

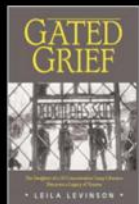
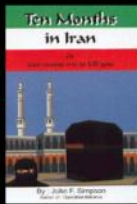
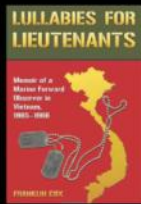
# DISPATCHES

Monthly Magazine  
**MILITARY  
 WRITERS  
 SOCIETY  
 OF AMERICA**

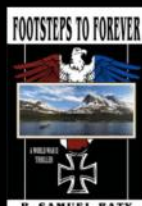


April 2011

## MWSA Spring Reading List



### VIETNAM VET & AUTHOR JACK MANICK



*Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire*  
*10 YouTube Tips*  
*Spring Reading List*  
*Fighter Pilot Lessons for Life*  
*An American Hero*  
*Swim, Padre! Swim*  
*Shirley Dobbins Forgan*  
*Moon's Mutterings*  
*Birth of Aerial Applications*  
*In the Ranks*  
*Connections*  
*Authors of the Month*  
*Book of the Month*  
*Poetry Corner*  
*Electronic Books*  
*People's Choice Inspiration*  
*Patrick Nelson*

**WEM: Courage Under Fire**





OPEN



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## From the Editor...

Hi everyone,

I hope that the books that you are writing are coming along, the books that you are promoting are being sold, and that the books that you are researching are forming in your heads. We are planning programming for the next couple of years—for the upcoming conferences, regional events, and for online seminars. Please check out the list of ideas and suggestions on Page 14 and let me know which ones you would like to see implemented—and if you have a different idea, please let me know that, as well.

We are also launching our MWSA People's Choice Award for 2011. Check out the inspiration pieces on page 36. Submissions will be judged by quality and how well they reflect the theme represented by the inspiration piece. There is a 1000 word limit to the submission.

Also, we are considering an MWSA booth for the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Rally in Hudson, OH, May 20-May 22. If you are interested in participating, please let me know right away.

We are still looking for volunteers—for the upcoming conference, for judges, to create a social media version of Dispatches, and to help with the website. If you are interested, please contact me.

Finally, we'd like to do short introductions of all MWSA members and your books. If you haven't been featured in Dispatches yet, please contact me. Also, if you have a story or photos that you'd like to see published in Dispatches, we are always eager to see them.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Dispatches*.

**Joyce Faulkner, President of MWSA**

***MWSAPresident@gmail.com***

## Dispatches Staff

**Joyce Faulkner — Editor**  
**Mike Mullins — Columnist**  
**Charles Bailey—Cartoonist**  
**Joyce Gilmour—Columnist**  
**Marcia Sargent—Columnist**  
**Dwight Jon Zimmerman—Columnist**  
**Jim Greenwald—Columnist**  
**Bob Doerr—Columnist**  
**Dream Hall Berkheimer—Feature**  
**Ron Moses Camarda — Feature**  
**Nancy Yockey Bonar—Feature**

### Contents

<i>MWSA Conference Information</i>	4
<i>Fighter Pilot Lessons for Life—Marcia Sargent</i>	6
<i>An American Hero—Drema Hall Berkheimer</i>	7
<i>Swim Padre! Swim—Father Ron Moses Camarda</i>	8
<i>Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire—Nancy Yockey Bonar</i>	11
<i>Moons Mutterings — Mike Mullins</i>	15
<i>In the Ranks—Charles Bailey</i>	16
<i>Introducing Jack Manick</i>	17
<i>The Birth of Aerial Applications—Joyce Faulkner</i>	18
<i>MWSA Spring Reading List—Bob Doerr</i>	20
<i>Connections—Joyce Gilmour</i>	22
<i>Tips &amp; Tools for Writers—Joyce Faulkner</i>	24
<i>Authors of the Month—Richard Whitten Barnes/ Thomas Van Hees</i>	26
<i>Book of the Month—Wing Wife by Marcia Sargent</i>	27
<i>April Notes—jim greenwald</i>	28
<i>Poetry Corner</i>	32
<i>People's Choice Inspiration Pieces</i>	36
<i>Korean War Book Award</i>	37
<i>Introducing Shirley Dobbins Forgan</i>	38
<i>Electronic Book Market—Dwight Zimmerman</i>	39

**This publication includes works of perspective, reflection, fiction, and poetry.**

## MWSA 2011 Conference Information

Soon our annual conference will be here and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again. As we have announced previously, the Conference will be September 29 through October 2, 2011, at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott Hotel. It's a much bigger venue than last year and we will have all of our workshops and meetings on the same floor...right next to each other. One of the big advantages to this arrangement is that the Airport Marriot offers free shuttle from the airport. Also, all of our Conference programming will take place at the hotel...so this will eliminate the "running around" that we did last year and reduce some of our costs.

NOTE: Due to circumstances beyond our control, we will not be doing the play this year. We plan to produce scenes from the books that were selected last year during our 2012 conference!

This year, we will be announcing nominated books before the conference on the Veterans Radio Network as usual. However, the winners won't be announced until the banquet. There are several reasons for this—aside from making the banquet a lot more fun. First, this will give the judges more time to make their selections. Second, we'll have more time to publicize the nominations—and all of our pre-conference and during conference publicity will be national and will give your local press time to contact you and us to discuss your book. Hopefully, the announcements at the banquet will help us encourage the press local to the conference to come to the banquet.

We will kick off the event on Thursday afternoon with a buffet luncheon and a hands-on writing Work Shop starting at 2pm. Friday, September 30 will be Oral History Day, and Friday evening, we'll have our our traditional Open Mic. Come prepared to share a story, a song, an excerpt from your book. Saturday will be seminars and work-

shops all day long. We'll announce programming in a future Dispatches. The Awards Banquet and Ceremony will be Saturday night. Sunday morning will be our State of the Organization Meeting and we'll close with the Buckaroo Auction.

We will have a registration desk in the Main Lobby. You must register to get the materials that you will need to get into MWSA events. If you have an unpaid balance at that time, you will be able to pay with either a check or a credit card. When you register you will receive the following:

- A bag with any handouts, program and anthology.
- Your Name Tag/Pouch. Please wear it at all times. It will contain your:
  - Buckaroos
  - Seminar tickets
  - Buffet Luncheon ticket (attached)
  - Banquet invitation with your table and seat assignment (attached)
  - Raffle tickets for drawings on Fri & Sat. Morning and Sat. afternoon
  - And If you are a reviewer or volunteer, your Saturday morning breakfast invitation.

Note: You will be required to present your tickets/invitations for all events. That's how we will keep track of which programs matter to you and which we can eliminate.

Contact the Marriott Hotel for your room reservation @ (412-788-8800) ask for the MWSA Rate for Sept. 29 – Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>—the first block of rooms is \$109.00 and will be available until April 30. The Hotel will set aside a second block at \$119.00 which will be good until August 31. Market rates apply after that. These rates include internet access and free parking.

# MWSA BUSINESS

## Military Writer's Society of America 2011 Conference Registration Form September 29, 30, October 1 and 2

Amount (\$)

Name:		
MWSA Member #:		
Conference Fees:	3 Day (\$235)                      2 Day (\$160)                      1 Day (\$80)	A)
Non-Member:	3 Day (\$265)                      2 Day (\$190)                      1 Day (\$110)	B)
Conference Guests:	(# Guests X \$80.00)	C)
Lunch Buffet Guests:	(# Guests X \$25.00)	D)
Banquet Guests:	(# Guests X \$45.00)	E)
Book Table:	# days _____ X \$5.00	F)
Additional Anthologies	# _____ X \$20	G)
Total Conference Fees:	A+B+C+D+E+F+G =?	
Member Dinner Choice:		Beef/Salmon/Vegetarian
Guest Name & Meal:		Beef/Salmon/Vegetarian
Guest Name & Meal:		Beef/Salmon/Vegetarian
Guest Name & Meal:		Beef/Salmon/Vegetarian
Title & Price of Book:		

- All Conference Fees must be paid in full to register for the Conference  
Member Fee covers All Functions & the Anthology, does not cover cost of book table.
- If you want to have your Anthology shipped, please contact Jim Greenwald and mail a check to MWSA for \$6.00 to cover shipping costs. If you asking for it to be shipped and or ordering extra copies please do so before July 30<sup>th</sup> so we can order enough copies.
- Award Winners will receive their Medal, Certificate & Seals at the Banquet. If you do not attend, mail a check to MWSA for \$5.00 to cover shipping costs, no medals certificates or seals will be mailed until payment is received.
- Mail Check to: MWSA, P.O. Box 264, Bridgeville, PA 15017, or email to [leanstofar@aol.com](mailto:leanstofar@aol.com) and Jim Greenwald will email you a .doc form to fill out and return to him. Then he'll send you a Paypal Invoice.

**MWSA  
PO Box 264  
Bridgeville, PA 15017**



# FIGHTER PILOT LESSONS FOR LIFE



A pilot flying out of Iwakuni, Japan had a night hop over the Sea of Japan. Next thing he knew he was being picked up out the freezing water by SAR—Search and Rescue. He remembered nothing of a crash or ejection, but his plane had disappeared. Pilots hate mysteries. What they don't know can, and often has, killed them or others. With any accident, there is an Accident Investigation to figure out the cause of the mishap.

In an unusual step, they had the pilot hypnotized. Under hypnosis, he remembered going to join up on lights below him, but instead of his wingman's lights, they must have been reflections on the water. His plane flew into the sea before he realized he needed to eject. He came to, in absolute Stygian darkness, in a cockpit filling with icy water. He tried to manually open the canopy, but the pressure outside wouldn't allow it. The ejection handle wouldn't have helped. The water would have held the canopy on and he would have been rocketed into the Plexiglas.

He must have been afraid. He could have panicked—pulled the handle, clawed at the Plexiglas, fought the rising water until he inhaled it into his lungs. Instead he waited in the black cold until the cockpit filled, then manually opened the canopy and swam up to the surface, one hundred feet above the plane. He formed a plan and kept his cool to live to fly another day.

Fear can help us focus our attention—a survival instinct, but fear can freeze us until we can't move or don't do. Pilots who THINK about fear can't fly. Scientists talk about the reptilian brain: when adrenaline floods through our bodies from fright we typically react with flight or fight—survival instincts. Many times we can't decide which and we freeze. All of us have varying experiences with this. However, if we freeze in the gunsight of Baron von Richthofen, we spiral down trailing smoke into the countryside.

When a crisis hits, I want to be like a fighter pilot, plan a course and then act upon it. Do something, if only to fly away to live another day.



