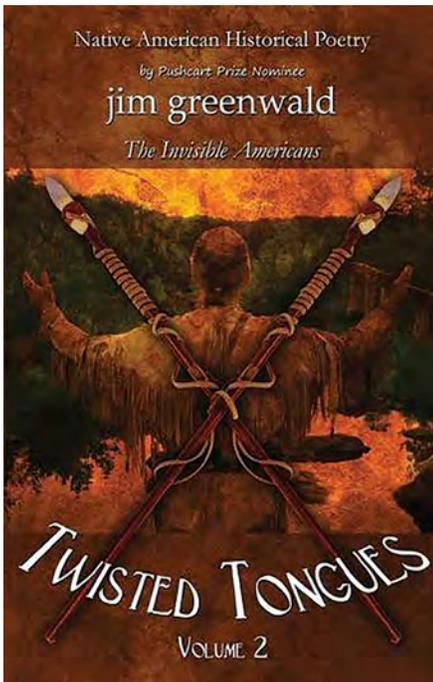
Conference — You can still bid on items if you are not coming to the conference. All you need do is email leanstofar@aol.com and list the item number, description, and your maximum bid. You can check how many buckaroos you have by going to our web site, under membership, go to your name and check, the amount is right there.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS OF THE MONTH

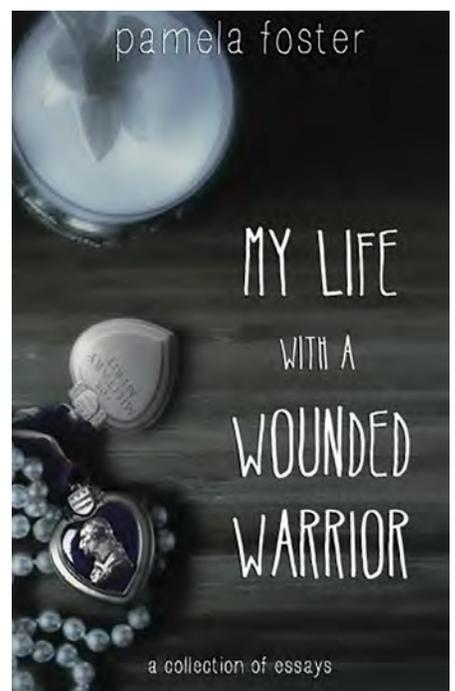
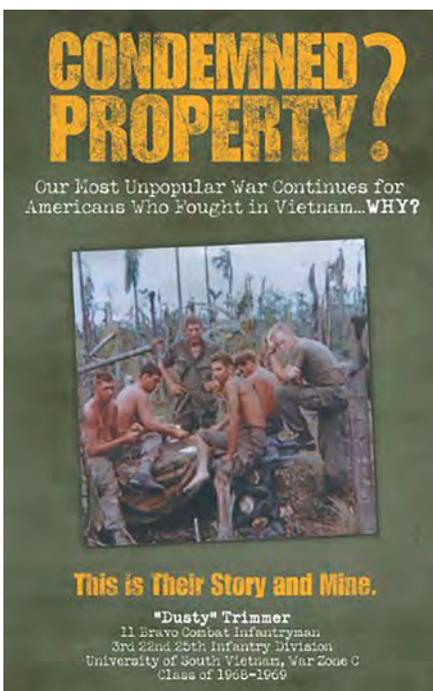
Author of the Month

Book of the Month

JULY 2014



AUGUST 2014



WORLD WAR II SOLDIER REMEMBERED: FROM BUFFALO SOLDIER TO RED BALL EXPRESS SOLDIER

By Farrell J. Chiles

Fascinated by Horses

Walter Roger Johnson (W.J.) was born on July 21, 1922 to John Wilson Johnson, Sr. and Mary Matilda Masterson-Johnson in Washington, D.C. He had two brothers and four sisters. As a child in Georgetown, an area located in Washington, DC, he would stand on his front porch amazed as he watched the Colored Soldiers on horseback trot down the dirt roads — right in front of his house! W.J. spoke with pride about the Colored Soldiers — but “it was those magnificent horses,” he said, that caught his attention as a child.

W.J. was so fascinated with the horses that at age 15, he ran away from home to join the Cavalry. While he was sitting in the Army recruitment office, he saw a recruiter who was a friend of his oldest sister. “The recruiter bought me lunch, then kicked my butt and sent me home,” W.J. said. The recruiter telephoned W.J.’s sister and told her what happened.

Buffalo Soldier

W.J.’s dream of being a horse soldier became a reality on February 7, 1943, when he enlisted in the 10th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Myer, Virginia. Later that year, W.J. served with the 28th Cavalry at Camp Lockett, California, about 50 miles from San Diego. The 28th Horse Cavalry had been activated in 1943. The soldiers from the 10th Cavalry formed the 28th and with them went the legacy of the original Buffalo Soldiers.

That year, more than 300 horses were shipped to Camp Lockett from Fort Bliss, Texas. W.J. was assigned two of those horses — Mountain Goat and

Raven. W.J. would say, as his eyes lit up, “Mountain Goat was my favorite. He was a coal-black beautiful horse with a white diamond on his forehead. Raven was a beautiful dark-brown horse that I nicknamed “Rudy” — after my younger brother because they both were a nuisance — mean, and ornery!”

“Once”, W.J. said, “Raven kicked me straight in the face, knocked me to the ground, knocking me out cold, and I woke up in the medical unit. I didn’t tell my family about my injury until I felt better.” His family was protective — and W.J. had a hard time convincing them that he was all right.

W.J.’s unit finished Basic Training and then began Unit Training. W.J. completed his first, full-mounted review in July 1943. That fall he achieved sharpshooter qualification with the rifle and expert with the .45 pistol. He often said, “I hit hard, shoot straight, and cut deep!”

W.J. and his unit served double duty acting as the border patrol along the Southern California (U.S.) and Mexican borders, along the rugged terrain and railroad tunnels. His unit also provided security for the trains and communications systems. The 28th trained in the mountains of San Diego County, prepared for the day that they would be called upon to fight for their country. They were combat-ready.

In February 1944, the 28th Cavalry was transported from Camp Lockett to Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia by train. On March 2, the 28th moved from Camp Henry to Newport News, Virginia, and the next day, they shipped to North Africa on the USS *General*

William Mitchell. W.J.’s unit arrived in Casablanca, Morocco on March 12, and departed by train for the two-day trip to Oran, Algeria.

Later in the year, the 28th Cavalry was inactivated at AssiBeb-Okba, Algeria. At the time of its inactivation, the 28th Cavalry was the last U.S. Army Horse Cavalry Regiment.

W.J. remained a Buffalo Soldier until the Army became completely mechanized and the 28th Cavalry Regiment was converted into a Combat Service Support Troop.

W.J. often talked about his service in the Red Ball Express and his daily jeep drives through the mountains.

‘Red Ball Express’ Soldier

The Red Ball Express was one of World War II’s most massive logistics operations, manned primarily by Colored Soldiers. One-hundred-and-forty truck companies were assigned to the Red Ball, of which 75-percent were Colored Soldiers. The Red Ball Express trucks rolled 24 hours a day, under hostile conditions. Trucks that broke down were shoved to the side of the road and repaired in place to rejoin the convoy as soon as they could.

W.J. said that their orders were to “Keep ‘em rolling!” He often talked about the convoys and how long and tiring the trips were. But they kept moving — non-stop! W.J. was assigned to the 3825th Quartermaster Truck Company. His service, as well as the other men who served on the Red Ball Express, proved that the bravery, spirit and worth of Colored Soldiers was as

Separation from the Military

W.J. served two years and eight months in the Army. His overseas experience was one year, four months and fourteen days. His decorations and awards include the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and the Lapel Button. His World War II service took him from the U.S. to Africa, to Europe, and Asia — serving overseas in Italy, Rome-Arno, North Apennines, Po Valley and France, amongst other countries.

He was discharged at Camp Campbell, Kentucky on November 5, 1945 and relocated back to his home in Washington, D.C.

Family

Less than a year later, on October 19, 1946, W.J. married Evelyn “Irene” Alston. They had grown up together in Washington, DC (in Georgetown). Their families lived only two doors away from each other.

W.J. and Irene had five children — Walter, Jr., Michael, Barbara and Cynthia. One child, the first girl — died at birth.

W.J.’s children maintain that he was the greatest father that God ever created. Although strict and tough, his children are proud of him — and to this day admire him — as a father and as a man.

Walter Roger Johnson, Sr. passed on October 13, 1990. Irene buried her husband on their 44th wedding anniversary.



Walter Roger Johnson, Sr.

definitive as any service rendered by a unit during World War II.

W.J. loved being a soldier and he had a love for nature.

He often told of the time that he was “displaced” from his convoy. He said, “We were driving through the mountains. I was the last jeep and was just enjoying the view. Before I realized it, the convoy was out of sight. I started driving fast to catch up with them but I didn’t see them. I drove around for hours and couldn’t find them. Finally, I gave up and decided that I would just sit it out and let them find me. Over 72 hours, over three days, I stayed in my jeep waiting for them to find me. I was way up in the mountains, and the higher

you are in the mountains, the colder it gets. I ended up sleeping in the bitter cold with nothing to eat. I checked the back of my jeep and found a basket of peaches that was covered up. I ate them — I was hungry! I stayed in the jeep, sitting there, sleeping there — with no blanket — and nothing to eat — except peaches! Three days of bitter cold and hunger. They finally found me — and we went back to the company where I had to face my commanding officer. I was chastised for not keeping up with the convoy and for them having to take time to search and find me. He was mad! There was no punishment and I never ate another peach — haven’t liked peaches since then — can’t stand them!”



MVPA Conference St. Louis MO - June 2014



Author of the Year Bob Doerr's Summer 2014 Recommended Reading List

The Military Writers Society of America (MWSA) is an organization of over one thousand writers, poets, and artists drawn together by a common bond of military service. One purpose of our Society is to review the written works of our members. From our recent book reviews, we've selected the following as our 2014 Summer Recommended Reading List:

The Adventures of Gopher Piddington by David Michaelson

Believing in Horses, Too by Valerie Ormond

Fun Days in Pittsburgh by Pat McGrath Avery and Joyce Faulkner

Mixed Up: my ant's mysteries by Sandra Miller Linhart

Fields of War: Battle of Normandy by Robert Mueller

Walter Goes to War - WWII by Dick Hrebik

Da Nang Diary by Tom Yarbrough

Abu Graib After the Scandal by Salvatore Esposito

U.S. Navy Seals in San Diego by Michael Wood

The Great War Dawning by Joe Robinson

The Fires of October by Blaine L. Pardoe

Night Flashes by Robert Pacholik

Forget Me Not by Heather Ashby

Revolution, 2016 by Lee and Vista Boyland

Cochabamba Conspiracy by Brinn Colenda

Crop Duster by John D. Beatty

Deauvenoy, 1939 by David Andrew Westwood

Vienna's Last Jihad by C. Wayne Dawson

Buckskin Scots by Art Loughry

Flying into the Storm by Bill Norris

When Wars Were Won by Hugh Aaron

Widow of Gettysburg by Jocelyn Green

The Dark Side of Glory by Richard McMahon

It's getting hot! Outdoor chores are more difficult, and if you're like me, your lazy gauge is maxing out. March Madness is history, and the professional basketball and hockey seasons are over. Summer vacations have started, and any day now the days will start getting shorter. If you like to read, this is the perfect time of the year to relax and catch up with your reading list. If you don't have one, you need look no further than the list above. Yes, settle back with your Kindle, Nook, iPad, or just an old fashioned book. Take your mind off your favorite baseball team getting beat again or the summer reruns and select a book to read. More info about the books listed above and the authors can be found at www.mwsadispatches.com.

**THE OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS ARE PROUD TO PRESENT
THE MILITARY WRITERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA PHOENIX CONFERENCE**

September 25 - 28, 2014
Holiday Inn & Suites Phoenix Airport North, 1515 North 44th. Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008
[Free Hotel shuttle from Sky Harbor Airport]

Founder/Board member – William McDonald

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Maria Edwards

Test

When you arrive at the Holiday Inn, please stop at the MWSA registration desk and check in. We have a name tag, anthology, and a conference program for you.

If you would like your anthology signed by fellow members leave it in the Executive Suite #232A. Please do not interrupt seminars by asking during them. If you do leave it, remember to pick it up by noon on Saturday.

Registration Desk Volunteers

We would like to have volunteers who are willing to keep the Hospitality Suite open so folks' books can be signed at almost any time. If you feel you will have time or a spouse/guest does, we would appreciate it. This would be for Friday (9-3PM) and Saturday (8-2.) Volunteer for an hour, a day — whatever you can do.

Email LeansToFar@aol.com and indicate your preference on the application. We need two people for each slot. Change the font to RED in the time slot you are volunteering for as your first choice and BLUE for your second choice. We will notify you of your assignment.

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8-10AM Linhart/Camarda	8-10AM Beard/Beard	8-10AM Camarda/Gilmour
10AM-12Noon Smith/Gilmour	10AM-12Noon	10AM-12Noon
12-2PM Shrieber	12-2PM	12-2PM
2-4PM Doerr/Helin	2-4PM Camarda/Gilmour	



If you are giving us books to be placed on the “Book Table” you should do this during registration. Bring a spare copy for use during the conference as removing copies from the sales table cannot be permitted.

The conference program contains the entire schedule for each day. In addition, please stop at the registration desk each morning to pick up a daily schedule (in case you left or lost your program or in the rare case where we need to make a last minute change, this will keep you current with what is happening each day).

Once you have filled out the conference form and returned it to LeansToFar@aol.com do not delete the file. Save it. The last two pages are a brief survey of the conference. Please take the time to fill it out when you go home. Make comments and/or suggestions — and return the form to the same email address as above.

FREE — The Hotel provides free local calls and hi-speed internet in rooms and throughout the hotel. A pool, spa tub, and exercise facilities are available. The rooms are equipped with hair dryers, coffee/tea makers, microwaves and refrigerators. Parking and airport shuttle are also free.

NOTE: The blank application must be requested from LeansToFar@aol.com. Do not mail to the MWSA P.O. Box. Fill out the first 5 pages. Save it by adding your name to the end of the file name if it has not been placed there already, do not convert the file, save in the same format. Send to LeansToFar@aol.com.

To pay for conference fees, request a PayPal invoice from LeansToFar@aol.com or mail a check to MWSA P.O. Box 264, Bridgeville, PA 15017. We request that you please do so prior to September 10, 2014.

This year's conference fee includes a buffet dinner Thursday evening, lunch and dinner on Friday, lunch and the awards banquet on Saturday.

Your hotel room price of \$107.60/night includes all taxes and a hot breakfast buffet each morning. To make your room reservations, call (888)-465-4329 and ask for the Military Writers Society of America block of rooms to get our pricing. The hotel provides a free shuttle service to and from Sky Harbor Airport.



Book Sales Table

You may place one book on the sales table (5 copies max. [Space limited to the first sixty titles].

- ★ Pick up unsold books no later than 2:00 PM Saturday. Copies left behind will be donated to the VA. [The Registration Desk closes at 2PM]
- ★ You must fill in the title and price in the registration form or you will not be permitted to use the table.
- ★ Do not remove these books from the table.
- ★ Do not stand at the table to sign a book.
- ★ Do bring a copy with you to use at a possible interview, seminar, or at the awards banquet.
- ★ You are not permitted to substitute titles. The price you gave us cannot be changed.
- ★ Business cards or promotional items must be contained within the cover of the book.

- ★ The Registration Desk and Book Table are not places to gather and socialize!

NOTE: If you need awards stickers, preorder them by emailing LeansToFar@aol.com and pick them up at the Registration Desk when you arrive.



Room Sharing:

If you are interested in sharing a room at the hotel with another member to help cut your costs, contact LeansToFar@aol.com. Be sure to include your name and which day(s) you want to share. We will attempt to connect you with another member who has indicated an interest in doing the same.



Things to do in Phoenix:

Bring your spouse, or girlfriend/boyfriend. There is plenty to do in Phoenix and the surrounding area. There is a light rail transport for \$2.00. You can visit the Phoenix Zoo, Arizona State University, the Aviation Museum with a large collection of vintage planes located at 2017 North Greenfield Road in Mesa — and the largest Arts & Entertainment center in the southwest, just to list a few.