**Marcia Sargent**  
*Author of "Wing Wife: How To Be Married To A Marine Fighter Pilot,"*  
*Chair of MWSA Blog,*  
*MWSAMembertalk.blogspot.com*

***We need someone who is comfortable with web work to help the Webmaster maintain the bookstore and upload the reviews as they are completed by our reviewers. We estimate this at about two hours a week. You will receive MWSA buckaroos for your help. Contact [mwsawebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:mwsawebmaster@gmail.com)***

# An AMERICAN HERO

BY DREMA HALL BERKHEIMER

He died in the service of his country.

You're picturing a young warrior's plane hurtling to the ground in a ball of fire. Or maybe he was blown to bloody pieces by a land mine. No, wait, a sniper or I.E.D. got him. Surely, you're hoping, it wasn't friendly fire.

I will tell you what happened. At 7:30 in the morning on April 23, 1992, in Kahl, Germany, his car collided with a beer truck on a slippery bridge. He was driving thirty-six miles an hour, reporting for duty at his base in Germany. At that instant, my daughter became a twenty-one year old widow. And two baby girls began a life without their father.

Oh, you say, I'm so sorry.

If only his death had been, well, more glamorous, your response could have rung with words like sacrifice and higher cause and devotion to duty. But you don't know what to say about a beer truck flattening his little red car as if it were a matchbox toy, leaving his babies' car seats mangled and the life crushed out of him. Like Superman thrown off his horse, it's an ignoble way for a hero to die. I don't know what to say either. So I repeat the same words over and over: *God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. God grant me the serenity ...*

He served with the Army First Cavalry in Iraq during Desert Storm. Our letters back and forth were filled with the mundane wonders of everyday life. I write that Andrea put the Christmas tree up, that Clarinda's getting a tricycle, that baby Cambria, born after he left, is the spitting image of him. He writes that there is sand everywhere, his buddy found a scorpion in his shoe, he can't wait to be home with his girls, but there's a job to do.

We gather at Ft. Hood for his homecoming. Our prayers have been answered. He is home. He is

safe. When he is sent to Germany, Andrea and the girls follow as soon as he finds housing, a fairytale cottage covered with flowers and vines.

Three months later he starts to drive across a bridge.

His girls are grown now, with families of their own. As we've told them, they will tell their children and those yet to be born about their grandfather. About Sergeant Alan Shane Brenner, an American hero.



**Drema Hall Berkheimer** served as an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard Aux. Her husband, still active, is a former Commander. She won First Place Nonfiction and First Honorable Mention Nonfiction in the 2010 WV Writers Competition. She is published in WV South, The Beckley Register-Herald Divine Magazine, Plain Spoke, Flashquake, Brevity, Long Story Short, Persimmon Tree, Babel Fruit, Burnt Bridge, Southern Women's Review, Muscadine Lines, The Dead Mule, Dew on the Kudzu, River Poets Journal, Senior Times, Et Cetera, and WV Writers. She is writing a memoir, *Running On a Red Dog Road*, about growing up in West Virginia, the child of a father who was killed in the coal mines, a Rosie the Riveter mother, and devout Pentecostal grandparents. She is affiliated with WV Writers, Salon Quatre, and The Writer's Garret in Dallas.

[dremagirl@aol.com](mailto:dremagirl@aol.com)

# SWIM, PADRE! SWIM

BY FATHER RON CAMARDA

I set out and walked the beach last evening about an hour before sunset. I walked the couple of miles from my beach access to my favorite space in Hanna State Park. Purposely I didn't take my camera. My pen captured the moments.

There were sounds like seagulls, people enjoying the Friday dusk, the gentle crash of the ocean, and the swirling of sand, shells and sea.

The wind was from the west on this east-facing beach, so the waves were restrained. When I walked barefoot at the water's edge, I noticed that the water was softer than usual because of the heavy rains the day before. On my walk I noticed the jellyfish that lay dead in the waves lapping the shore. The sky was blue with purple and pink tinges growing.

I was all alone even though people shared this boardwalk to the beach.

This setting reminded me of the time I was swimming with the Navy Seals in 1996 and ended up lost among thousands of jellyfish miles from the shore. It was a prayerful moment that triggered another prayer moment.

I told you I would share these prayer adventures this week about how I strived to survive two situations where I was in danger of drowning or being eaten. Here is the first adventure: The Eighth Annual Vieques to Puerto Rico Swim.

EL Navigante newspaper September 13, 1996:

***Enduring driving rainsqualls and strong ocean currents, 25 swimmers successfully completed the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Vieques swim on 23 August 1996. The swim is seven and one half nautical miles long, starting at mosquito pier on Vieques Island and finishing at All Hands Beach onboard Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads. Congratulations to BMC Toth and AO2 Reisgies from EOD, the first place finishers with a time of 3:59:08 (my time was over***

7 hours because we went off course and got lost and swam about 10 miles!)

***Sponsored each year by Naval Special Warfare Unit FOUR, the swim, originally a training evolution for UDT candidates, is open to any DOD active duty member who successfully completes a series of mandatory conditioning swims leading up to the final swim. These conditioning swims contributed to the high rate of success in this year's event with 25 of the 30 swimmers finishing and all swimmers safely accounted for.***

***Safety was a major concern in the hostile environment of Vieques Sound. Each swimmer was required to carry an approved inflatable life saving device and an emergency signal device. Boats and safety swimmers from SBU-20 DET CARIB, NSWU-4, Naval Station Dive locker, EOD, VC-8, along with the AFWTF YFU and Helicopter coverage from VC-8, combined as one team dedicated to ensuring the safety of every swimmer. (And yet, they lost us at the beginning because a current carried us a couple miles off course.)***

***Keeping track of 30 swimmers across Vieques Sound was no easy task, but the diligence of the boat crews and the watchful eyes of VC-8 in the sky resulted in an accurate accounting of all swimmers.***

***If you would like to test your physical and mental mettle next year, start preparing now and see if you have what it takes.***

## **Father Ron's Story:**

The year was 1996. I swam with the Navy Seals on their 8<sup>th</sup> annual Vieques swim. In the wee hours of the morning, we took a boat over to the Island of Vieques from the military base of Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Then from the shore, we set out to

*(Continued on page 9)*





*On your marks... - Prior to the race, the swimmers pose for a group shot on board a Yard Ferry Unit (YFU) which transported them to the starting line at Mosquito Pier on Vieques.*

swim the 7.5 miles back to the base. I had my swimsuit, mask, snorkel and flippers. I was confident.

I had been preparing for this swim for over a year. Almost every Friday, I got up early in the morning and worked out with the Navy Seals. The morning exercise usually consisted of about a mile swim and a three to six mile run. I hated the run. The swim in the ocean was great because the fish and coral were beautiful. Some of the Seals came to Mass and the time I spent with them "in the field and coral" helped in my ministry to them... and to me. It was better than staying in the office. Chaplains always do better if they "pitch their tents" with the troops, or in this case "pitch our fins"! When I was in Okinawa from 1994-95, I was with the Marines about five days a week. The "Daily Seven" was more like *twenty-seven!* I actually looked forward to the physical challenge and release.

In Okinawa, I managed to be certified as an Open Diver, Advanced Diver, and Rescue Diver with PADI. The XO agreed to come back to church if I learned to scuba dive with him. I still wasn't prepared for this Navy Seal Swim. My XO never came to Mass. He told me on my last weekend that he felt he was in church when we were diving among

God's awesome underwater world and conversing with me at 5 am every Saturday. Was I a failure? Nah!

After the third or fourth mile, I wasn't so confident. I might have quit except the vessel and the rafts either lost us or they knew the chaplain needed to experience the peril of the sea. The waves were about ten feet high and we were in a strait (in more ways than it would seem).

There we were, all alone on the sea...we could barely see the mountains of Puerto Rico and the sky was pink. As a licensed Third Mate, I knew the saying:

***Pink sky at night, sailor's delight  
Pink sky come morning, sailor's warning!***

When I began the swim, my partner was SKSN Michele Tiefert from Naval Station Supply. She was only one of two female swimmers. She was terrific, but her shoulder that she had surgery on the previous year gave out on her by the halfway mark. I was then given a Navy Medical surgeon to complete the swim with since his partner also had to drop out. About a mile from the halfway mark, we

*(Continued on page 10)*

(Continued from page 9) **Camarda**

were lost and all alone. I found out later that the doc used very thick prescription glasses. I thought he knew where we were going...but we drifted a couple of miles off course. For about two hours we didn't see a boat or other swimmer. We couldn't talk with each other, so I went into one of the deepest prayers of my life.



At one time, I was in the middle of thousands of jellyfish. I was amazed that we weren't stung. I remembered what Jesus said, *"If you eat anything poisonous, you will not be harmed."* I had faith and believed.

It is absolutely terrifying to see a huge merchant ship less than a mile away from us when we were swimming in the open ocean. Far below me I could sometimes see sharks and stingrays. There was one time when the waves and the currents separated me from my partner. I was treading water and searching the surface in between the swells. I felt totally disconnected from everyone and everything. It was about survival. When the anxiety and panic didn't resolve my situation, I simply sunk to a deep lonely and fascinating place of my soul. I felt I was dead and cut-off from everything that was familiar or that I knew.

Finally, when the doc and I were only one mile from the finish of this swim, a small Navy Seal boat caught up with us. I climbed up on the boat with the two men for my calf was so cramped my

leg looked distorted. I told the men I was finished as I chomped on a banana and guzzled water. My lips were parched and burnt from being in the salt water for over six hours. Rashes were galore. I didn't need any glory. While I was complaining (and you all know how I can complain!), the Seal was massaging my calf and encouraging me to finish since I was so close. The doc was ready to go, and I was not going to move. The Seal had had enough and simply pushed me into the water and drove off. I had to finish...and I did.

It was surreal.

I was the last one to complete the swim.

My body ached.

This would be a new prayer...through the suffering.



## NOTE:

**MWSA member Dale Throneberry of Veterans Radio Network will be participating in a Welcome Home Rally celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of the Vietnam War in Hudson, Ohio, May 20-22, 2011. He will broadcast Veterans Radio Network show remotely from Hudson on Saturday and act as Master of Ceremonies in some of the other events. It is estimated that about 1000 Vietnam Veterans will attend.**

**MWSA is considering a vendor booth. Anyone who is interested in appearing at the booth, please contact Joyce Faulkner at [MWSAPresident@gmail.com](mailto:MWSAPresident@gmail.com) or call 412.496.5034.**



# LIAR, LIAR, PANTS ON FIRE

## BY NANCY YOCKEY BONAR

“Liars, liars, pants on fire,” I screamed this on-school playgrounds as we taunted falsehood-telling classmates. Sixty-plus years later, I’m screaming at conmen who’ve falsely claimed honors that rightly belong to our *real* military warriors.