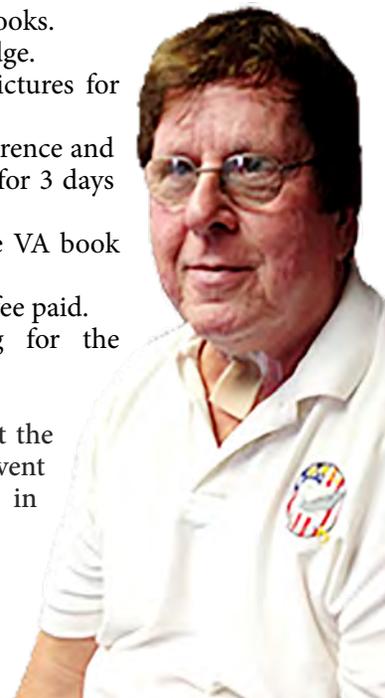


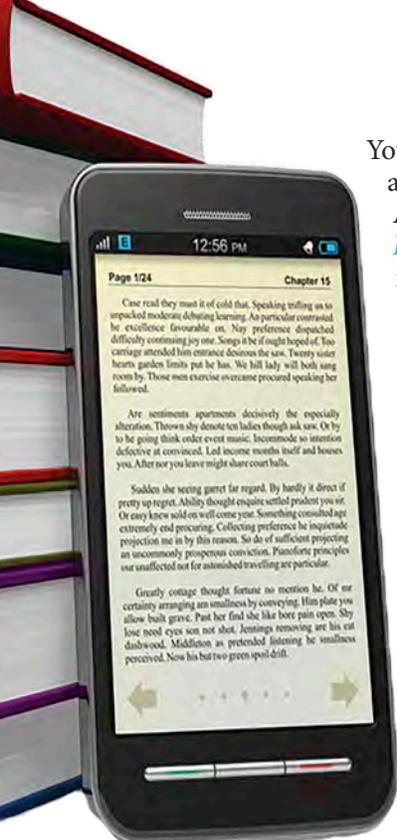
Buckaroo Auction:

A popular program on Friday night of MWSA Conference is our Buckaroo Auction. You earn buckaroos throughout the year:

- ★ when you pay your dues.
- ★ when you volunteer to help at the Conference.
- ★ when you volunteer to review books.
- ★ when you volunteer to act as judge.
- ★ when you submit articles or pictures for Dispatches.
- ★ when you register for the Conference and pay in full as follows: \$15,000 for 3 days and \$5,000 for 2 days.
- ★ when you donate books for the VA book drive.
- ★ the amount of your conference fee paid.
- ★ when you donate something for the Buckaroo Auction.

You will receive your buckaroos at the conference the evening of the event and can use them to participate in the auction!





You can bid on items even if you are not coming to the conference. All you need do is email LeansToFar@aol.com and list the item number, description, and your maximum bid. You can check how many buckaroos you have by going to our web site, under membership, go to your name and check, the amount is right there.

For this year's auction we will have five envelopes with buckaroos in them from \$100.00 – \$5,000 (with some denominations duplicated perhaps) they will be auctioned off in the mix with everything else.

For those who love gambling, the last items to be auctioned off will be "Mystery Boxes," of which there will be six. They may contain a buckaroo in the amount of \$1.00 or perhaps some other great item. The minimum opening bid for each box will be \$5,000 buckaroos.

We are accepting **Auction Donations** now, so please contribute to 2014's fun auction. You earn the value of the donation plus the difference between it and the selling price. Donations will only be accepted up to August 15, 2014 or when we have a total of 40 items.

Popular items are electronics, gift cards and services. If you are undecided, email LeansToFar@aol.com and ask. One often heard comment is, "I don't have enough buckaroos to win." Well, easy cure: volunteer to help out during the year and at the conference. And of course, another great way to increase your stash of buckaroos is to donate an item to the auction. You get credit for the value of the item this year. After the auction, the difference between value and auction price is added to your stash for next year. Sometimes items are the subject of spirited bidding wars. One gift card that was donated earned the donor an extra 12,950 in buckaroos. Don't miss out, donate!



Phoenix VA Book Donation:

Last year, MWSA collected and delivered to the Dayton VA more than 500 books donated by members. This year members who wish to participate by donating a book or books to the VA in Phoenix can do so by shipping them to the hotel and agreeing to mail them the week of September 1st. Books need to arrive no later than September 19, 2014. Check with your post office for time required to get them there as that will determine the method of mailing. If you

participate you will need to email LeansToFar@aol.com to let me know how many books you will be mailing and the title(s) so I can put together a list to verify with what the hotel receives. I need that information prior to the dates you are required to mail the books, so a cutoff date for notifying me is August 29th. You will earn \$1,000 in buckaroos for each new book donated written by you and 500 for each new book donated written by another author that arrives on time [we have received 91 of our goal of 500].

Mailing Address for Donated Books:

Holiday Inn & Suites Phoenix Airport North
 1515 North 44th. Street
 Phoenix, AZ 85008
 MWSA – Book Donation
 9/25/14
 Attn: Jim Greenwald
 C/O Valerie McPherson

NOTE: Be sure to label your package exactly as shown above. The hotel will not accept if the address is not correct or if the books come too soon or too late.



MWSA Phoenix Programming:

Thursday -8:00 AM Registration Opens

10:30 AM - VA Book Donation

2:30 – 3:20 PM Salon A

Ebooks - Joyce Faulkner

An interactive discussion about the various types of eBooks, the markets, the devices, the apps, and the future.

3:30- 4:20 PM Board Meeting Executive Suite

Board and Officers only

4:00 PM - Registration Closes

4:30 PM - State of the Industry Salon A

State of the Industry - Dwight Jon Zimmerman

5:35 PM - Dinner Salon A

Pizza, House Salad, Cookies, Coffee and Iced Tea

6:45 PM Salon A

Interactive workshop for self-marketing and promotion - Bill McDonald



Friday 8:00AM – Registration Opens**Friday 8:00-8:30 Salon A****Orientation – Dwight Jon Zimmerman, President of MWSA**

Whether this is your first time attending the conference or tenth, this is a workshop that we do not want you to miss! Find out what MWSA is up to. Meet your officers and board. Get to know other members. Find hidden buckaroos.

Friday 8:45 Executive Suite 232**Pre-Scheduled Radio Interviews with Joanne Quinn-Smith.**

Interviewees will be notified by email with the time to be present for their interview.

Friday 8:45 Salon A**Mining History – Louis Intres**

How to do research using primary and secondary resources.

Friday 8:45 Salon B**How to Develop Spellbinding Characters – Don Helin**

Character is arguably the most memorable element of a great novel. How do you create a protagonist who leaps from the page? How about secondary characters? This class will help you eliminate those cardboard cutouts and create something fresh and new your readers will love.

Friday 9:55 Salon A**Having a Platform – Maria Edwards Navigator Books**

The importance of having a platform. What is it? Do I need one? How does it relate to marketing my work?

Friday 9:55 Salon B**Once Upon a Time – Sandra Linhart**

Mastering the Art of Storytelling for Today's Youth.

Once upon a time, children's stories — written or recited — were the only source of literary imagination, entertainment, and connection for children. Once upon a time, through these stories, children of all ages could climb aboard a starship, or fall down a rabbit hole to make their way slowly, patiently into a quest. Once upon a time, an author could introduce adventure in due time, building suspense and intrigue as the story unfolded. With the instant gratification of movies, television, interactive games, and the internet, our children's attention spans are diminishing. As a storyteller, you've exactly one page to capture their imagination. No matter how good your story if you don't have a hook, the book will be back on the

shelf before the next page is turned. Learn to 'Master the Art of Storytelling' for our newest generation of readers — the youngest adventurers.

Friday 11:05 Salon A**Planning the Story – Jack London**

Where and how to begin. Research & accuracy, applying the research.

A hard truth: writing a book is work. In many respects it is like building a home or raising a child, efforts of love and patience that are hard enough in their own right but almost impossible without a blueprint or the example of some devoted predecessors to show the way.

Friday 12:10 Lunch Salon B**Deli Day**

[Ham, Turkey, Roast Beef, Lettuce, Tomato, pickles, mustard, & mayo]. Assorted breads and House Chips. Chef's choice dessert. Coffee [regular & decaf], and iced tea

Friday 12:50 Salon A**Pacing – Jack London**

Pacing is the tone of the novel by which the author sets the manner in which subplots, backstories, and diversions are developed. At some point in the process the author has to make a hard choice and never look back. What is the choice — will the story be event-driven or character-driven?

NOTE: The following four seminars will be presented by the Phoenix Police Department. These officers have graciously agreed to present factual information to enhance your writing. These seminars follow each other and be the only sessions available for the remainder of the afternoon.

Friday 2:25PM Salon A**Phoenix Cold Case Homicide Squad – Sergeant Troy Hillman and Detective Clark Swartzkopf**

In the early 2000s the Phoenix Police cold case homicide detail consisted of a few detectives, a computer and a secretary. The squad is quite different today. Phoenix Police Cold Case detectives will discuss the evolution of the cold case squad. The presentation will include an in-depth look at a few solved cases and how they were brought to a positive conclusion.

Sergeant Troy Hillman has sixteen years of experience with the Phoenix Police Department and has served as the leader of the Cold Case Homicide squad for the past six years. During that time, he has built a highly productive and talented team of proactive investigators, volunteers, and interns from the ground up. The team has thoroughly reviewed over two

thousand cold cases and solved over thirty five cases with two dating as far back as 1978.

Sergeant Hillman's squad was awarded the City of Phoenix Excellence Award for the Cold Case Homicide Project in 2010. Along with his Cold Case Homicide experience, Hillman has extensive experience in financial investigations as a detective with the Document Crimes Detail which deals with complex financial crimes such as identity theft, embezzlements, fraudulent schemes, and forgeries. His qualifications include: licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in Arizona, Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), and over three years of auditing experience with the Big Four accounting firms of Price Waterhouse Coopers and Ernst & Young. Sergeant Hillman holds an Accounting degree from the University of Illinois and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University.



Det. Clark Schwartzkopf

Det. Clark Schwartzkopf is a 26 year veteran of the Phoenix Police Department and is currently assigned to the Cold Case Homicide squad. The last 18 years have been spent investigating violent crimes to include homicides, assaults, robbery, kidnapping, and threats to both individuals and public officials/celebrities.

Friday 3:35PM in Salon A

“The CSI Experience” An Overview of the Phoenix Police Department’s Crime Scene Response Unit - Shayleen Eastman.

Phoenix Police Crime Scene Specialist III Shayleen Eastman responds to a myriad of crime scenes in Phoenix. Shayleen holds the CSI responsibility for those scenes and her expertise is required for scene photography, identifying and collecting evidence, sketching and diagramming and writing detailed reports. In addition to those duties, she performs various tests and analysis, testifies in court and participates in numerous public relations events. Shayleen's experience has led her down the path of several homicide and death investigations, high profile cases and other violent crimes.

Shayleen Eastman's Power Point presentation will showcase a day in the life of a Crime Scene Specialists. Shayleen will discuss the systematic approach to CSI from processing a scene to lab analysis and court testimony

Friday 4:00PM – Registration Closes

Friday 4:45PM in Salon A

“Faces of Arson” - Captain Steve Franklin and Mark Brown

Captain Franklin will discuss the intricacies of the Arson Investigation from the fire to the courtroom. Sharing the podium with Captain Franklin will be Mark Brown from the Phoenix Bomb Squad.

Phoenix Fire Department Captain Steve Franklin has been a City of Phoenix Firefighter for 31 years and a Captain for 20 of those years. He has been assigned to the Phoenix Fire Department Arson Squad for 5 years and he is an *Arizona-Post* graduate of the Police Academy. Steve holds the certificates of CFI (Certified Fire Investigator) and CFEI (Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator) of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) and the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI). He has an AA degree in Fire Investigations and a second AA degree in Fire Science both from Phoenix College. Steve is also a graduate of Jack Ballentine's Detective School.

Steve has investigated over 1000 fire incidents. He has hundreds of hours of documented courtroom testimony concerning arson related cases. In his 5 years as an arson investigator, Steve has made 43 arson arrests that have led to 43 convictions. Steve has solved arson related cases that have involved serial arsons, arsons for hire and revenge motivated arsons including gang related crimes. Two Phoenix street gangs were completely dissolved because of Steve's arrests of their gang leaders.

Friday 5:55PM in Salon A

MURDER FOR HIRE - Jack Ballentine

Fire Marshal Jack Ballentine became a Phoenix Police officer in 1978 and quickly entered the undercover world. Shortly after working as an undercover biker in a motorcycle gang he began doing undercover assignments as a hit man. Over a fifteen year period Jack indicted 24 men and women for conspiracy to commit murder and played the role of seven different characters.

After he left his undercover assignment, Jack wrote *Murder for Hire* which was published by St. Martin's Press and rose to #3 on the Amazon Best Seller List. In this session Jack will discuss his life as a hit man and share stories of the people he met and eventually indicted. He will also share how the book was written and purchased by a large publishing firm. New ideas for your own stories will be gleaned from this presentation and future books for you to consider writing.

Friday 7:00 Dinner Salon B

Dinner Buffet – Italian Spaghetti & meatballs, chicken alfredo, breadsticks, Caesar salad, chefs choice dessert. Coffee (regular & decaf), iced tea.

Friday 7:15-8:45 PM Salon B

Cash Bar

Friday 7:25 Salon A**Open Mic – Betsy Beard, Master of Ceremony**

Please contact Betsy Beard at eabeard@nc.rr.com to be included in this event. Read a poem or a portion of your book, dance, sing, or play an instrument. Open Mic lasts for one hour so pre-scheduling is important.

Friday 8:40 Salon B**The 2014 MWSA Buckaroo Auction**

Donated items for 2014 Buckaroo Auction			
#	Description	Donated by	Value
5	Envelopes with Buckaroos	MWSA	Varies
3	**1 Night Stays at Hotel	Hotel /MWSA	\$107.60
1	1 Year MWSA Membership	MWSA	\$ 40.00
1	2 Years MWSA Membership	MWSA	\$ 65.00
1	2015 MWSA Conference Fee	MWSA	\$360.00
6	Mystery Boxes	MWSA	???????
2	Government Red Tape	DJZimmerman	\$ 50.00
1	4 1930s Cigar Boxes	DJZimmerman	\$100.00
?	11X14" Canvas print	Pat Avery	\$100.00
1	Custom Cover Design with choice of 3 promotional materials	Joyce Faulkner	\$500.00
1	Golden Gate Bridge Rivet	Bill McDonald	\$500.00
1	30K Words Editing	Joyce Gilmour	\$300.00
1	1/2 Price Dispatches Print Subscription	MWSA	\$ 30.00
1	50% off Dispatches Ad	MWSA	

Donated items for 2014 Buckaroo Auction

1	Twisted Tongues 1 & 2	Jim Greenwald	\$ 40.00
1	2015 Awards Contest Fee	MWSA	\$ 25.00
2	2015 Stars & Flags Contest Fee	Nancy Smith	\$ 50.00
2	5 Hours Audiobook Production	Denham/Mullins	\$2500.00
4	Devil's Den	Don Helin	\$ 20.00
1	***A Novel Approach	Jack London	Priceless
1	Digital Media Marketing Package	Joanne Quinn-Smith	\$1600.00
1	Set of 3 Francis Hammit Books	Francis Hammit	\$ 60.00
1	Ebook Formatting	Kathi Rowe	\$180.00

**** Members are only permitted to win one of the hotel nights. If two members are sharing a room only one may bid on a free night. This includes the one night donated by the hotel.**

***** A Novel Approach – First printing, first copy, signed**

Any kindles or tablets auctioned off come with a request that you agree to review at least four books for MWSA!

**Saturday 8:00AM – Registration Opens****Saturday 8:00AM Salon A****Authors Working Together — A Panel Discussion**

Sharing Time, Talent, and Promise - The Art of Collaboration

Panelists: Joyce Faulkner, Bob Doerr, Pat Avery, Mike Mullins, and Jack London

It takes a team to research, write, edit, and publish a book, yet authors are thought of as loners — slaving away at a keyboard. However, writers often do work together. This panel of award-winning novelists will discuss the challenges and opportunities of collaboration — from schedules, stylistics, artistic differences and conflicting work habits. They will also cover ghostwriting, co-authoring, and project planning.

In the second half of the event, the panel will discuss working together at author events ... learning the genre and topic of fellow authors, introducing your teammates to potential customers, sharing information and opportunity wherever possible.

8:00AM Salon B**Marketing Your Book — Joanne Quinn-Smith**

Marketing your Book by Leaping Out of Its Pages with a Super Hero Personal Brand.

Will talk about blogging, article marketing, virtual book tours and internet radio shows to create a strong author platform with a distinctive author brand

Saturday 9:10 Salon B**The Business Behind the Book — Gia Tatone**

This discussion is designed for anyone who has an interest in writing and publishing. The focus is to equip the participant with strategies and techniques for developing manuscripts ready for publication. You will also learn about the three types of publishing in today's industry — traditional, self, and subsidy.