I’m screaming at certifiable military men (and some women too) who’ve stolen valor from *true* heroes by embellishing or faking service records. It’s incredible that anyone would lie about having been a tortured Prisoner of War (POW).

Have the imposters—who wear undeserved medals, brag about battles they were never in—ever heard the echoes that reverberate across cemeteries as our service men and women are laid to rest? These sounds are from the heart-stabbing rifle volleys, mournful strains of Taps and, at most Navy funerals, the gut-wrenching “Eternal Father” music.

These echoes are amplified when Navy SEALs honor fallen teammates. In what is becoming a tradition, the men remove Tridents from above their hearts and fist-hammer the coveted pins into coffin lids.



***“My Trident is a symbol of honor and heritage. ... I do not advertise the nature of my work, nor seek recognition for my actions ... Uncompromising integrity is my standard. My character and honor are steadfast. My word is my bond. ... I will not fail.”*** – Excerpts, Navy SEALs Creed (author’s underlines)



*This prosthetic eyeball, inlaid with a SEAL Trident pin, is worn by Mark Robbins. In 2007 – as he and other Navy SEALs battled Iraqi insurgents – his skull was pieced by an enemy bullet, blinding one eye. Photo credit: David Banks*

***“Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism.”*** – Commander-in-Chief/President George Washington, creator of the Badge of Military Merit, the forerunner of the Purple Heart.

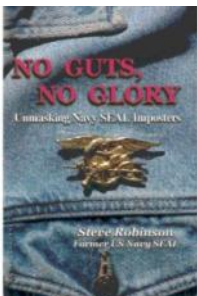
**The Stolen Valor Act (2005—2006)** prohibits anyone from falsely representing themselves, *verbally* or in *writing*, to have been awarded any decoration or medal authorized by Congress for the Armed Forces. (*Want to buy and wear a Navy Cross, Purple Heart, military patches and ribbons? I found them on the internet.*) Federal courts began last year to rule on the constitutionality of the Stolen Valor Act (SVA). Attorneys appealing clients' convictions for lies about their military service base their arguments on the First Amendment's freedom of speech. Some courts have agreed—SVA is unconstitutional, that it's okay to lie. Others have upheld the Act. I'm far from being a legal expert, but it might be the Supreme Court that'll make the final judgment on the Stolen Valor Act.

*(Continued on page 12)*



(Continued from page 11) **Bonar**

Constitutional law expert, Attorney Henry Holzer, knew early on that the Stole Valor Act had a loophole. It didn't address those who commit fraud. He and wife, Erika, co-authored the still relevant 2003 book, *Fake Warriors: Identifying, Exposing, and Punishing Those Who Falsify Their Military Service*. They wrote in the introduction, "... there is a virtual epidemic of imposters in this country—countless thousands of men who, since the Vietnam War, have been either inventing a non-existent military service, or inflating their war records. Veterans' benefits amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars are being stolen. Military decorations are being falsely claimed, and often worn, by men never authorized to receive them—the kind of medals earned the hard way by genuine war heroes."



Hank Holzer has written a Fake Warrior Act 2011. Its focus is criminalizing fraud and he's offered the Act to State and Commonwealths. Interestingly, Nevada began late last year to draft its own version of the SVA, one that would target fraud, bypass speech. This was after a Nevada man had fraudulently obtained a Purple and about \$180,000 in disability benefits. In this month's news, the imposter was convicted and the Nevada legislature moved forward on its statue. The language for this anti-fraud measure was written by Nevadan, LTC Bill Anton (Ret), a Vietnam vet/Army Ranger (75th Inf., Airborne).

Beside the Holzers' book, there are others focused on this problem. B.G. "Jug" Burkett exposed more than 1,200 military claims perjurers from the Vietnam War and wrote about it in *Stolen Valor: How the Vietnam Generation was Robbed of its Heroes*. Navy SEAL veteran, Steve Robinson, devoted years to investigating frauds and authored, *No Guts, No Glory: Unmasking Navy SEAL Imposters*. The book features nearly 100 of such duplicitous people. Another SEAL vet, Don Shipley, uses Facebook to expose imposters as do those who blog for every military branch.

Other dedicated armies of unpaid volunteers are dogged in tracking down and exposing pretenders. One of the forerunners was the now late Marine Col. Mitchell Paige (Ret). He began in the early 1960s to wage a personal war against Purple Heart masqueraders. And who better? He received this most prestigious honor for heroic actions as a platoon sergeant in the Battle of Guadalcanal. After his fellow Marines had been killed or wounded, Paige used four machine guns to stop a Japanese regiment. Paige wrote a book about his experiences; *A Marine Named Mitch* (published 1975).



**Col. Mitchell Paige**

**"Tell the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it"** -Adolf Hitler, German Chancellor/Nazi party leader.

Here are just a few of examples of other sleuths who are ferreting out imposters of all types and from every military branch. (Apologies for any I've not included.) Two-tour, decorated Vietnam disabled veteran, Chuck Schantag, and wife, Mary, deserve credit for helping to link the many dozens of networks that have come to share information about suspected phonies. In 1989, The Schantags co-founded the nonprofit POW/MIA website, [www.pownetwork.org](http://www.pownetwork.org) The couple loaded into a database any information they could acquire about POWs, MIAs, those whose remains were found and shipped home and those yet to be found. Today, the database lists POW/MIA names from 13 wars and conflicts. The Schantags then expanded the website to include an ongoing list of many thousands of military phonies.

Doug Sterner, a two-tour, decorated Vietnam veteran, and wife, Pam, might be best known for compiling the most comprehensive database of military valor award citations available. This list was the backbone of the Stolen Valor Act. Veteran Sterner also spent years of time and money to set up the Hall of Heroes. This is a "virtual" online museum where adults and children can learn about the

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12) **Bonar**

Medal of Honor and its recipients.

[www.homeofheroes.com](http://www.homeofheroes.com)

Here's the scoop on Rambo wannabes. While Navy SEALs and Army Ranger special operation forces are only about one percent of all military personnel, these units tend to attract, by percentages, the highest number of "Rambos." According to Mary Schantag, "There are 300 reported fake SEALs for every real SEAL."

Unlike a SEAL—a highly-trained professional who is secure with his status—a Rambo is, or pretends to be, an aggressive or violent person who breaks the rules. He builds self-esteem and attracts women by crowing about his valor, kill count, and medals. Some are murderers.

I wouldn't let any of the following scumbags dig graves at Fort Roscrans National Cemetery where my Navy submariner-brother was buried with military honors. Following each of the below names are just some of their fictitious claims and/or dastardly deeds:

- David McClanahan claimed to be a SEAL with one MOH, three Purple Hearts, three Silver Stars, Iraqi campaign medal ("POW") and more. He was convicted in 1997, among the first tried under the Stolen Valor Act. Although he was in the military for six years, he falsified his records in order to benefit financially.
- "LCDR" Carl James Epperson claimed to be a "SEAL." He told tales of being in a Vietnam POW camp where he was tortured and thrown in pit. When dog fell in, he ate it and used one of its ribs to dig his way out. Then, during Desert Storm, he said he fell from helicopter in an effort to get medical disability benefits.
- Tony A. Walters impersonated a SEAL. He was never in the military. He was also a convicted rapist who spent two years in a Wyoming state mental hospital and three years in a state penitentiary. He attacked another

woman and is now on the run and considered extremely dangerous.

- Robert Warren claimed to be a "Combat-decorated SEAL." Using forged papers, he bilked taxpayers of \$280,000 through the Veterans Administration in 2002, and then through Social Security in 2004. Faking Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), he claimed a 100 percent service-connected disabled veteran status. He was caught, convicted and imprisoned for wire/mail/SS fraud/false statements.
- Danny Thompson is also a non-military con man. He's on America's most-wanted list, having hobnobbed with famous political leaders, set up sham Navy Veterans Association chapters, and collected \$100 million-plus donations. There are arrest warrants for him in nine states.

I could have chosen any Navy SEAL to summarize—however, Michael Monsoor's military funeral was the first such SEAL tribute I'd ever watched on TV and internet sites. My tribute to Monsoor is a tribute to all who've died proving to everyone *-freedom isn't free.*

Among five Navy SEALs who are recipients of a Congressional Medal of Honor are Petty Officer, Michael Monsoor, and Lt. Michael Murphy. Each posthumously received the nation's highest honor as well as a Purple Heart. Both sacrificed their lives to save others, Monsoor in 2006 in Iraq, Murphy in 2005 in Afghanistan. Earlier, SEAL Monsoor had received a Silver and Bronze Star for bravery beyond the call duty. SEAL Murphy, while serving, also received a Silver Star for heroic actions.



*Petty Officer,  
Michael Monsoor  
(Family provided photo)*

# MWSA BUSINESS

## **Programming Survey**

Hi everyone,

We are busy putting together our Conference programming. We are also looking at online writing and promotional classes. As we are doing this planning, I thought that it would be good to get your input. Here's some of the content that we are planning for the future. It may be delivered online or at the Conference...or both. Please send your thoughts and ideas to MWSAPresident@gmail.com.

### **Research Classes**

- Weaponry Demonstrations/Discussions
- Religious and Cultural Display/Discussion
- Military categorizations and terminology
- Foreign Military categorizations & terminology
- Historic Military categorizations & terminologies
- Fight/chase scene choreography
- Martial Arts techniques
- Battle Choreography
- Aerial Battle Choreography
- Special Topic Lectures
- Vehicles
- Digital Photography

### **Writing Classes**

- How to create an index using MSWord.
- Using MSWord functions to help edit your work.
- Self-editing techniques
- Story Structure
- Critical Analysis
- How to write a book review
- Sex as plot device
- Creating suspense

## **Publishing**

- Traditional
  - Agent pitches
  - Contracts
  - Expectations
- Subsidy
  - Contracts
  - Programs
  - Submission requirements
  - Expectations
- Self
  - Book Cover Design
  - Using a template
  - Using Adobe Photoshop
  - Using Microsoft Publisher
  - Book Block Layout using MSWord
- eBook publishing
  - Manuscript Conversion
  - Marketing Options

## **Book Promotions**

- Websites & Blogs
- Book Video Teasers
- Social Networking
- Signs and other marketing collateral
- Group promotional experiments
  - Car Sign Exchange
  - Video Ranking
  - Amazon Ranking

## **Events**

- Local Booksignings
- Writer's Retreats

DON'T FORGET...send me your thoughts about other areas and let me know if any of these topics appeal to you.