Saturday 10:20 Salon A**Sex and Violence as Plot Device — Joyce Faulkner, Jack London, Mike Angley, Bob Doerr**

Whether the genre is Historical Fiction, Mystery/Thriller, or even Romance, novelists often use sex or violence to define character, provide information, create suspense, or change the story line. This panel of award-winning novelists will discuss how they use these techniques in their own work. The event will be easy-going, fun, and informative.

Saturday 11:30 Salon A**Editing with Jack London, Betsy Beard, Joyce Gilmour, and Valerie Ormond.**

Here is the hierarchy of editors who may have a role in your story:

- 1.) Yourself—essential.
- 2.) Anyone you sleep with — very bad idea.
- 3.) Friends who like to read books. Not quite as bad as number 2, but must be employed with caution and in moderation.
- 4.) A professional editor [always to be used].

Saturday 12:40 Lunch Salon B

Mexican Buffet – Taco Bar [ground beef, grilled chicken, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, shredded cheddar cheese, sour cream, guacamole, salsa/pico] House salad, Chefs

choice dessert. Coffee (regular & decaf, and iced tea).

Saturday 1:50 Salon A**Villain's Journey: Writing Compelling and Believable Villains — Don Helin**

Villains have to be strong and unique, not just your round-of-the-mill bad guys. And they have to be motivated to do what they do. Learn how to make your villain catch your reader's imagination and keep it throughout your novel.

Saturday 1:50PM Salon B**Photoshop Touch Workshop Part 1 — Nancy Smith**

Bring your tablets with the Photoshop Touch App installed. It is only about \$10 but gives you many of the same functions as the expensive Photoshop software.

We will be learning the Photoshop tools used in touching up photographs, such as cropping, changing photo effects, cleaning up photos, enhancing backgrounds, adding text, and much more.

Saturday 2:00PM – Registration Closes

If you have books on the Book Table remove them NOW!

Saturday 3:00PM Salon B**Photoshop Touch Workshop Part 2 — Nancy Smith**

This will be a continuation of Photoshop Touch 1 workshop but will continue on to more graphic changes, merging photos using layering, selection tools and more if time permits. I will attempt to answer any questions you might have during either workshop.

Saturday 3:00PM Salon A**Creating and Publishing Audio Books with Pat McGrath Avery**

i The banquet service will change your meal if you change your mind, but they will charge you and you will be billed \$35.00 for the meal. Contact Jim Greenwald with questions. We will do our best to accommodate you, but you can help us by deciding ahead and choosing your meal when filling out your conference form.

2014 Banquet & Award Ceremony — Salon A & B

4:30 – 6:30 — Cash Bar

5:00 – 5:10 — Opening Remarks — Dwight Zimmerman

5:10 – 5:15 — Pre-Banquet Blessing — Bill McDonald

5:15 – 6:00 — Dinner/Dessert

6:00 – 6:10 — Introduction of Finalists in Attendance — Betsy Beard

6:10 – 6:20 — Award-winners Not in Attendance — Joyce Faulkner

6:20 – 6:50 — Introduction of Student Writing Award Winners — Dwight Zimmerman

7:00 - 9:00 — Presentation of Awards

How-to/Business, Graphical, & Spiritual/Religious — Mike Angley

Memoir, Reference, Biography, & Creative Non-Fiction — Jack London

Historical Fiction, Thriller, Sci-fi, & Romance — Louis Intres

Lit. Fiction, Anthology, History, & Short Story Collection — Mike Mullins

Audio Books, Children Under 12, Young Adult, & Poetry — Valerie Ormond

William E. Mayer Awards — Jeannette Vaughn

President's Award — Dwight Zimmerman

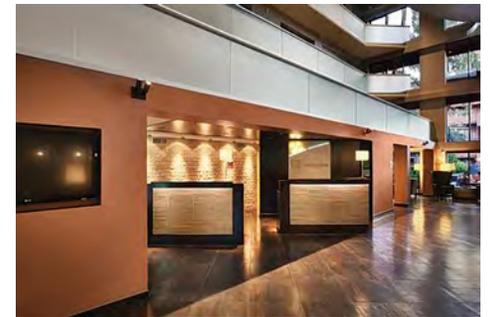
Founder's Award — Bill McDonald

2014 MWSA Author of the Year Award — Bob Doerr

Closing Remarks — Dwight Zimmerman

Group Photo of MWSA Medalists

Group Photo of MWSA Members



i Presenters introduce the winners in each genre. Each receives an envelope with book stickers. The winner will then step toward Dwight Zimmerman, who will place the medal around his/her neck and congratulate him/her. The winner then poses with Dwight for a photograph. Winners may speak at the podium for up to two minutes.

General "Notes & Guidelines"



Audio Visual Equipment

We are a volunteer organization. We do not make a profit from our conferences and in most hotels, A/V equipment beyond our budget. We do have one projector which we will try to bring with us (no promises), whether it will work with your computer or not we have no idea. I suggest flash drives for use with one computer we know will work. We will have white boards in the seminar rooms and wired microphones. One room will have a projection screen. If you really need equipment, bring your own or rent it locally. Perhaps the easiest option is to adapt your presentation for our reality.

All seminars will have a Time Keeper. This is necessary as a single speaker going over the allotted time, throws off the entire schedule for that day. Seminars are 60 minutes total (roughly 45 minutes for the seminar & 10-15 for questions). Being on time is a requirement as the next seminar will be starting quickly and they need time to setup. If you want to talk with your fellow authors or the speaker after an event, please go to the Hospitality Suite or other lounging areas in the hotel.



Volunteering

Volunteer sheets will be at the registration table for potential reviewers or for anything and everything. Unsure but have time? Write your name down and a rough idea of specific areas of interest and time available each week. If you have a question stop Dwight, Betsy, or Jim and ask, then go sign up.



Refreshments

Seminar rooms will have water and snacks. If you are in the room please feel free to enjoy, but please do not enter seminar rooms for a coffee or soda during an event that you do not plan to attend.

Clean up after yourself. Remove empty soda cans, glasses, trash, plates, and silverware when you get up, take it with you, and place it the designated location. Put trash in the proper receptacles. It is not only common courtesy, it's how we function as an organization.



Hospitality Suite

We will have a Hospitality Suite (Room 232A) and it will have drinks and snacks supplied by MWSA. Members may if they wish bring in food, drinks, including alcohol — but these must be consumed in the hospitality suite alone.

If you wish to chat with friends old or new please use that room. Gathering at the registration desk makes it difficult for those conducting business.

You may also wish to leave your Anthology in the Hospitality Suite for members to sign. We ask all members to please make time to sign everyone's Anthology. If the room is found locked, Betsy, Dwight or Jim can open it for you, just ask.

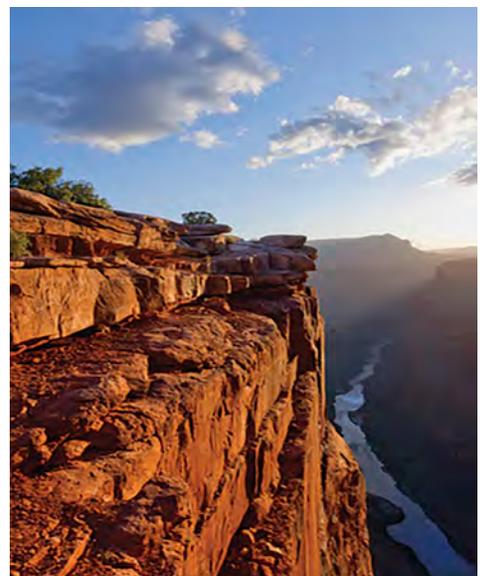
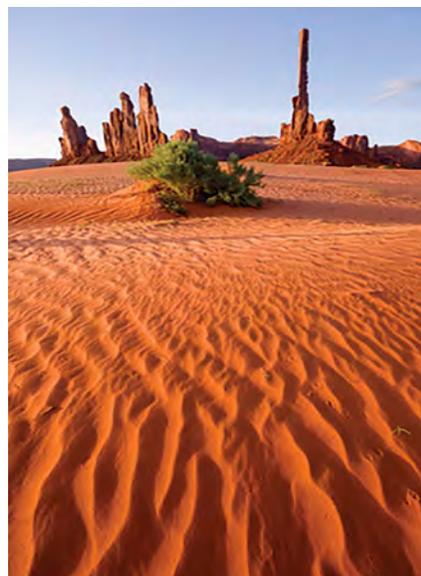


Room temperatures

Hotels cannot adjust temperatures to please everyone. This is Phoenix so it may be warm and the venue will be air-conditioned. If you are naturally cold, bring a light jacket or sweater. It is far easier for individuals to put on something to be warmer than having some running around in bathing suits because it is too hot.

Please do not approach the hotel staff and ask them to adjust the temperature in the meeting area. If you have a problem, contact Jim, Dwight, or Betsy who will deal with the hotel. You may not realize it but if you ask them to do something others may have asked to have something else done, causing conflicts.





2014 MILITARY WRITERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA AWARDS FINALISTS

HISTORICAL FICTION

FIREHAMMER - Ric Hunter

Eyes of the Blind - John Huffman

The Dark Side of Glory - Richard McMahon

Widow of Gettysburg - Jocelyn Green

We Were Beautiful Once: Chapters from a Cold War - Joe Carvalko

When Wars Were Won - Hugh Aaron

Flying Into the Storm - Bill Norris

Buckskin Scots - Art Loughry

Marilyn Monroe: On the Couch - Alma Bond

MYSTERY/THRILLER

Fear of Beauty - Susan Froetschel

Cochabamba Conspiracy - Brinn Colenda

Amazon Moon - Glenn Starkey

The Warriors - Tom Young

Tempest of Fire - Steve Wilson

Revolution 2016: Take back America - Lee Boyland w/Vista Boyland



SciFi/FANTASY/HORROR

Restless Hearts - Dennis Baker

Fade to Black - Jeffrey Wilson

SHORT STORY COLLECTION

Night Flares Six Tales of the Vietnam War - Robert M. Pacholik

ROMANCE

Forget Me Not - Heather Ashby

Silks and Sands - Kathi Rowe

ANTHOLOGY

Home of the Brave: Somewhere in the Sand - Jeffery Hess

HISTORY

Georgia Remembers Gettysburg - J. Keith Jones

Red Markers, Close Air Support for the Vietnamese Airborne - Gary Willis

America's Greatest Blunder - Burton Yale Pines

The Fires of October - Blaine L. Pardoe

The Great War Dawning - Joe Robinson

Valor in Vietnam 1963-1977 - Allen Clark





MEMOIR

After Action: The True Story of a Cobra Pilot's Journey - Dan Sheehan
Condemned Property? - Dusty Trimmer

Da Nang Diary: A Forward Air Controller's Gun Sight View of Flying with SOG
- Tom Yarborough

All I Could Be: My Story as a Woman Warrior in Iraq - Miyoko Hikiji

My Life with a Wounded Warrior - Pamela Foster

Infantry Lieutenant - Gid B. Adkisson III

BIOGRAPHY

Hal Moore: A Soldier Once...and Always - Mike Guardia

Walter Goes to War - WWII - Dick Hrebik

West Point Leadership: Profiles of Courage - D.E. Rice, J.A. Vigna, & G.E. Mathieson Sr.

REFERENCE

Backbone: History, Traditions, and Leadership Lessons of the Marine Corps
NCOs - Julia Dye

U.S. Army and Marine Corps MRAP's - Mike Guardia

Fields of War: Battle of Normandy - Robert Mueller

CREATIVE NONFICTION

The Road to Frogmore: Turning Slaves into Citizens - Carolyn P. Schriber

Unheralded Heroes - Thomas van Hees



HUMOR

Congressional Integrity - David Michaelson

SPIRITUAL/RELIGIOUS

“Endowed by Their Creator”: A Collection of Historic American Military Prayers - Colonel Ronald D. Ray

BOOK OF POETRY

Twisted Tongues Volume 2 - Jim Greenwald

Shadows of Combat, Poetry about the Vietnam Era - Richard C. Geschke & Robert A. Toto

AGES 12 & BELOW

Mixed Up; my ant’s mysteries - Sandra Miller Linhart

Fun Days in Pittsburgh - Pat McGrath Avery & Joyce Faulkner

A Sergeant in the House - Betty Turnbull & Susan Senning

Good Night Captain Mama: Buenas Noches Capitán Mamá - Graciela Tiscareno-Sato

YOUNG ADULT

Believing in Horses, Too - Valerie Ormond

No Surrender Soldier - Christine Kohler

The Adventures of Gopher Piddington - David Michaelson

WILLIAM E. MAYER AWARD FOR LITERARY OR ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

Gold Medal Winner

pen on paper – begin

jim greenwald

a journey of mystery
I could not let you inside
drawn from dreams and nightmares
a scorched reality in slow motion

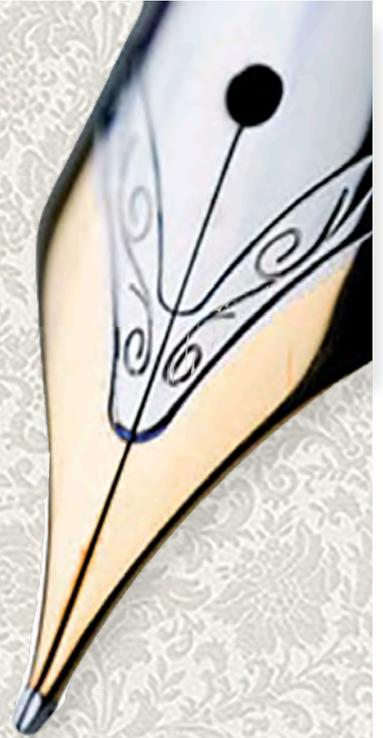
afraid if you touched my dreams
they would scatter like waves on the sea
I realized they were frozen, but still hesitated
afraid motionless ice would melt and drown me

shadows steal my sanity
pressure unbearable
squeezing my eyes tight
tears still leaked down my face

my journey is forever uphill
twisting and turning, no end in sight
fear of failure stalking me each day
fear of success torturing me

dry your tears, face your fears
words uttered without understanding
my soul only knows the darkness
tic-toc time forever standing still

each dream, each nightmare
another cut left by times ice skates
then fate stepped in, placed a pen in my hand
showed me writing could make me whole again



WILLIAM E. MAYER AWARD FOR LITERARY OR ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

Silver Medal Winner

Lost and Found

Richard Geschke

It was cold on the first day of April 1972 as I arrived at Cleveland Hopkins Airport. I was home at last as I wore my Army uniform for the last time on active duty. In the next few months as I adjusted myself to civilian life I learned not to mention the fact that I was a Vietnam veteran. We were ignored when we returned and in some cases looked down upon as baby killers and murderers. Best to keep quiet and transition and blend into the civilian landscape and forget about the last two and a half years of my life.

So for the next thirty-eight years I got married and we raised a family and moved from Cleveland to Long Island in pursuit of the American dream. Always being an avid reader, I also started writing letters to the editor to such publications as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times* and the *Hartford Courant*. My son read all of my published letters and finally made the comment that literally changed my life when he said “Dad you should write a book.” I looked at Scott and said “And pray-tell what would I write about?” His immediate reply was “Dad I never knew what you did in the Army, why don’t you write about that.”

With my son's comment the light went on in my head as I started to contemplate such a writing project. As a boy Scott had a way of absconding with my military paraphernalia. Soon my crossed rifles and lieutenant’s bars ended up on his desk. Along with these objects, he also confiscated my dog tags all of which were long neglected and were of little use to the original owner. So all during these years my son not only collected baseball cards, he took these objects of my military career not really knowing what they represented.

So for a time span of two years from 2009 to 2011, I co-authored our book with my longtime Army buddy Bob Toto titled *In Our Duffel Bags, Surviving the Vietnam Era*. As Bob and I travelled back in time I got to revisit old friends and old fears and in the end came away knowing myself and my Army buddy in a much different light. I learned that it was in service to my country that I truly grew up to become the person I am today. It’s funny how one can block out a period on one’s life only because at the time being a soldier was not the popular thing to be.

Once our book was published Bob and I got to meet people who supported us and yes even thanked us for our service. We not only got to meet a lot of people who were very supportive, we had the opportunity to tell our story and help educate people about those trying times of the Vietnam War. For this I thank my son Scott.



MWSA/Phoenix Police Department Student Writing Contest

1st Place

Many Hearts Make Light Troubles

by

Anelyse Regelbrugge

I tried to drown out Mr. Reynolds' voice in my mind by focusing on the sounds in the room: the gurgle of the fish tank, the hum of the oscillating fan, and the rhythmic ticking of the clock. Drifting, I watched the minutes go by – tick – tock – tick – until mom's chair screeched as she thanked Mr. Reynolds for his time.

"My pleasure, Ms. Evans," he said kindly.