*Joyce Faulkner, MWSAPresident@gmail.com*



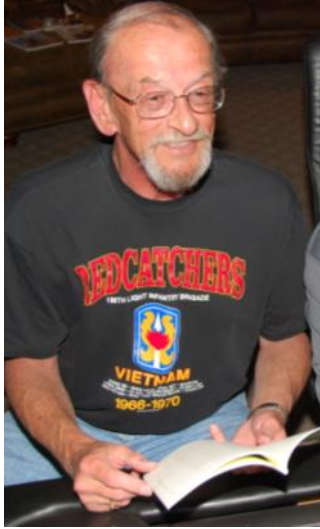
# MOON'S MUTTERINGS

April is month of religious drama and indescribable importance, forgiveness is a key theme during the season of Lent and Resurrection. As I sat and watched a series of World War Two investigative shows seeking answers to naval tragedies I wondered “why” about of life’s most common pursuits. Why do we always seek to blame someone for the accidental events in our lives?

My computer grammar program does not recognize a declaratory sentence. It also places a green squiggly line under “uncles” when I use it in one of my short stories. Again, why?

It tells me that it should be a possessive. More often than not the computer program can be wrong when it comes to grammar. Who can I blame and can I forgive them? No. To be frank, I believe that language and grammar are severely short changed in the public school system these days. Every day I hear an advertisement or a newscaster say “We must be more green” or “It was the most windy day of the week.” Trained college graduates do not even know how to form a comparative statement. I struggle to forgive that.

Chastise me for being judgmental. That is fine with me. Handle it I will. During a recent conversation the question popped, “Where do we get the right to make judgments about who will succeed and who will not?” The answer is; we do it every day. If you ever hired someone you did it. If you ever made the decision to retain someone, you did it. If you ever fired someone, you chose the individual you felt was least likely to fail or who did not meet your success expectations. Their original employment applications may have been almost identical to another person’s but there was an intangible which caused you to choose or not choose the person initially. What does any of this have to do with anything? Right at this moment I am frus-



*Mike Mullins*

trated with me!

I have some writing patterns I am trying to break. Certain readers enjoy my style. It is comfortable and homespun, a “sitting around the fireplace and talking kind of story telling” approach to writing that is relaxed, but dramatic at times. It lacks a certain crispness and punch that it should have. I realize it, but habits are hard to break. It is as tough to do as breaking in a new pair of dress shoes when the good, comfortable shoes are right there in the closet next to the stiff new ones. It is almost impossible to get the stiff, steel-like, shiny shoes and the shoehorn to force those doggone new ones on your tender feet. So you see? I judge myself now; am I going to succeed by my standards? Or which standards are right? The readers whom I have already won or those I hope to win? Which are the better shoes? Those I love or those I want to step into?

Editing is the hardest thing I have ever done. Writing is hard, hard work. Creating a book is labor intense. Giving an idea life, a thought cogent direction, and pulling a series of thoughts together is an odyssey of the first water. But editing...editing is like birth to the same child again after the child is grown. The technical part is not the part to which I refer. Catching a skipped word is hard; it is always there in your mind. Playing with commas and such is rather subjective, but there are rules, so those things can be argued. The harshest part (should I say the most harsh part?) is rewriting/restructuring what you have written one way to dance another? It felt fine the first time. It flowed from your mind to the paper. You read it back, aloud in places, silently in others, but it played along your fingertips, your eyes, even your lips, and the delicate balance was just what you sought...the first time. Then you revisited it. No;

*(Continued on page 16)*

(Continued from page 15) **Mullins**

the bad habit is still there and you stagnated. You showed no progress. You must step out and up. Rewrite. The effort drained you. It felt awkward. You tripped on the skip rope. You fell off the sidewalk. Your knees are skinned. The sensation is unnatural. Read aloud it sounds like someone else. Is there a ghost writer involved? By the world's measure you are expanding. By your own, you are flailing about seeking a new definition for success. You are vulnerable. Always vulnerable, writers expose themselves unlike any other creative person in my opinion. There is no sound or vision to use for cover. There is no brush or pen stroke to explain in a variety of ways. Words haunt, heal, or harpoon you.

Where you once succeeded, you raised the stakes. Climbing the ladder gives you a greater distance to fall, and fail. Can you forgive yourself for failing? Can you forgive yourself if you do not try?

It is April.

**IN THE RANKS...**



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**All the Pittsburgh  
Positive News  
Fit to Hear!  
Talkcast at 7PM EST  
Every Monday**



2009 Small Business  
Journalist of the Year  
Joanne Quinn-Smith



**Pittsburgh Internet  
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**On Line Multi Media Community Magazine at:  
<http://www.positivelypittsburghlivemagazine.com>**

# INTRODUCING MWSA MEMBER JACK MANICK



To date, Jack has written seven specialty Art Books and “Incoming”, a historical account of his and his fellow brothers in arms accounts in the Central Highlands of Vietnam in 1969. As Jack puts it, “Incoming invites you to lace up your jungle boots and follow me through the waist high dry fields of grass and triple canopy of the dry season and the mud and incessant rain of the Monsoon.”

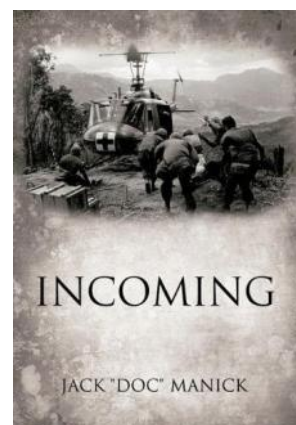
Along with Richard Infantino of Infantino Publishing, their first ever book about the life and art work of world famous artist Michael Godard, titled “Don’t Drink and Draw,” won the “Best Art Book in 2006” Award by the “USA Book News.”

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Jack wrote a Veterans Column titled “Insights of a Veteran,” for Comcast’s “IntheGardenState.com”, a local content site in New Jersey, and was awarded a “Best Military Site” by Military.com for it.

Jack believes that every day is a “Gift” from a higher power and that it should be lived with conviction and passion. Besides his wife Barbara and dog Kimba, transforming what the heart feels to “Pen and Ink” is Jack’s passion and he plans to continue with it for years to come.

Jack Manick is a lifelong resident of New Jersey. His active duty military career spanned the years from 1968 through 1971. Trained as a Field Combat Medic, he served in Germany during the second half of 1968 in a Military Hospital and Dispensary, there learning the tools of his trade, then in late 1968 volunteered to go to Vietnam. In the

Central Highlands of Vietnam he served with both the 70th Combat Engineer Battalion and the 131st Engineer Company (LE) (also known as the Vermont National Guard) for his Tour of Duty. After Vietnam, he served with the 24th and 1st Infantry Divisions until his separation from active duty in 1971.





# The Birth of Aerial Applications

## By Joyce Faulkner

I've always fancied that Orville and Wilbur and all the others who struggled to prove the concept of power-driven, heavier-than-air flight did it pretty much for the romance of doing it. Maybe that was part of it—but they did have an idea for military use—aerial reconnaissance. Other applications must have seemed daunting in 1903. However, as soon as Orville landed 120 feet from lift-off that day at Kitty Hawk, people began thinking of the 'aeroplane' as a solution for a variety of problems.

The idea of dropping "stuff" from airplanes—usually in discreet chunks—seemed to take-off during World War I. Everything from messages to bombs were tossed out of cockpits. From there, it's a small leap to the concept of pouring or spreading powdered or liquid "stuff" from the air. In the US, people began experimenting with dumping poison dust from aircraft flying over crops as early as 1917. Russian trials didn't begin until 1922. It's likely that there were unsuccessful attempts in several other countries as well.

The US Forest Service first used airplanes to address agricultural problems in 1919. It began in the late winter when two men met by accident in a bar in San Francisco. When Teddy Roosevelt established the US Forest Service in 1905, one of its top priorities was to protect government lands from forest fires. Then, as now, droughts plagued California followed by wildfires which ignited either spontaneously or from human carelessness. Given the state of communications, technology, and transportation in the early 1900s, fires consumed thousands of acres of land before the flames could be detected and extinguished.

Coert DuBois, an enthusiastic young conservationist, developed the concept of lookouts to spot forest fires quickly in 1914. Built in strategic locations within sight of one another, these towers

were manned by rangers who scanned the horizon in all directions looking for wisps of smoke rising from the forest floor. World War I interrupted DuBois' work, but in 1918, he came back from France as a Major and returned to his job as Regional Forester for California.



*Hap Arnold*

Henry "Hap" Arnold entered West Point the same year that the Wright brothers made their first flight. He graduated as a second lieutenant in 1907—about the time that the Wrights convinced the Army to try a flying machine for military purposes. Lt. Arnold's first orders were for

Dayton, Ohio in the spring of 1911, where he learned to fly at Simm's Station—the home of the Wright Brothers' flying school. He became a pilot and mechanic capable of maintaining his own plane. In 1912, he established a new altitude record of 6540 feet and won the first Mackay trophy. He was also the first military aviator to report observations by radio. Soon the development of aeronautical technologies and definition of practical applications for military flying became his personal mission. By the late winter of 1919, now Major Arnold was at the Presidio in San Francisco, in charge of a demoralized group of World War I flyers and looking for a peacetime use for military airplanes.

One day, Major Arnold wandered into the bar of a hotel on Market Street and saw another major

*(Continued on page 19)*

(Continued from page 18) **Faulkner**

sitting at a table. He introduced himself, and asked if he could join the other officer. Major Coert DuBois welcomed Major Arnold and the two began chatting over drinks. Coert DuBois was passionate about protecting his precious forests from wildfires. Hap Arnold was passionate about the Army Air Corps. After a few hours of talking shop, they came up with an idea. What if airplanes could detect fires sooner?

This conversation led to an agreement in Washington, DC, that the Army would fly over the national forests in California scouting for forest fires. Dubbed the Army Air Patrol, they would operate out of March and Rockwell Fields in southern California and Mather Field near Sacramento. They coordinated air-ground maneuvers using rangers in the lookout towers and observers in the air.

Flying along the Sierra Madre mountain range at altitudes of up to 11,000 feet was challenging for men in open cockpit biplanes without oxygen. In fact, several pilots and observers were killed or injured. In time, it was shown that DuBois' lookouts usually did a better job of fire detection. However, after lightning storms, Arnold's air patrols couldn't be beat. By the time the experiment ended in 1921, airplanes had been used for reconnaissance, for transporting equipment, for dropping supplies to fire camps, and for making the first water "bomb" runs on a test fire.

Two Americans, C. R. Neillie and J. S. Houser finally proved the suitability of aircraft for use in agriculture and forestry in August, 1921 near Troy, Ohio. Using a specially modified Curtis JN6 flown by test pilot, John A. Macready, a



man who certainly had the 'right stuff', Neillie and Houser dusted a catalpa grove of 5000 trees infested with the Catalpa Sphinx using 175 pounds of lead arsenate. The trees were covered in six flights—54 seconds actual dusting time. The flight took place at 20-35 feet.

Two days later Neillie, the Cleveland entomologist who had suggested the idea, reported "evidences of the wholesale destruction of insects were everywhere apparent." Less than 1% of the insects in the dusted area survived. Ninety-nine percent of the caterpillars were killed.

They published their results in *Aerial Weekly* on August 29, 1921 and again in March, 1922 in *the National Geographic Magazine*. Although John Macready gets credit for being the first crop duster, it's clear that he was part of a long line of pioneers consisting of scientists and engineers, foresters and farmers, politicians and military men—and pilots who built a new industry both before and after Macready's success in Troy.



## Veterans or Military Retiree Benefits Advisor

Do you have questions regarding your Veterans' eligibility or military retiree benefits?

We can help answer those questions.

To make an appointment, contact the Branson  
Veterans Task Force  
417-337-8387

# MWSA's Spring 2011 Recommended Reading List

By **Bob Doerr**

**Chairman of Reading List Committee**

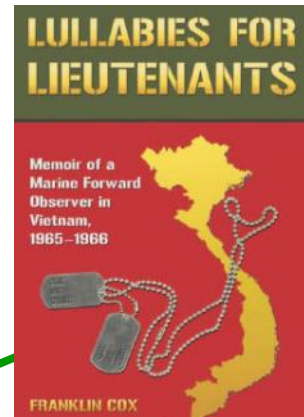
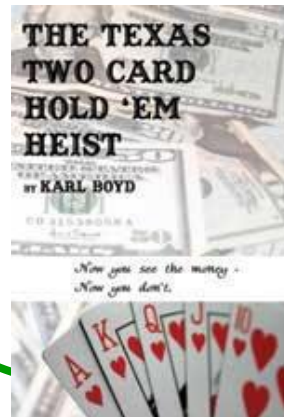
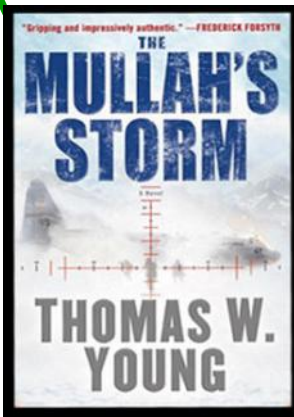
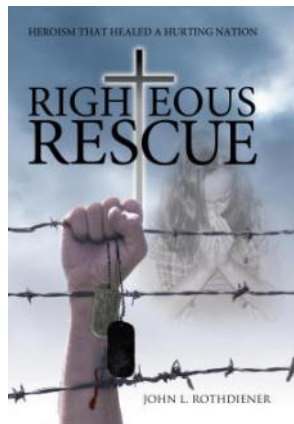
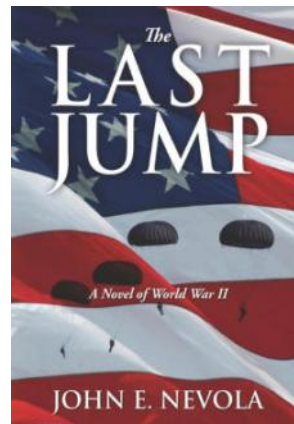
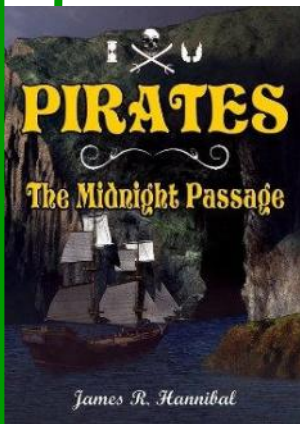
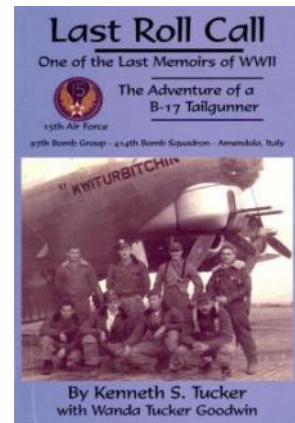
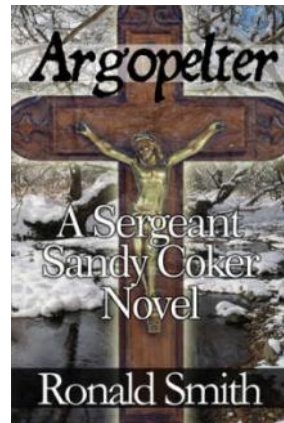
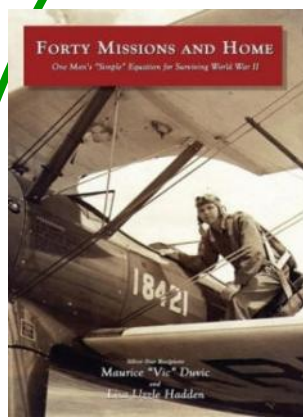
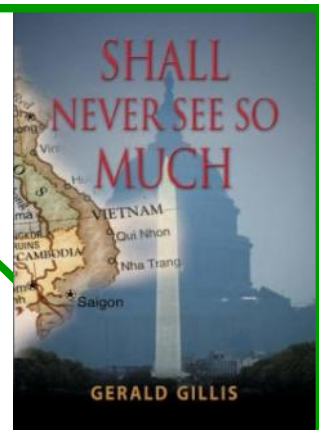
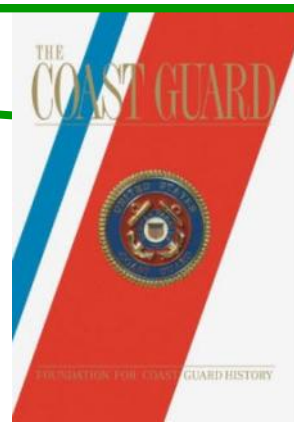
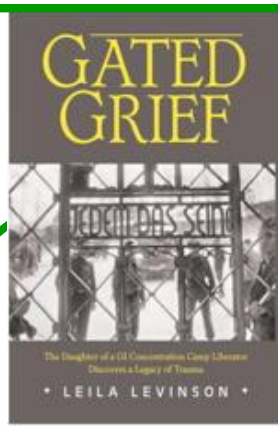
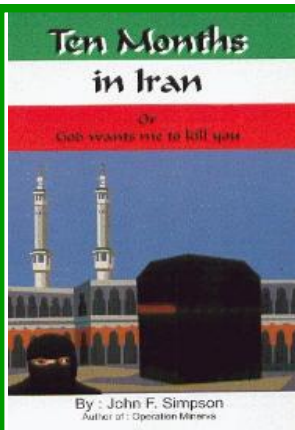
As most of you know, the Military Writers Society of America (MWSA) is an organization of nearly one thousand writers, poets, and artists drawn together by a common bond of military service. One purpose of our Society is to review the written works of our members. From our recent book reviews, we have selected the following as our 2011 Spring Suggested Reading List:

MWSA Spring Reading List		
Title	Author	Genre/Subcategory
Last Roll Call	Kenneth Tucker & Wanda Goodwin	Nonfiction - Memoir
Lullabies for Lieutenants	Franklin Cox	Nonfiction - Memoir
Forty Missions & Home	Vic Duvic & Lisa Hadden	Nonfiction - Memoir
Mollie's War	Mollie & Cyndee Schaffer	Nonfiction - Memoir
Ten Months in Iran	John F. Simpson	Nonfiction - Memoir
The Coast Guard	Tom Beard	Nonfiction - History
Gated Grief	Leila Levinson	Nonfiction – Creative Nonfiction
God + Military Spouse	Lori Kathleen Cline	Nonfiction – Spiritual
Argopelter	Ronald Smith	Fiction - Thriller
Pirates: The Midnight Passage	James Hannibal	Fiction - Adventure
The Texas Two Card Hold'em Heist	Karl Boyd	Fiction - Thriller
Righteous Rescue	John Rothdeiner	Fiction - Historical Thriller
The Last Jump	John Nevola	Fiction – Historical Adventure
The Mullah's Storm	Thomas W. Young	Fiction - Thriller
Footsteps to Forever	R. Samuel Baty	Fiction - Historical Thriller
Shall Never See So Much	Gerald Gillis	Fiction – Historical Fiction

If you feel like taking a break from pulling weeds or planting spring flowers, give yourself a rest and grab a good book. Looking for a good read – might we suggest one of the books mentioned above?







# CONNECTIONS

When I look back at MWSA Conference 2010, I have many fond memories. There is one person that when I think about her, I always smile. That would be Sandra Linhart. I would give Sandra the nickname of “Spunky Sandi.” She was a ton of fun to share some time with at the conference because she has such a great (warped) sense of humor! (Okay, I just HAD to say that!) She also was very generous and gave me a set of books to share with my students. The books that I’ve been fortunate enough to work with in my classroom are: *Daddy’s Boots*, *Momma’s Boots*, *But...What If?* and *Grandpa, What If?* (You can check out all of the awards Ms. Linhart has won on her website at: [www.smlinhart.com](http://www.smlinhart.com)).

My students absolutely loved her books and also fell in love with the illustrations. Notice the teddy bear on the cover? You’ll discover it throughout the book! One of my students could really relate to *Daddy’s Boots* because her daddy has spent time in Afghanistan as well as other deployments. It really gave her pride to be able to share this book with the rest of our class and

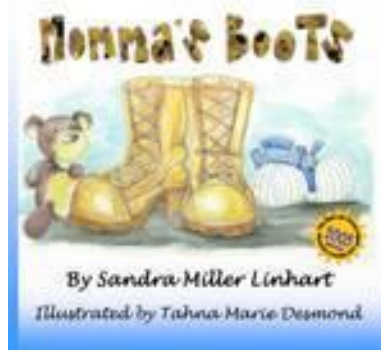
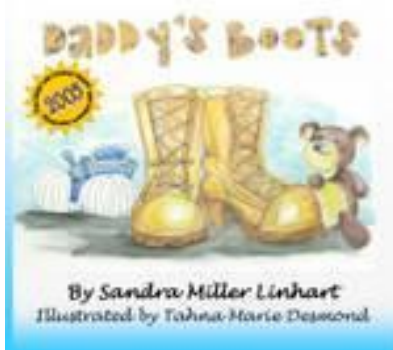


**Joyce Gilmour,**  
**Columnist & Book Reviewer**

gave her a way to explain her daddy’s job to the rest of us. She asked to take all of the books home to share with her family. My students enjoyed writing letters to Ms. Linhart to share just what they appreciated about her books.

I love the story that Sandra tells on her website about being born and raised in Lander, Wyoming, where there really wasn’t much to do but visit the local library and spend time reading. I’ll let you explore her website so you can discover for yourself why she isn’t a rock star today. You’ll see her sense of humor shining through. The reading that she did took her to all sorts of places and experiences. I tell my students this every day: “Get into that book and let it take you places. It may be the only way you’ll ever get there.” The exciting part is that just like Sandi, my students are beginning to also see themselves as writers. Authors like Sandi, who are willing to share their stories with others, can then see how the cycle continues. Sandi put a lot of effort into writing and has become an

*(Continued on page 23)*





(Continued from page 22) *Gilmour*

award-winning author, who continues to get her ideas on paper. One of the motivators for her books was not being able to find literature to read to her five daughters regarding the work that their father did in the military and the reasons for why he had to be away from them for long periods of time. She writes from her heart and from experience, knowing the life of being a military wife and mother.



Ms. Linhart has also written a series called *The Elementary Adventures of Jones, JEEP, Buck & Blue*. I haven't had the pleasure of reading the

series yet, but it is on my "Want to Read" list. These books have pre-teen main characters who are "military brats" and are faced with the adversities of loss, death, disappointment, and change. Military children deal with the same "growing up" issues as all children, but sometimes their lives get complicated by all of the moving that they have to do.

I've heard from a wonderful source ([www.smlinhart.com](http://www.smlinhart.com)) that Sandra has more books in the works. She is working on another installment for the series with Jones, JEEP, Buck & Blue titled *Stuck in the Middle* which follows the kids into their middle school years. She also has several picture books in the works. Keep your eyes open for more to come from this wonderful author. Sandra states that she is an author, mother, grandmother, and friend, but not necessarily in that order. I am glad to be considered a friend, and hope that we will be able to build on that friendship at the MWSA Conference 2011.







## YouTube Tips

### For promoting your book!


YouTube.com is the second most-used search engine after Google. It can be an important promotional tool for authors. Here are ten tips to get you started.

- 1. Create and customize your channel.** Your channel is your personal page on YouTube. It will allow you to reflect your brand's "look and feel." For example, I have a series of books that are psychological thrillers. My general brand theme includes a red/orange/yellow/black color scheme. I've customized my channel in those colors and set it up so that I will "entertain" audiences who are intrigued by the darker side of society. <http://www.youtube.com/user/JoyceKFaulkner>
- 2. Set up your profile.** Put information into your profile that will intrigue and encourage browsers to learn more about you.
  - Instead of your own photo, but your book cover in the profile picture. That way, when you comment on other channels, your book cover will be displayed.
  - Under "Describe yourself," write some-

thing that will appeal to your audience. Be sure to put your other books in your profile.

- Don't display your age unless you think it will bring you audience...in other words, if you are 45 is immaterial to most audiences, but if you are writing "fan" fiction appealing to 17 year old girls, it might not help you.
  - Under "Favorite Books," put in a combination of well-known books in the same or similar genre and those of your fellow authors. This will help them and you by increasing their electronic "footprint." For example, here are the books I have included in my profile: *Silence of the Lambs* by Thomas Harris, *Murder Takes a Ride* by Pat Avery, *The Lincoln Lawyer* by Michael Connelly, *Delta 7* by John Cathcart, *Pirates and Cartels* by Lee and Vista Boyland, *The Child Finder Trilogy* by Mike Angley, *Chocolate Soup* by Del Staecker, and *The Green Mile* by Stephen King. If someone searches on "Stephen King," and this posting shows up, the hope is that readers will see the other names and look them up, too.
- 3. Subscribe and befriend.** The goal here is to create audience on Youtube itself. Subscribe to other contributors that have similar themes in their YouTube presence. Look for music, movie clips, news pieces, and other videos that complement your topic. For example, my upcoming book *Username* is about a serial killer. In preparation for that novel and its video teaser, I've befriended channels that post videos about the Manson Family, Ted Bundy, Rodney Alcala and the like. I've subscribed to

(Continued on page 25)



(Continued from page 24)

some folks who publish movie clips that are scary or dark, too.

**4. Create your book trailer and upload it.**

You can have it professionally done or you can create it yourself using a package like “Movie Maker” which comes free with Windows or “Adobe Premiere Elements” which is about \$149 or “Powerpoint” which is often included with Microsoft Office. However, you can edit and put together something simple and impactful using YouTube’s Video Editor which is free. I’ll do a more extensive video article in the future, but in the meantime, here are a few tips:

- Keep your trailer short. You aren’t doing a rehash of your book...you are doing a teaser. Twenty to thirty-five seconds is about right. The longer the video, the less likely your audience will watch all of it.
- Display your cover art prominently and make sure that you include where the book can be purchased.
- Remember that you are aiming at a specific audience. Use sound, imagery, motion, and text that reflects the interests of your target audience—which may or may not be within your own taste or perspective.
- Don’t overdo elaborate transitions. Use them in context with the message of your video.
- Keep your language and your fonts simple.
- Use tags in your video title. For example, mine is “Chance—Ebook Trailer {Psychological Thriller/ Horror}.”
- Select the same tags for your trailer as you did for your book on Amazon...and put the url of where your books can be purchased in the description area.

**5. Announce your trailer to your friends.**

Send an email to close friends and family an-

nouncing your YouTube presence and encourage them to visit, watch the video, subscribe to your channel, and comment. These comments will encourage strangers to comment too. The more comments the better. Every time someone plays your video or “likes” it, your video will be positioned higher in the various rankings...which means that more people who are just browsing will be able to find it.

**6. Share your video with others and ask them to forward it on to their friends.**

YouTube makes this easy. There is a “Share” button under the display of your video. You can link folks through Facebook, Blogger, Twitter, Orkut and Tumblr. You can embed code in your blogs or websites and your video will play there. And finally, you can email, instant message, or text the link as well.

**7. Video comment.** You are only allowed to do this once, so proceed with deliberation. If for example, you find a video that is a good intro to your topic, you can comment using your own video. If you do it more than once, YouTube will assume that you intend to use only the last one.

**8. Don’t neglect your channel.** Visit your channel whenever possible. Aside from responding to comments and adding new videos as you have them, be sure to visit the channels of your MWSA comrades...comment, “like” them, subscribe to them, and befriend them. Visit them regularly and play their video teasers which will help them go up in rank. These connections help make your membership power stronger...and if you do it for your friends, they will do it for you. These visits also keeps your channel up-to-date and relevant.

**9. Brand your videos.** This will help you get more views for all of your videos.

**10. Include your YouTube Channel address in your email signature file.**

## The Corydon Snow

By Richard Whitten Barnes

This a fast-paced yet intimate look at WWII's Merchant Marine crews engaged in fierce combat against the Japanese. A freighter carrying high explosive fuel is the setting for this gripping tale of courage and leadership, ill will and revenge. Barnes clearly knows his military history and expertly explores the psychological dramas of men isolated for months at a time in the most dangerous waters of the Pacific. Unforgettable characters are expertly developed and no reader can resist having opinions early in this story about some of America's bravest fighters. And, just when you think you know it all, the book ends with a surprising twist that is both stunning and believable. Well done, Barnes.



*Review by Carmen Stenholm*



**Author of the Month**  
**Richard Whitten Barnes**

## Disability Compensation

By Thomas Van Hees

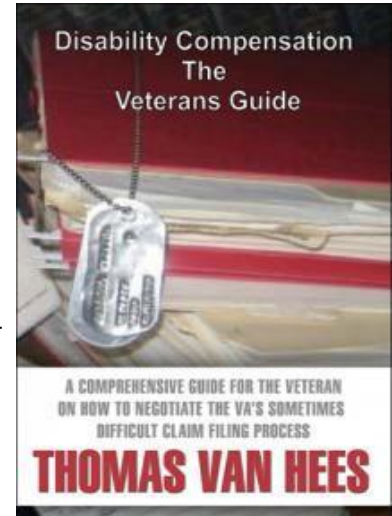
Nothing is more frustrating or daunting than trying to get the Veterans Administration to provide compensation for service related problems. Whether the problem presented itself immediately or many years later it often seems like a battle the veteran cannot win.

Mr. VanHees has put together a road map or in today's world a gps for navigating through the hurdles that every veteran faces. His message is one of encouragement and tenacity. Do not give up, file and file and file until you are successful seems like a simple plan, yet thousands of veterans give up in the face of so many hurdles.

Here, in this book is a plan, simple and organized but requiring the veterans persistence to reach success. All areas are covered in simple easy to understand language. His four year battle taught him much and he has turned it into a manual for all veterans to use.

If you are contemplating filing for benefits, have been turned down or are thinking of giving up the fight, don't, instead, purchase a copy of this book, you will find the fight to be much

*Review by jim greenwald*



**Author of the Month**  
**Thomas Van Hees**



# WING WIFE

By Marcia Sargent

The author shares soul-felt reflections that begin in the seventies when, at twenty-two, she marries big brother's best friend. The union is not common—both husband and brother are Marine F4 Phantom jet fighter pilots—and her life blasts off in a direction any wife could hardly fathom. Using a fast paced writing style, Marcia Sargent shares a thorough account of the ongoing love and sacrifice experienced with a career Marine aviator. Blending humor and tragedy, she vividly portrays the psychosocial dynamics at the officers clubs and wives meetings, through deployment and relocation, and when babies are born and loved ones vaporize in the air. While reading, I felt it—when the switch is hit that instantly changes your life forever ... you can't go back, reach for the brake, and zoom out of control. In *Wing Wife*, families persevere through incredible loss and then regroup in traditional Marine Corps fashion to show the young newcomers how to live fully in the face of constant danger. Thumbs up! I highly recommend this survival—success story and consider it an educational building block for anyone who likes or NEEDS to learn about the dedication and determination required in service to family and country.

*Review by Hodge Wood.*



*Civil War Sesquicentennial  
Fort Sumter, April 12-13, 1861*

## Book of the Month Wing Wife

## April Notes By jim greenwald

**Advanced booking of rooms for the conference - 12% of the initial block of rooms has been reserved already. Take advantage of the special low rate and book today, price goes up when it reaches 100%.**

Seeking volunteers to be judges for this year's award process. I need five willing individuals to donate a small amount of time to their fellow members and friends. Time is moving fast and I need these volunteer judges to step forward by May 27<sup>th</sup>, the latest. Volunteers to be reviewers are always welcome as well—the need is constant, so consider doing reviews to help all our members.

The Poetry Corner is in need of your poetry. Please forward your verse to me for inclusion in *Dispatches*. We print four poems a month and to keep up with that figure we need your help in the form of your writing efforts. Do not be concerned about being “professional”—just be willing to share your thoughts with your fellow members.

Donations of items or services for our auction are also needed. If you are not certain if something is acceptable for the auction email me and I will let you know. If you donated something last year please consider doing so again. If you never have, then by all means do not hesitate. If you have never stayed to participate in the auction make a strong effort to do so this year. It is entertaining and you could walk away with something really great for all them Buckaroos burning a hole in your pocket.

Surprise! Many of the folks in positions of responsibility within MWSA are busy and none more so than its President, Joyce Faulkner. Speaking for myself, as Lead Reviewer, I am constantly surprised by the number of questions she receives that should have been sent direct to me. Now we all try to answer hundreds of emails as best we can but, the workload of all volunteers could be lowered by careful decision making in selecting whom to contact about problems, ideas and questions. So please, before typing in an email address give it a little thought. Save the MWSA contact list on page 27 as

a guide for whom to direct your questions, thoughts and ideas.

I have volunteered two of my granddaughters to work at the conference. They will be manning the registration desk. I hope all of you and indeed the world are prepared. They will be required to write a paper on the experience (they may decide to ask a ton of questions, be kind, and be helpful) as well as handle the homework assigned for their time in Pittsburgh. The hours they work will of course reduce the requirement of their student community service. The list of things they are permitted to do and their movements while at the hotel have been gone over carefully and will be at least two more times before the start of the conference. I am after all a tad protective and immensely paranoid, I would be inclined to purchase them each strong taser weapons but fear they would only immobilize each other. They already have a favorite feature of the event, that being the ability to charge things to the room, I may have lost what little sanity I possess with this idea.

Well the light at the end of the tunnel turned out to be headlight fish trying to escape the wrath of yet another of nature's wonderful floods. Damage inside the house is not of the severe nature as the last event, it still places a drain on finances and the energy one has to correct the problems that result. I still love the rain but that love has been tarnished by my overwhelming desire for a legal separation for at least three months. It will take that long for the ground to dry out. My daughters think I should plant rice or cranberries. Hope they think that lump

(Continued on page 29)



(Continued from page 28) **greenwald**

of coal they get this Christmas is just as funny.

A few almost warm days, I am alternating time between priming and painting and cleaning up the outside from all the debris. Keeping track of cart loads of junk to burn, 47 so far. Have an enormous fire going today. Cleaning up has a downside in that I realize I will need about thirty tons of stone for the driveway, and have to replace all the mulch and stone in the flower beds and around some trees that washed down to an unknown location.

### Fond memories of my childhood

I lived in Jersey City, New Jersey until I was nine and must admit they were eventful and formative times. Saturday was movie day, an outrageous \$.10 to see two movies, a newsreel and three cartoons. Movies stirred our imaginations and heightened our desire to duplicate what we viewed. This movie,

title long forgotten was about climbing and coming back down a mountain mostly (rappelling).

We went home and gathered all the clothes line we could borrow without being caught (the device that allowed clothes to dry by solar energy), and a couple of reels and headed off to the nearest billboard. In keeping with a lifelong problem I volunteered to be the mountain climber.

Tying clothes line around me as best we could from our memories of the movie, I scaled the billboard, anticipating a rather neat drop to the ground and even better, I would be the first in our group to do so. Up I went, straddling the top of the billboard I prepared to glide gently to the ground. Everything worked fine until I let go. Not sure what happened, but one line broke, the reel did not function and I was left about halfway down the face of the billboard, face down, dangling somewhat like a pendu-

(Continued on page 30)

## MWSA Contacts

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**John Cathcart—Webmaster—MWSAwebmaster@gmail.com**

**Terry Gould —Membership Secretary—purpledoodle@att.net**

**Dwight Zimmerman—Board Member & Chair of PR Committee—  
djonzim@gmail.com**

**NOTE: For issues concerning:**

- **Book Reviews, Dues, & Conference Invoices, contact Jim Greenwald**
- **Web site, contact John Cathcart**
- **Membership records &/or dues, contact Terry Gould**
- **Book signing schedules, contact Dwight Zimmerman**
- **Programming, contact Joyce Faulkner or Mike Mullins**
- **Anthology, contact Mike Mullins**
- **All other issues, contact Joyce Faulkner or Mike Mullins**



(Continued from page 29) **greenwald**

lum. I was not scared, eight year olds are invincible you know. All the neighborhood kids tried to haul me up or find a ladder, none of this worked. Luck as it were was on my side, kind of. My uncle, a police officer happened to drive by and noticed me right away. He got the fire department involved, they got me down and my uncle took me home while my friends cleaned up all the rope and stuff.

My parents were thrilled of course and they must have been rather happy to have me around as they suggested I remain indoors for two weeks. This type of event was to repeat itself in different ways most of my life and well into adult hood in various “stunts” such as trying to fly, becoming a frogman and so many more excellent ways in which to turn my parent’s hair prematurely gray.

Last year at the conference in the bar sitting with a group of friends I told a story about a problem I helped overcome at a mortuary. I may tell it again in Dispatches soon.

Some writing thoughts:

How long should a paragraph be? Studies have shown that 100-200 words are where most people are comfortable when reading a book.

Writers of novels should try “free writing.” Take ten minutes and just write, do not stop—do not pass go. At the end of that time read what you have written, you may find you have written something good. Just write means do not worry about spelling or word usage—that comes later. In poetry, one writes as thoughts spin their way from the mind.

When done, much like free writing, one begins the process of eliminating and replacing words. At times the process takes minutes, then there are times when it is never finished.

Little things that pop into our writing, not our fault, it is that dreaded English gremlin that travels the world with Captain Kirk at warp speed through our perfect manuscript. Hope more folks are or are looking into using an editor.

Phrase/Word	Meaning
Agree to	Give consent
Agree with	To be in accord with
Affect (Usually a verb)	To influence
Effect (Usually a noun)	Result
A	Used before consonent
An	Used before a vowel
All ready	Completely prepared
Already	Previously
Allusion	Indirect reference
Illusion	Misconception
Complement (Verb)	To complete
Compliment (Verb)	To flatter

Try these for accuracy: [is the first choice correct or the second?]

- The capital/capitol has undergone extensive renovations.
- You extended the curfew farther/further than you should have.

Are long sentences wordy or are short sentences wordy? Is one true and the other not? Why?

Did you have a few redundancies with your breakfast today?

- Mrs. Smith still hasn’t paid last month’s rent,

(Continued on page 31)

(Continued from page 30) *greenwald*

yet. [hasn't paid makes yet a waste of ink]

- John was determined in his mind to lose weight. [in his mind? We already know, John wants to]

We are all guilty of nonstandard writing and speech:

NO	YES
Would of	Would have
Theirselves	Themselves
Them	Those
Try and	Try to
Should of	Should have
Irregardless	Regardless

Just attempting to say that before you ship your manuscript off to a publisher send it first to an editor, the investment is worth far more than the cost. Oh! By the way, above in the two accuracy questions it is the second one that is correct in both.

**ATTENTION: The Arkansas Chapter of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association invitation for MWSA members!**

Any MWSA member who would like to have a book posted on the AR MVPA website, please send a photo of your book cover and copyright date, an overview, link to purchase the book, and recommendation to read to Evelyn Harless at [plleh38@hughes.net](mailto:plleh38@hughes.net).

See MVPA website book page at: [http://www.armvpa.com/recommended\\_reads.htm](http://www.armvpa.com/recommended_reads.htm)

**Reflections  
on the  
Faded Flag**  
2011 MWSA Anthology

**Call for submissions with an American  
Flag theme including:  
Essays and/or Articles  
Poetry  
Short Fiction  
Photography  
Artwork  
Short Plays**

\*\*\* Limited to 3500 words \*\*\*

**Submit electronically  
to Mike Mullins at  
[mullins.m.1@comcast.net](mailto:mullins.m.1@comcast.net)  
before  
July 15, 2011**



*Nostalgia*  
*By jim greenwald*



# POETRY CORNER

## Happy Words

by Mike Mullins

How does this person speak of things very happy?  
Very little is done to actually delight me.  
I grow more selfish as my life's light grows dim.  
I would love to give in to every whim.  
I know I am blessed, that is not the question.  
What I once had and lost is the delusion.  
I lost my health, my youth and a little of my love.  
But I am still thankful to Heaven above.  
I just can't bring myself to write words very joyfully.  
It is pain from loss that seems to inspire me.  
I have read words all aglitter with chirping titters.  
Sometimes they give me the blathering blithers.  
I laugh a lot but when the times are alone and quiet  
Solemnity and soul searching run and riot  
In my mind and spirit I wish I could not hear it.  
But if I did not I could not share it.  
Those who know my style would wonder why.  
I would get accused of being in love or something silly.  
Only once in a lifetime; more would kill me.

I have written about a talent or a never ending curse.  
But feelings are feelings. Having none is worse.  
I could write about fluffy clouds in the deep blue sky.



## walk into yesterday

by jim greenwald

water rushes over ancient rock  
whispering secrets from the past  
telling of footsteps long since past

we stopped to sit ~ to listen  
to let the secrets wash over us  
the water rushing by so fast

soon, the water began to speak to us  
in words we could not understand  
here among Mother Earth's wonder

we remained quiet as ancient footsteps  
soon we felt something  
another sound, the sound of the drum

sun's rays filtering down  
making the water sparkle like diamonds  
filling us with its beauty

nearby trees lifted their arms  
supplication, perhaps unspoken prayer  
words heard on the wind

trees fallen appearing as images of those  
long past here in this forest church  
kneeling to listen to prayers on the wind

voices of the old ones carried on the water  
whispered in the old tongue if one but listens  
to those that connect to Mother Earth

a good day, a day of reflection  
inside, outside, back at ourselves  
wondering how many footsteps we followed

who had stood here and imprinted the land  
filled it with their dreams and hopes  
shed tears of pain and joy here on this spot

in this place you can feel them  
close your eyes and see them  
their spirits are strong in this cathedral of  
nature

it is not easy to leave  
to walk back into the world  
a world uncaring

we noticed the rocks crying  
crystal tears flowing freely  
memories too much to bear

we closed our eyes to look inside  
to let the wind blow our tears away  
and stepped back into the world feeling  
pain

## Josh Sees

For Josh Nicolai  
by Kathy Rodgers

His fingers are a guide  
to the world.  
He gropes, searches, finds  
caresses.  
Mother's face  
is branded into the palm of his hand.  
He knows every smile line  
at the corners of her mouth.  
He feels father's strength  
when wrapped around the broad shoulders  
that carry him.  
Josh sees the world  
through his mind and his hands.  
His eyes are his nose, his toes, his touch.  
Colors are shapes and textures.  
His sky the air.  
Shades of light, though dim,  
his shining sun.  
But a small child,  
he sees more through his blindness  
than most of us do in a lifetime.  
He penetrates the haze  
the rest of us stumble through.  
Josh sees...  
He sees with his soul.

## The War Museum at Oslo (c)

by Carolyn Howard-Johnson

Raindrops surf my windshield, slip across my reflection, tears not fettered by gravity. I look into my father's face, decades gone, rather than my own. Years later I search for family seeds. Norway's fjords shed salty droplets on faces like my father's. Round faces. Eyes dilute-blue like the pale skies above them. Men who fought as Churchill's voice crackled through smuggled vacuum tubes. Here miniature battles, cotton snow, charcoal clouds, tiny lead replicas of soldiers now gone, desperate photo-faces of the condemned. Only days before I reached this spur, I saw my grandson off to war, alone. A sacrifice. A trade. For my father who never marched. Travis' face flat, pasted behind a window, an upside down smiley pattern behind windows tinted khaki, his bus taking him away from me. I leave the dark halls, history encased, to sit outside fortress walls, put my head between my knees. Gasp for comfort. Fragile. A portrait on my bureau at home. Acid glass shores up the image murred by time. My father, stands in sepia snow, round face, eyes look beyond the frame at me. He wouldn't know these boys his age, his blood, resisting Hitler's hand raised, his arms against them. Oceans, bodies of land between my father and these others. Here a disconnect, a link I cannot touch or breathe. Once I was a child who did not have to say goodbye, now a grandmother who must pay the price. My grandson. Heads for heat and oil and sand. He, too, resists. He, however, unsure, doesn't know quite why or who or what.

This Nordic rain does not, cannot wash  
the memory or the present clean or clear.



# 2011 People's Choice Award Inspiration Pieces

To participate in the 2011 People's Choice Award:

- Select one of the inspiration pieces and write a poem, essay, article, song, or short story or a piece of artwork. (Word limit 1000)
- Submit your piece to [MWSAPresident@gmail.com](mailto:MWSAPresident@gmail.com) with the words "People's Choice Submission" in the subject line. Indicate which of the inspiration pieces that you used.
- Deadline is July 31, 2011.
- Judges will select the top 8 pieces. They will appear in Dispatches, the Conference Program, on Facebook and Twitter and on as many websites as possible. The general public can vote for the winner. Gold and Silver Medals will be presented to the two top vote getters.

#1. Video on YouTube showing Vietnam War Scenes with Animals singing "We Gotta Get Out of this Place"

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Io\\_6UtzBf28&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Io_6UtzBf28&feature=related)

#2. Photo taken on Iwo Jima, March 1945. Shows 5th Division Marines holding conquered Japanese flags. From scrapbook of Pvt. Billy Lee Plummer, USMC 1/26.



#3. USS North Carolina Battleship.  
Taken by MWSA member Larry Wikoff.

#4. MWSA member Patrick Nelson in front of an old Iraqi Army Garrison.



# Announcing a Special Contest for 2011

Sponsored by MWSA, The Center for the Study of the Korean War, Our History Project, & Positively Pittsburgh Live

## Korean War Book Awards Cash Award \$150 for First Prize

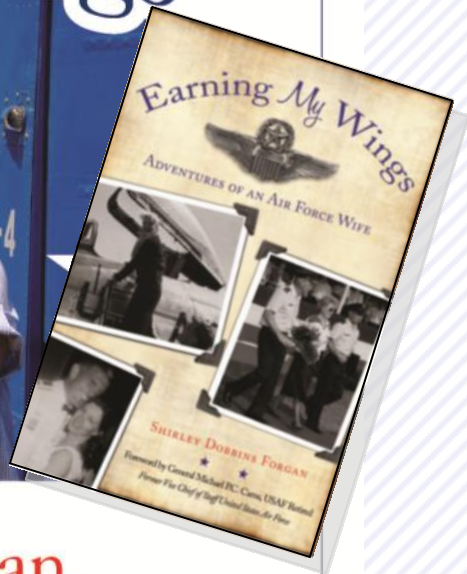
### Rules

- Books must be primarily about the Korean War.
- There is no time limit on when the book was published but it must be in print currently.
- Books can be either fiction or non-fiction—memoirs, histories, or novels. If fiction, it must be clearly stated either on the book itself or in the submission query.
- Books can be published by traditional, subsidy, or self-publishers.
- Existing MWSA standards of excellence will be used in judging.
- MWSA members may submit books on Korean War for free. Non-members may submit for \$30 and they then become members for one year.
- Because this contest is separate from usual MWSA awards, books that have received MWSA awards in the past may be submitted for this competition as well.
- MWSA officers and board members may not submit books for this award.
- Books being submitted for Korean War Book Award must follow existing MWSA book query procedures—sending a query to the lead reviewer but noting in the comments section that this is a submission for the Korean War Book Award.
- Entries must be submitted by July 15, 2011.
- Winner will be announced September 1, 2011.
- Award will be presented in a ceremony in Pittsburgh, PA during the MWSA Conference — September 29-October 2.



# INTRODUCING MWSA MEMBER SHIRLEY DOBBINS FORGAN AUTHOR OF "EARNING MY WINGS"

## Earning My Wings



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR **Shirley Dobbins Forgan**

Shirley Dobbins Forgan is the wife of Major General David W. Forgan, USAF Retired. She was born and grew up in McAlester, Oklahoma, and is a 1957 graduate of Oklahoma State University with a B.S. degree in elementary education and a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Shirley was employed as a secretary by Magnolia Petroleum Company in Dallas from June 1957 to July 1958. She met Dave, during this time, and they were married in McAlester in October 1958. She accompanied him to Japan to begin her incredible journey with him in his air force career.

Through the years, Shirley devoted many volunteer hours to Red Cross, base thrift shops, family services organizations, officers' wives clubs, cub scouts, Little League Baseball, PTAs, chapel adult and youth choirs, and scholarship associations.

After General Forgan's retirement in 1989, they lived in Colorado Springs for fourteen years, where she was a member of the Cheyenne Mountain Newcomers Club, Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae Association., Colorado Ski Country USA, and Country Club of Colorado Tennis Club.

In February 2003, they moved to Trophy Club to be near their two sons and grandson. She is an active member of the Trophy Club Women's Club and a member of Grapevine, Colleyville, Southlake Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae Association and Kappa Kappa Gamma Stars and Stripes Alumnae Association.

One of her greatest accomplishments was being the oldest participant to complete the 3Day 60Mile Walk for the Cure of Breast Cancer in 2007 in Dallas. She personally raised \$11,985, being one of the top ten fundraisers within a field of 2400 participants.

Shirley recently became the published author of *Earning My Wings – Adventures of an Air Force Wife*, a story about her family life during her husband's thirty-four years in the air force.

The author can be contacted at  
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817-430-8619



## Dwight Zimmerman—Electronic Books

I'm going to begin this month's (late again) column with a publishing industry market report. In an article dated April 14, 2011, *Publishers Weekly* reported that e-book sales growth "jumped 202.3% at the 16 publishers that reported results, hitting \$90.3 million." Other formats suffered double-digit declines, with hardcovers suffering the biggest drop, 43%, in sales of \$46.2 million. Mass

market paperback sales dropped almost as much (41.5%). The article concluded by stating for the first two months of 2011 "e-book sales were up 169.4% to \$164.1 million, equaling the sales of trade paperbacks for the two-month period; trade paperback sales were down 22.5% for the two months at the 19 reporting publishers."

While e-book sales reports for March and April might tail off (taxes anyone?), I would not be surprised if they started surging in May and June in advance of the "beach reading" season. The fact that e-book sales are hitting triple digit jumps in a month-by-month basis means the market is still in its infancy. Though it may sound like hyperbole, because e-books are no longer confined to e-reader devices such as Kindle and Nook, the growth potential, not only for books, is explosive. And magazines and newspapers are looking at software apps for ipads, smart phones, and e-book readers, which themselves are starting to get more sophisticated.

So, which print format will suffer the most in the coming years, and how much of a market will e-books take—and how quickly? Ah, had I the hard and accurate answers for this, I'd be paid a lot more than I presently am for my writing; but in a different field. But since I posed the ques-



tions, I'll take a shot at them and say that within three years e-book sales will have at least half the market. The reason is that by that time the assorted electronic devices we now use will have advanced so much that e-books will be almost at the level of an impulse purchase—especially if the price point drops. I think hard-

covers will endure, because there is still a tactile and status appeal supporting the format. The two formats hurt the most I think will be trade paperbacks and mass market paperbacks, with either one or both formats going the way of vinyl LPs.

So, what does that mean for writers? Well, it certainly opens wide the opportunity for self-publishing. Already book fairs are offering lectures on the subject, with notable self-published authors talking about their experiences. A friend of mine, who is a bestselling author, has already told me of a number of her author friends are starting to make a tidy living self-publishing, and that the biggest need right now is for freelance editors to go over their manuscripts. She suggested that I should offer my services, given my prior experience with her and other authors, and I have to say it's something I'm starting to think about.

But first I have to get this column in to Joyce.

## Seeking Volunteers

MWSA is a volunteer-based organization. The more resources at our disposal, the more and better the services we can provide. With our MWSA buckaroo program, you have a measure of the value of your participation. (Buckaroos are MWSA currency. The more you volunteer, the more you earn. Every year at the Conference, we have a buckaroo auction where you can use your buckaroos to bid on cameras, computers, services, etc. )More importantly, the more that you put into MWSA, the more you will take away from it.

- We need someone to help our beleaguered Webmaster, John Cathcart, with our website.
- We need someone to convert *Dispatches* to a format which will support our Social Networking Strategy.
- All of the committees need volunteers.
- We need someone to help us find sponsors and to sell ads for our 2011 Conference Program, *Dispatches*, and our 2011 Anthology book.
- We need volunteers to help with the 2011 Conference activities.

If you are willing to help out, contact [MWSAPresident@gmail.com](mailto:MWSAPresident@gmail.com) for details.

**William E. Mayer word for April  
is "COURAGE UNDER FIRE"**



*Nine year old Sioux girl doing hoop dance  
By jim greenwald*