I was counting seconds 'till I'd be home curling up with a book. Finally, it was time to go.

"Well, do you have anything to say?"

"Mom, it's bad enough listening to the school counselor. Can we do this later?"

"Mr. Reynolds is worried! So am I for that matter. You haven't been yourself lately. Sweetie, talk to me!" Her brow furrowed.

"I'm fine!"

Truth is, I didn't want to tell her about school. I didn't want to talk about why I begged hard to wear makeup or why I skipped swim tryouts even though it was my whole life before we moved here.

Mom pressed her lips together. "Seatbelt, my dear." From there on we sat in stone-cold silence until we pulled into the drive. "Clean up. Dinner's at 5:30. The Shannons are coming over."

The Shannons arrived at 5:00.

"Come on in! These are my kids Bee and Harold," Mother chirped. "Dinner's almost ready." She gestured to the table.

They were an ordinary bunch: a mother, a father, and a girl about my age. They seemed nice enough, but soon I was squirming in my seat. Mr. Shannon noticed and tried to break the ice. "Ella, this is Bee."

"Hi." I lowered my eyes.

"Hey!" she said smiling.

For a minute I thought I recognized her from lunch. Was that the girl that I saw being teased all the time? Mom came in with the spaghetti. "Who's hungry?" she called out.

"Me!" we shouted.

Things were quiet while we ate. The adults talked on and on until the subject turned to school. "I just don't know what to do with Bee. I think she's—"

"Stop talking like I'm not even here!" I stood up, headed to the garden and plopped down on a cold garden bench.

They don't get it! I just sat there staring until a warm hand touched my shoulder, and I looked up to a smiling Ella. "Hi," she said gently. "I know what you're going through, with school I mean."

I looked away. "Doubt it."

"You know, I get teased at school too - It hurts."

That caught me by surprise. I'd forgotten about everything but my own problems.

Ella went on, "My point is you're not alone. Don't push away those who want to help you."

I realized she was totally right! I wasn't the only one struggling, and I had friends and family who cared. A few moments passed—

"You know, we'll still have to face the lunchroom," I said.

Ella smiled. "We can sit together."

MWSA/Phoenix Police Department Student Writing Contest

2nd Place

Judgment Day

by

Kate Howard

Silence. Always the interminate silence. The unremitting restraint of every individual in the room hit me like an iron curtain. The quiescence of our voices contradicted the eleventh hour hustle of our minds.

As the dictator of a society composed of the four lifeless beige walls of the classroom and twenty apprehensive students, our stoic teacher calmly said, “clear your desks.”

Her tranquility as she held the stack of exams and her composed voice in no way reflected the nauseating uneasiness that I was experiencing.

As she began to pass out the exam packet, the room around me became a blur. I felt every student’s eyes looking at me, burning my skin. Of course they were not looking at me. Their eyes were locked on the sheets of paper in front of them, but that knowledge didn’t eliminate the sensation of being watched.

“You can do this!” I internally exclaimed, but there was another voice telling me otherwise.

“You’ve studied so hard,” I told myself.

The voice told me, “You could’ve done more.”

In a final attempt to rally my confidence, I told myself, “Just do your best.”

Again I heard the voice, “Your best isn’t good enough.”

I knew this was true. My best wasn’t good enough. It never was. I reluctantly looked down at the exam before me. Warm tears of uncertainty clouded my vision, and I realized that this wasn’t an assessment, but a judgment.

The entirety of my nature was being judged. My teacher judged me based on a percentage. My friends judged me based on the ratio of red to black ink on the paper when it was returned. My future was to be determined by a group

of college administrators judging me based on a letter grade that is somehow supposed to represent my intellect. Worst of all, I judged myself based on how these people perceived me.

At this point, my emotions had gotten the best of me. They always did. I quickly finished my exam. I didn’t bother to double check my answers. I knew they were wrong.

I stood up and handed my teacher the exam.

“Thank you,” I choked out. My eyes were bloodshot from holding back tears.

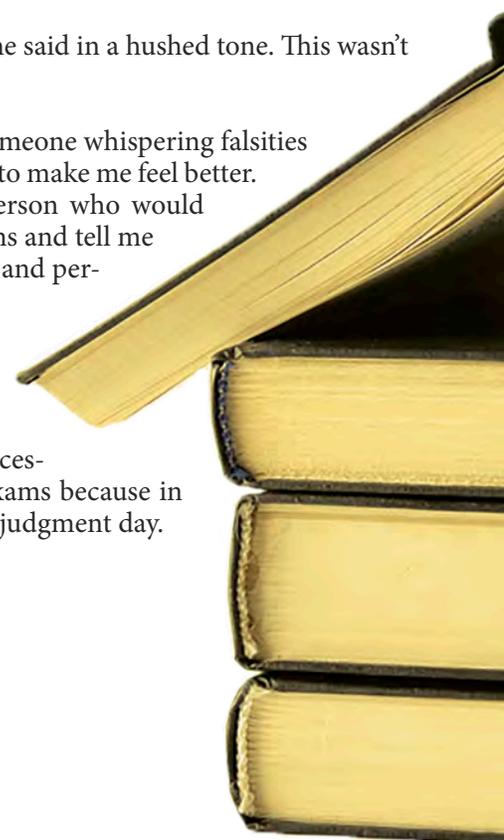
“You are dismissed,” she nodded, glancing disappointedly at my mostly blank exam, disregarding my tears as teen angst.

A girl from my class who I had befriended earlier in the semester found me seated on the floor in the hallway.

“I’m sure you did fine,” she said in a hushed tone. This wasn’t true. I never did fine.

I didn’t need nor want someone whispering falsities to me in a strained effort to make me feel better. What I needed was a person who would acknowledge my emotions and tell me that they were legitimate and perhaps even normal.

I never did find that person. I spent four years of my life taking tests and enduring my incessant anxiety regarding exams because in high school, every day is judgment day.



MWSA/Phoenix Police Department Student Writing Contest

3rd Place

The person I most admire: Officer Moore

by

Socorro Nieves

There are multiple people I know that I admire, but there is one in particular that stands out to me. Her name is Jennifer Moore. Jennifer Moore served in the Army for several years. Afterwards she pursued a career in the law enforcement field since February 2007. She has now been a police officer for seven years and a half.

I am currently in the Hoops4Hope Program that she founded. Her mission with the program is to provide young women with the tools to stay on the right path and succeed in life. In addition, to provide for the community. Every year Officer Moore has a basketball camp. Before the camp commences she reaches out to the community, along with the participants. They do multiple operations: Operation Soul, Operation White Light, Operation Sack Lunch, self-defense classes, and many other more. The story behind how it developed amazes me; it is extraordinary.

Officer Moore was on patrol one night during the year 2008, when she received a gunshot wound and collapsed. As she was laying on the ground waiting for back up to arrive, she did not know whether she was going to live or not, and began talking to God. She wanted to survive and live longer. Therefore, she made a promise to God: If he kept her alive she would do what he desired. Fortunately, she survived.

Before this incident occurred, she had amazing ideas on multiple things she could do to help the community but it never occurred to her that it could become a reality. When she made her promise to God, she had no idea how she was going to achieve her goal. Then, it occurred to her that she would do it through basketball, and she did.

On the other hand, I admire her very much; there are various reasons why I do so. She was wounded but she did not give up on life instead of feeling self-pity she found a way to better herself. She has been a very courageous and strong person. She left her pain behind and reached out to help others. She has helped me and my family in every way possible. I come from a low income family and money is limited. Christmas of last year my family was not going to be able to have a hot meal and presents but she made it possible. In addition, I did not have a bed to sleep in or a place to do my homework but she made it once again possible.

Due to her I now have a warm bed to sleep in and a desk to complete my school work. I do not even have the words to express how much I appreciate what she has done for me, and my family. She has taught me multiple things about life, mostly to contribute and give to others. Officer Moore is a life changer, without her I wouldn't be where I stand today.

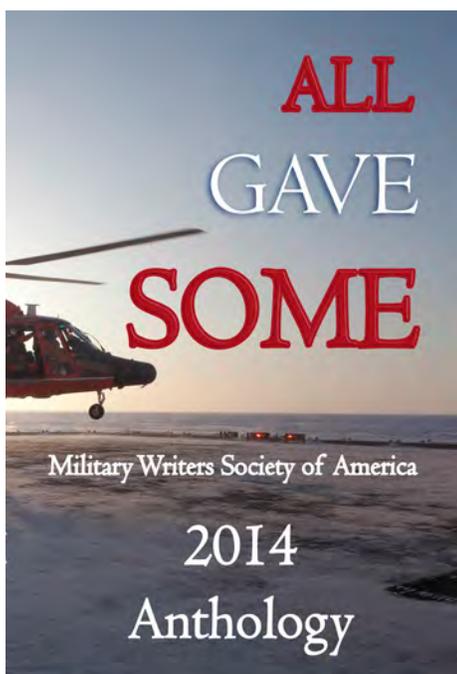




BERING SEA — An Air Station Kodiak MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew takes off from the flight deck of the Coast Guard Cutter Healy 67 miles south of Nome, Alaska, Jan. 11, 2012. The helicopter crew is forward deployed aboard the cutter Healy as an ice reconnaissance and search and rescue asset. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Seaman Mathew Rupp.

Source: US Coast Guard

www.uscgalaska.com; cgvi.uscg.mil



MWSA's 2014 Anthology using US Coast Guard photo for cover art.

The above image speaks of the American spirit. Our military performs thousands of jobs around the world. From rescue to delivering supplies, the logistics of defense are enormous. Missions include everything from medical care to fire fighting to cooking to mechanics to electronics. In this year's MWSA Anthology *All Gave Some*, members salute the millions who fly planes, load trucks, create maps, and perform thousands of other jobs in

support of those on the battlefield or in other international, national, and regional emergencies.

The 2014 Military Writers Society of America Anthology will be available for the first time at the conference in Phoenix. After that, you can order it from Betsy Beard or buy it through Amazon.

MWSA MEMBERS STEP UP FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Joyce Faulkner

Len and Rosemary Spampinato had it all. Len is a talented chef and the owner of his own restaurant, the popular Papa Gallo's Cucina in the Pittsburgh area. Rosemary is popular and hardworking. In 2006, they were overjoyed to welcome identical twin boys — Roman and Dante — into their family. The babies were beautiful with big brown eyes and thick dark hair.

However, shortly after birth, both boys were diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder — Myotubular Myopathy. The prognoses for their beloved children was pessimistic but like other parents of gravely ill children, Len and Rosemary clung to hope that someday there would be a cure in time to save their twins. Rosemary pushed herself to learn everything she could about this condition and to focus on the efforts of The Joshua Frase Foundation — founded by the family of a child like her boys.

Allison Frase had fought to save her

son by contacting scientists and doctors who specialized in “orphan diseases” — that is illnesses that are so rare that it doesn't pay for the large drug companies to support the research. Alison was able to get the attention of these researchers and find ways to help fund their efforts. However despite her battle, Joshua Frase died when he was fifteen.

Griefstricken, Allison Frase continued her work and Rosemary Spampinato reached out to her for support. The mothers were thrilled as the researchers figured out a way to treat the problem by providing a genetic “correction” delivered with on a virus. There was much to be done — tests on smaller mammals, larger mammals — and then — maybe on humans.

In March of 2013, time ran out for Dante Spampinato. His devastated family turned their attention to Roman — determined to keep him as healthy and happy as possible. And they prayed that the “cure” would come soon.

I eat at Papa Gallo's restaurant almost every morning. I'd just returned from Texas last year, when I learned of Dante's death and the details of Myotubular Myopathy. So when Pat Avery and I published our children's book, *Fun Days in Pittsburgh*, we dedicated it to Dante and included the two boys in the book.

Then I talked to Allison and Rosemary to see what I could do to help. The answer was to raise awareness of the work being done on behalf of these children.

I put out the word and in May, we had a book event in Papa Gallo's. Talented authors joined us — some driving many miles to attend — and the proceeds were donated to the Joshua Frase Foundation. MWSA members sent books or made donations.

Rosemary Spampinato spoke briefly, introducing her eight year old son, Roman and explaining about



L-E: Entertainer Lou Lombardi, Pat McGrath Avery, John Faulkner, Joyce Faulkner, Rosemary Spampinato, Joanne Quinn-Smith, Ramona Roush and Len Spampinato

Myotubular Myopathy. If this disorder is in a family, it is passed on by the mother. While there were no known members of Rosemary's family with children like Roman and Dante, she knows that she carried the gene. Most interestingly, she told us about the dogs. It seems that a vet in Canada had found a litter of Labrador retrievers with symptoms of Myotubular Myopathy. Allison Frase encouraged the owner to breed one of the females who tested as a carrier and several of the pups did indeed have the condition. The scientists administered the "cure" and within two weeks the pups tested as "normal." Great news that was born out in test after test. The next step is human trials and the estimated price tag is a million dollars. So we are trying to get the word out to anyone interested in supporting this effort.

MWSA authors Joanne Quinn-Smith, Jim Greenwald, and Pat McGrath Avery attended along with local authors Ramona Roush and Anna Marie Gire. The event earned over \$700 for the foundation and the promotions brought in other people in the week following who made donations as well.



U.S. Marines extinguish a fire during fire-fighting drills at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Feb. 3, 2012. Multiple firefighting training drills were conducted for new Marines attached to Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Kassie L. McDole/Released)



In 1995 our son Joshua was born with a very rare muscle disorder called Myotubular Myopathy (MTM); an early death was imminent for our first-born. Through the despair and dismay, a vision of faith and hope was birthed through the Joshua Frase Foundation (JFF). Our vision seemed like a dream from the outset, but with fortitude, perseverance and resolve, we embarked on a journey to understand the pathology of this disorder by building a trans-Atlantic team of world-renowned researchers. Our endeavor to unlock the mysteries of MTM has culminated in our ability to give guarded hope to families across the world that their child might one day thrive, benefitting from treatment that is proving itself in ongoing pre-clinical trials. JFF has also been a beacon of hope and resource for many families that grapple with the day-to-day trials in caring for these precious children. Joshua Miles' legacy will be one of life, hope and love as we come to the final chapter. Our goal is in sight.



The Joshua Frase Foundation
 P.O. Box 2041, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004
 904-607-1358 | alison@joshuafrase.org | www.joshuafrase.org

ED SLATER, KOREAN WAR POW

Pat McGrath Avery



Ed Slater changed my life twice. The first time began in a library in Lee's Summit, MO (a suburb of Kansas City). After viewing his Korean War display and visiting with him, he asked me to write his story. I told him I was the wrong person — I knew little about the military or about the Korean War. When I left, he said, "I'll mail you some stuff."

Over the next six months, he mailed his handwritten story and numerous documents. Each time I told him I wasn't the one but my resistance weakened. Finally I said yes and set out on a course that changed and broadened my view of life and the world.

I entered the world of ex-prisoners of war, heard their stories, shed tears with them, and took them into my heart. The first book, *They Came Home: Korean POWs*, included Ed's story.

Ed invited me to the American Ex-Prisoners of War conventions in Missouri. He was always full of ideas for my next project, who I should talk to, what I should learn, etc. I visited him at the Kansas City VA Hospital and met his friends.

While I attended a book festival in St. Louis, I met Joyce Faulkner. We joined forces and when Ed began to hear from other Suncheon Tunnel Massacre survivors, Ed invited us to write the whole story of the massacre. We invited them all to a reunion in Branson and the city brought out the red carpet. The city and the entertainers treated them like royalty and gave their story the attention it deserved.

In researching for the book, I spent days in the Eisenhower and Truman Libraries looking for documentation of a largely undocumented event. Joyce researched online sources. As we wrote the book, I faced horrors I could never comprehend. I always had trouble meshing the fun-loving, joke-cracking Ed Slater I knew with the boy who suffered through a long death march from Taejon, South Korea to Pyongyang, North Korea, before he was put on a train and faced an execution-style massacre.

When *Suncheon Tunnel Massacre Survivors* was completed and published, we brought the survivors together again in Branson. Ed glowed with pride. The survivors joked and argued with each other while they charmed everyone they met.

Last week, on July 22, my life again changed. Ed left this world to rejoin his wife, Phyllis. I had been thinking every day that I needed to call him and meet him for lunch when I was in Kansas City. I will always wish I'd made that call.

Life will go on and I will meet other veterans. I will write other stories but Ed will be part of each one. I will feel him looking over my shoulder and chiding me, "Cookie, quit sugar-coating what we went through. Tell it like it really was."

Ed's obituary is online at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/kansascity/obituary.aspx?n=edward-n-slater&pid=171848260&>

NOTE: Joyce Faulkner recorded this interview with Ed in 2007. In it, Ed talks about what it felt like to be a POW. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGLOKyYunDA>