



MILITARY WRITERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA

2009 Conference and Awards Banquet Program
October 9-11th
Westin Imagine Orlando
Orlando, FL



Celebrate Together!



PERFECT VALOR

*"Perfect valor is to behave, without witnesses, as one would act were all the world watching."
François de La Rochefoucauld*

PERFECT VALOR captures the sacrifices of those who have served our nation. From the young man who joined the Marines to follow in his grandfather's footsteps to the Navy Chaplain whose faith was shaken by what he saw; PERFECT VALOR brings the impact of the war in Iraq to the screen.

Walk with the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines as they work to bring peace and stability to the people of Iraq and learn of some of the sacrifices made by our troops and their families. Roll from Nasiriyah to Fallujah and on to Western Anbar Province with America's professional warriors and citizen soldiers to see how every corner of the American society has contributed to our recent success in Iraq.

Watch field surgeons and nurses struggling to save lives and a Navy Chaplain struggling to save souls. Experience the sacrifices of three Marines on the field of battle and their stoic wives waiting at home.

This is a film that every American needs to see. It will touch your soul.

*"I was impressed. It was realistic, moving, and yet told the story of the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform as well as their families. I think it's a story that needs to be told."
Lieutenant General Richard F. Natonski USMC*



MWSA member Richard S. Lowry was the historical consultant for PERFECT VALOR. Many of the stories in this gripping documentary are pulled from the pages of his next book, NEW DAWN, which will be released in May, 2010.



Lindsey and Jason Arellano, Richard S. Lowry, LtCol Todd Desgrosseilliers

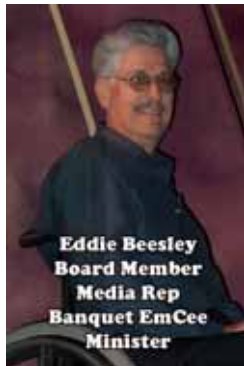
Award-winning documentary PERFECT VALOR will be screened at the MWSA Conference on Saturday night, October 10th, 2009 at 9:30 pm.

www.perfectvalor.com

MWSA Officers, Board Members & Volunteers



Bill McDonald
FOUNDER
of
MWSA



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Banquet EmCee
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Maria Edwards
MWSA
Consultant



John Cathcart
Webmaster



Nancy Smith
Photographer
Buttons
Hats



Joyce Faulkner
President
Newsletter Editor



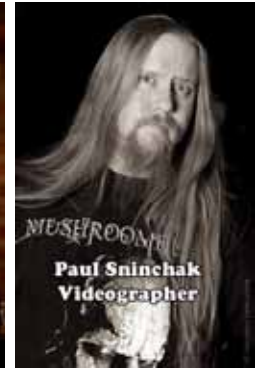
Jeff Edwards
Speaker
Presenter
Logo Creator



Lynn Salsi
Event Planner
Columnist



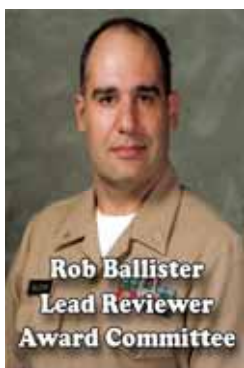
Richard Lowry
Speaker
Presenter
Committee Chair



Paul Sninchak
Videographer



Mike Mullins
Vice President
MWSA
OPEN MIC



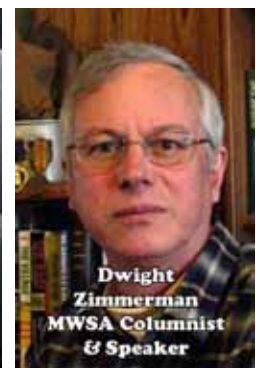
Rob Ballister
Lead Reviewer
Award Committee



Connie Beesley
2009 MWSA
Sergeant
Major



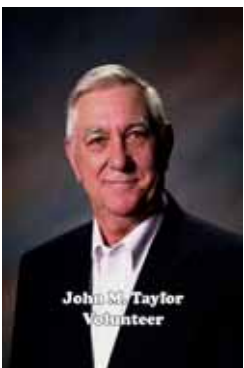
Bob Calvert
Talking with
Heroes
Radio & Video



**Dwight
Zimmerman**
MWSA Columnist
& Speaker



Pat McGrath Avery
Secretary
Columnist
Speaker
Presenter



John M Taylor
Volunteer



Lee Boyland
Committee Chair
Presenter
Reviewer



Mindy Lawrence
Media Releases
Newsletter
Blog Posting



Jim Greenwald
MWSA Bucks Auction
Organizer

2009 MWSA FOUNDERS AWARD

E. FRANKLIN EVANS



Published by: iUniverse
ISBN: 978-0-595-45053-4
Price: \$19.95/\$29.95

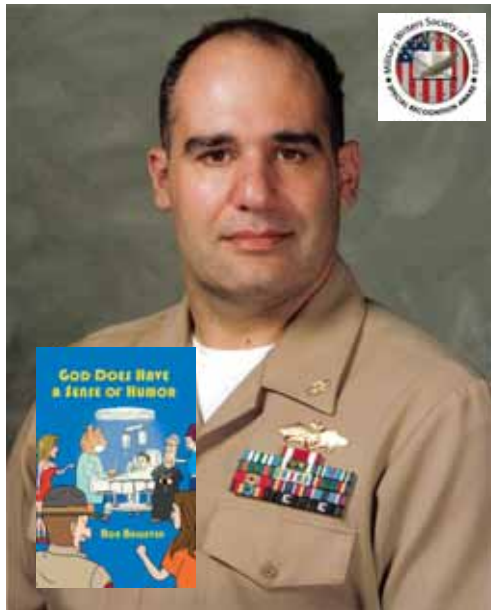
It took over thirty-five years for the author to begin telling his intensely personal story of growth during jungle combat in Vietnam. This book is the author's personal reflection into a crucial period in his life during a highly controversial and emotional time in our nation's history.

The combat actions, accurate operational terms and portrayals of real soldiers doing their duty stir up vivid memories for those who walked into the "bush" for months at a time and walked out changed men...it was our coming of age...read this book during a quiet time as you will also see images of the long line who will be there for the rest of your life.

Reviewed by Brigadier General (Ret) David E.K. Cooper, US Army and Chairman of the Board, The Hana Group, Inc.

...the kind of book that truly moved, entertained and impressed me. The author is a decorated retired U.S. Army officer and was a platoon leader in Vietnam. He is also one very talented writer! ~ MWSA Founder Bill McDonald

MWSA 2009 President's Award Winners



God Does Have a Sense of Humor
2007 Gold Medal for Humor

Rob Ballister

An organization is only as good as the members and the people who lead it. Too often, when handing out awards, we forget to honor those who quietly make things happen in the background. Rob Ballister is a busy man — with a new daughter and a new position — and still he has found time to jump into the most thankless of jobs. Over the years, Rob has done more than his share of the work at MWSA. He has been a reviewer, the webmaster, and this year, at the last minute, when our original Lead Reviewer had to step down for personal reasons, he stepped up to the plate and took on that role as well.

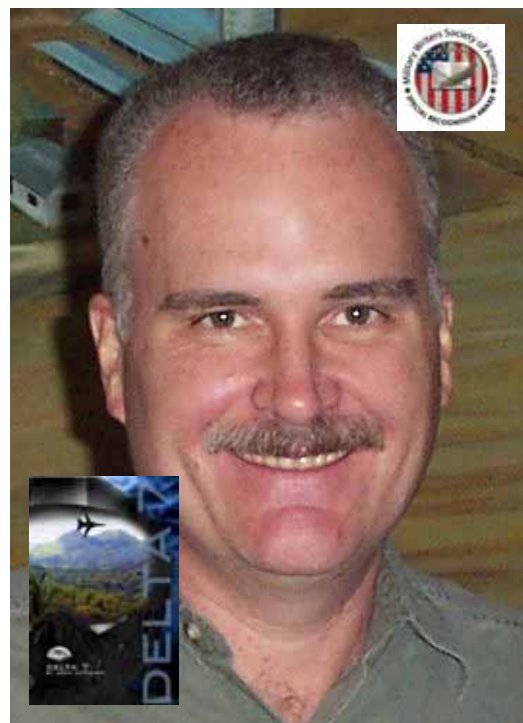
Rob is a solid, thoughtful person — a leader, a peacemaker, and a wise advisor. When he sees a problem, he doesn't complain — he comes up with possibilities, options, solutions. He focuses on how to make things work and how to bring people together. He understands pain and laughter and loyalty to an idea.

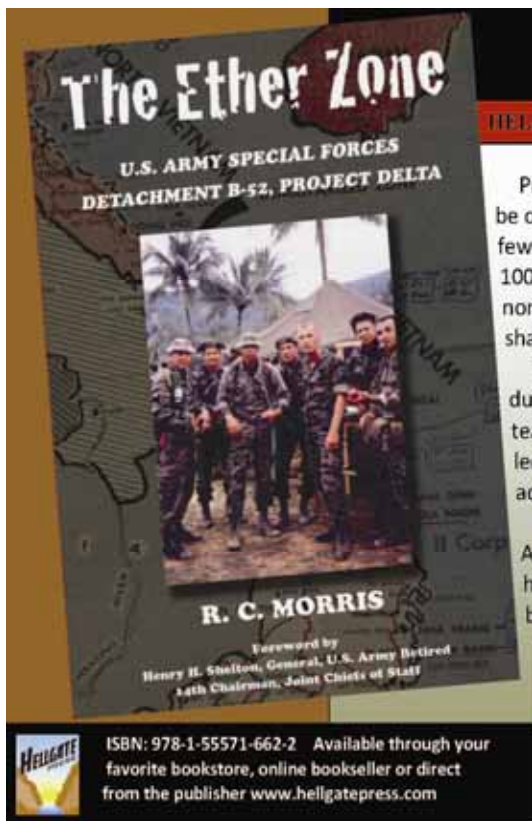
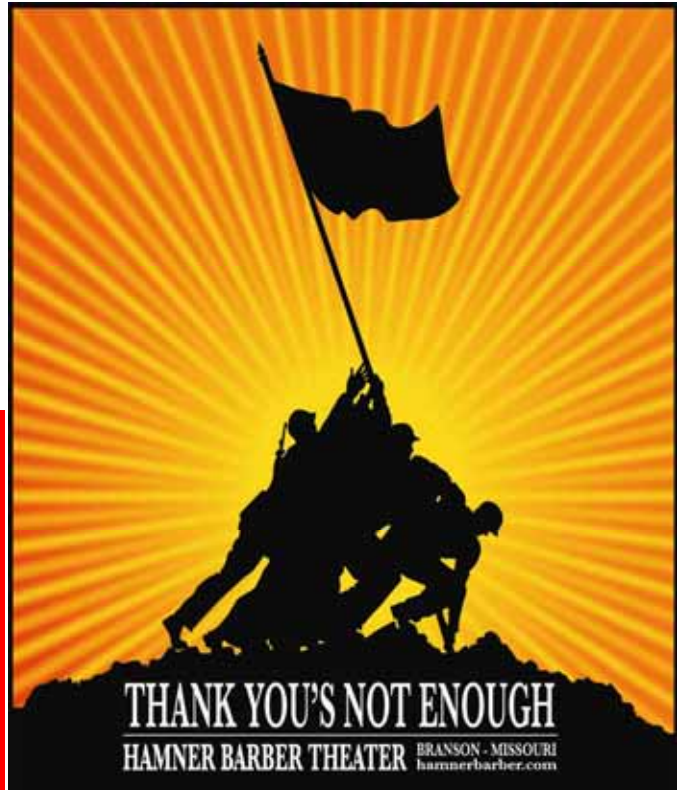
Many of you have expressed satisfaction at the growth of MWSA — Rob is responsible for much of the work that was necessary to make that happen. For that reason, and many more, he deserves this most special symbol of our gratitude and admiration.

John Cathcart

John Cathcart is a new author and new to MWSA. Within days of joining, he agreed to take on the enormous task of pulling together our website. On top of that, he joined during the hectic days of transition from one leadership style to another. He dared go where the most stalwart techies have refused to go — the morass of files inherited from a line of webmasters with differing philosophies, talents and time to spend. He focused on advancing our site, stealing time from his personal life and from the tasks needed to launch and promote his amazing first novel, DELTA SEVEN. When others would have focused simply on their own interests, John gritted his teeth, pulled out his hair, and kept his eye on what would be good for all of us.

Like Rob, John is also a peacemaker as well as a warrior. He is a creative thinker and he has developed the technical wherewithal to make our organizational dreams possible. Many of you have interacted with John and chuckled at his clever sense of humor and can-do attitude. Even with the decline of his mother's health, John has continued to give MWSA stolen moments to help us grow. For that reason, and many more, he deserves this most special symbol of our gratitude and admiration.





**PLUNGE INTO VIETNAM'S STEAMY JUNGLE WITH
DELTA RECON...BE PREPARED TO DUCK!**

HELLEGATE PRESS AUGUST 2009 RAYCMORRIS.COM

Project Delta and its clandestine special reconnaissance operations proved to be one of the most successful Special Operations units of the Vietnam War, yet few Americans have ever heard of them. This small unit, comprised of less than 100 U.S. Army Special Forces men, amassed a record for bravery second to none. Now, for the first time, the Project Delta "Quiet Professionals" finally share their story.

Highly trained as experts in special reconnaissance techniques and procedures, the covert Project Delta missions were accomplished through recon team insertions into enemy territory. The primary sources of intelligence collection for Project Delta, these tough and tenacious men recount hair-raising adventures.

Enter the world of a highly classified project to learn what makes U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers tick—and learn the legacy of these men of honor, their breathtaking heroics, humility, humor, camaraderie and brotherhood.

PRAISE FOR THE ETHER ZONE

"...a must read for those who are aspiring to enter our Special Forces, or other elite units where guts, innovation, and dedication are essential ingredients for success. Or, for that matter, anyone who would like a down-and-dirty vicarious experience in our Special Forces." MG General David J. Baratto, U.S. Army (Retired)

Former Cdr, JFK Special Warfare Center and School



ISBN: 978-1-55571-662-2 Available through your favorite bookstore, online bookseller or direct from the publisher www.hellegatepress.com

MWSA 2009 Book Award Winners

ANTHOLOGY

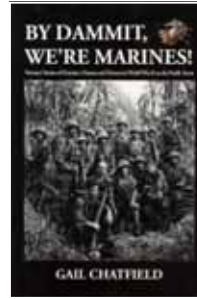
GOLD Jeffery Hess



Press 53
ISBN: 978-0-9824416-0-2
Price: \$19.95



SILVER Gail Chatfield



ISBN: 9780977903948
Price: \$23.95
Hardcover



1st RUNNER UP UNCLE JOHN'S BATHROOM READER SALUTES THE MILITARY—Andrew Lubin

CHILDREN'S BOOK

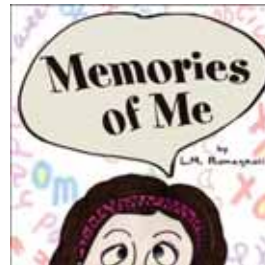
GOLD Sara Jenson-Fritz, Paula Jones-Johnson, Thea Zitzow



Beavers Pond Press
ISBN: 1-59298-268-9 / 978-1-59298-268-4
\$19.95



SILVER L.M. Romognoli



PublishAmerica (Feb 09)
ISBN: 1-60836-084-9
Price: \$24.95



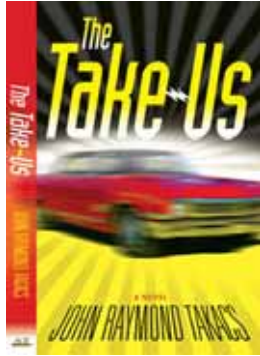
1st RUNNER UP Sandra Miller Linhart — HE ELEMENTARY ADVENTURES OF JONES, JEEP, BUCK AND BLUE, BOOKS 1-4

2nd RUNNER UP Mary Sullivan and Autumn Rayne Sullivan — IF I HAD A DADDY

MWSA 2009 Book Award Winners

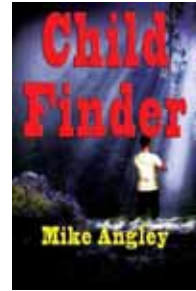
FICTION

GOLD John Raymond Takacs



ISBN: 978-0-9818571-0-7
Price: \$17.95

SILVER Mike Angley



TotalRecall Publications, Inc.
ISBN: 978-1-59095-827-8
Price: \$27.95

1st RUNNER UP David Lucero — THE SANDMAN

2nd RUNNER UP DH Brown — HONOR DEFENDED

HISTOICAL FICTION

GOLD Erin Rainwater



Infinity Publishing
ISBN: 0-7414-3074-6
Price: \$20.95

SILVER Kathleen Rodgers



Leatherneck Publishing
ISBN: 9780982089200
Price: \$11.95

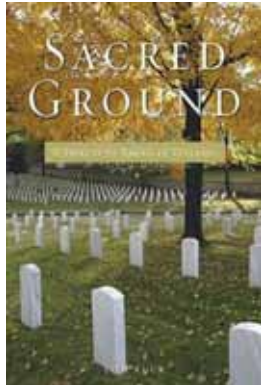
1st RUNNER UP Margit Liesche — HOLLYWOOD BUZZ

2nd RUNNER UP Jack Woodville London — VIRGINIA'S WAR

MWSA 2009 Book Award Winners

NON-FICTION

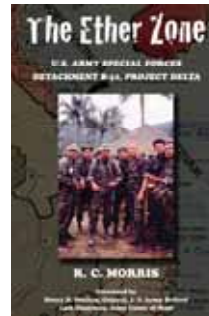
GOLD Tom Ruck



Regnery Publishing, Inc.
ISBN: 978-1-59698-524-7
Price: \$29.95



SILVER Raymond Morris



Hellgate Press
ISBN: 978-55571-662-2
Price: \$24.95

1st RUNNER UP Lee Kelley — FIRE IN THE NIGHT

2nd RUNNER UP Raymond Scurfield — A VIETNAM TRILOGY

MEMOIR

GOLD Virg Erwin



Dog Ear publishing
ISBN: 978-159858-985-6
Price: \$28.95



SILVER Del Staecker



Cable Publishing
ISBN: 978-1-934980-21-7
Price: \$23.95

MWSA 2009 Book Award Winners

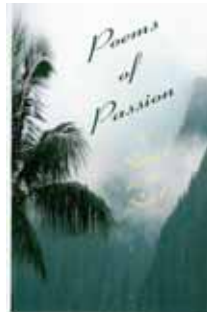
POETRY

GOLD Jim Greenwald



PublishAmerica
ISBN: 1-60703-816-1
Price: \$16.95

SILVER James R. Jellerson

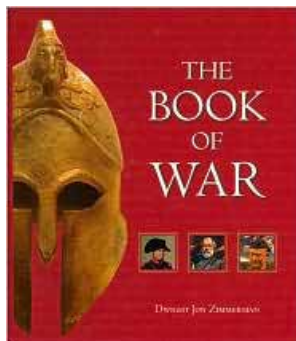


Jewelianne Publishing Company
ISBN: 978-1-60643-642-4
Price: \$12.95

1st RUNNER UP Jim Greenwald — Sugar, Zeroes, and Lemondrops

REFERENCE

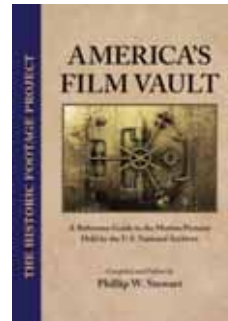
GOLD Dwight Jon Zimmerman



Black Dog & Leventhal
ISBN: 978-1-60376-037-9
Price: \$39.00



SILVER Phillip Stewart

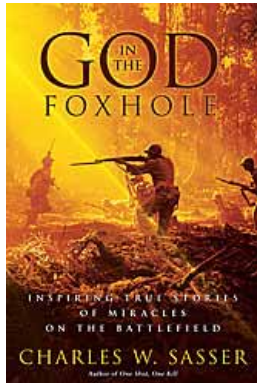


pms press
ISBN: 978-0979324307 /
978-0979324352
Price: \$39.95/\$44.95

MWSA 2009 Book Award Winners

SPIRITUAL

GOLD Charles Sasser



Threshold Editions
ISBN: 1416541373
Price: \$22.36



SILVER Larkin Spivey



God and Country Press
(an imprint of AMG Publishers, Inc)
ISBN: 978-0-89957040-2

1st RUNNER UP JM Barnes — BIBLE PROMISES FOR SOLDIERS

2nd RUNNER UP Derek W. Clark — I WILL NEVER GIVE UP ON GOD AGAIN

MUSIC CD

GOLD James R. Jellerson



Kimo Productions, Hawaii

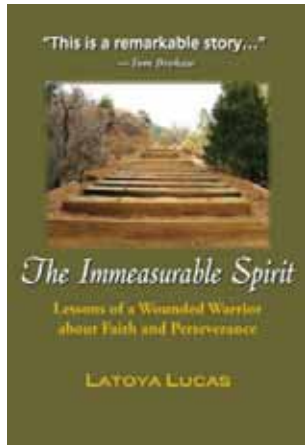
2009 MONTHLY AWARD WINNERS



MWSA 2009 Book Award Winners

ARMY

GOLD Latoya Lucas

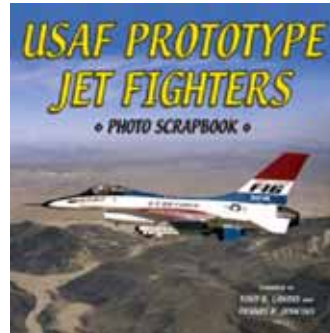


Carminor Press
ISBN: 978-0615267609
Price: \$17.90



AIR FORCE

GOLD Dennis Jenkins & Tony Landis

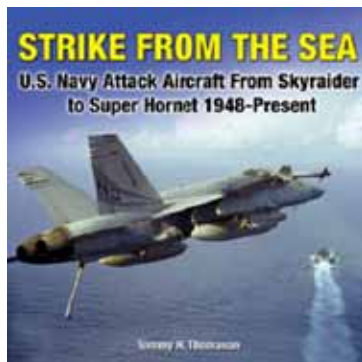


Specialty Press
ISBN: 978-1-58007-137-6
Price: \$19.95



NAVY

GOLD Tommy Thomason

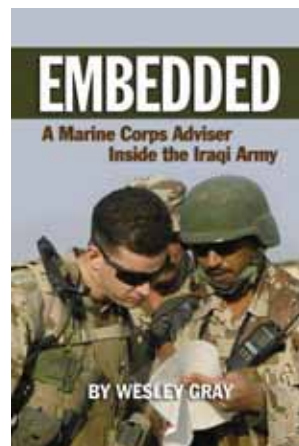


Specialty Press
ISBN: 9781580071321
Price: \$44.95



MARINES

GOLD Wesley Gray



Naval Institute Press
ISBN: 1591143403
978-1591143406
Price: \$19.11





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- Promotional Signs
- Author Posters
- & Much More . . .



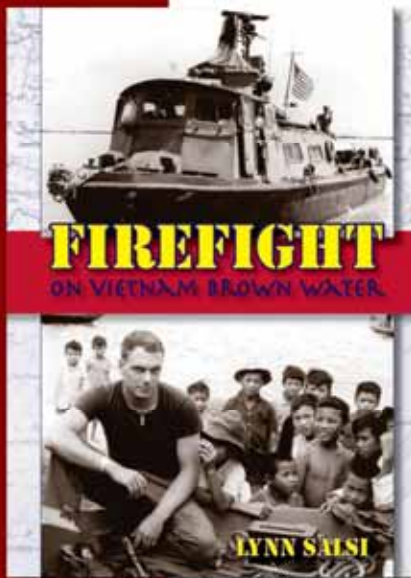
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LYNN SALSİ



With historically accurate scenes and action, this is a different view of the Vietnam War. The story centers on one small crew of young men fighting for their country from a heavily-armed 50-foot aluminum boat in a primitive wilderness environment where rivers are the only roads

This is a fictional account of SWIFT Boat operations in 1969-70 based on actual crew experiences."
Tom L. Hovland, Captain, USN-retired USN-retired

ISBN 13: 978-0-9706527-7-5

Adult Historical Fiction Novel
www.forzareneaeitions.com

MWSA 2009 PEOPLES CHOICE IMAGES

The Iwo Jima Memorial

Photograph by Richard S. Lowry

It was a perfect summer's day at the Iwo Jima Memorial in Washington D.C., with pure blue skies, a soft cool breeze and emerald green trees. Every tourist to visit has photographed this symbol of the United States Marine Corps. It can be found in replicas, paintings, photographs and plastic tourist trinkets.



I wanted to find something unique in this iconic American statue. So, I tried to capture the hands working together to accomplish a single goal in the midst of adversity – twelve hands working to prop up the American spirit.

Flag Retirement and Father and Son Photos

Photographs by Pat McGrath Avery

I took both the Father & Son and the Flag Burning photos at the Flag Retirement Ceremony in Pittsburgh, PA in 2008. The images represented the meaning behind the event and spoke to me of country, patriotism, love and family.



Untitled

Sketch by Bob Larkin

This image was a concept intended for the cover art for a book about The Vietnam War. Ultimately, a different drawing was used for that purpose.



Meet Chris Martini and see his
new movie-in-the-making

TROOPER

with Q&A to follow

Friday October 9, 2009 at 9 pm
Military Writers Society of America Conference
Westin Imagine Orlando
Orlando, FL

GENERAL PUBLIC WELCOME

MWSA 2009 People's Choice Award Finalists

Inspiration Image -- "Father and Son" photo by Pat Avery

Mindy Phillips Lawrence

Calling

The re-enactment was the start of it. I, a small boy cradled in my father's arms, had run my last lap around the battlefield where I'd sought out soldiers wearing Civil War uniforms and carrying vintage rifles. I was a small lad unaware of the greater significance of war and battle. It was a game to me then. Yet, when I was snuggled against my father's chest, cheek resting on his gray woolen jacket, I knew I was protected from a dangerous, unknown world.

I had fun that day. While my father spoke with other soldiers, I held my mother's hand and looked at the sites until she released her hold on me to look at the items in a craft tent. Then I wandered away. Fascinated by the tents set up by the soldiers, I entered one and sat. There, a soldier dressed in a color other than the color my father wore, showed me all the things he had there – his uniform, his cot, his gun. He talked to me about many things I was too young to remember and some I recall to this day. He told me that the soldiers in the Civil War didn't want to be far from home but felt they had a purpose that was greater than sitting at their own hearth. They had gathered to decide the fate of a nation.

Soon a mounted soldier rode his horse to the tent where I was staying and found me. He told me my mother and father were worried and that I should come with him. He placed me on the horse, hugged me against him and rode to where my mother was waiting. "Where was he?" she asked. All the mounted soldier told her was, "Talking to another soldier, ma'am."

I watched my father in battle. The cannon shook the ground with their sounding and kicked out great plumes of smoke from their barrels. The guns popped. One soldier fell to the ground then several more. A mounted soldier broke through the line and, followed by a foot soldier who took aim at him, dropped from his horse. At the end, they all got up from the ground and went home with their families, just as I went home with mine.

Even though I was very young, I remember that day as the planting of seeds inside me -- seeds like the fact that soldiers protect, that they fight for a cause and care enough for their families to leave them long enough to keep them safe.

I wear a uniform now because of the lessons I learned on the day I visited Gettysburg.

To vote for Mindy Phillips Lawrence:

Send email to MWSAPCA1@gmail.com

OR

Vote at www.MWSAPeoplesChoice.com



MWSA 2009 People's Choice Award Finalists

Inspiration Image — IWO photo by Richard Lowry

Jack L. Wells

Six Bronze Men

Straining to lift a heavy water pipe and place it and its five by eight flag at noon on a windy mountain top on a remote island. So why should such a statue even exist, let alone inspire?

These young men weren't special. Just following orders and executing a task assigned as one of the multitude of tasks they would perform that February day. They were a hodge podge of youth from Ohio, New Hampshire, Texas, Pennsylvania or Wisconsin or even a native American from Arizona. One wasn't even a native born American. His father and he had emigrated from Slovakia and he had only become naturalized 9 years earlier. Most were under 20. None had been to college. One wasn't even assigned to do the task, he just pitched in when asked because the pipe was heavy and he happened to be close by. They were tired, dirty and looking forward to catching lunch soon. With names like Strenk, Soursley, Bradley, Gagnon, Block or Hayes, they weren't famous or even in charge: just men doing their jobs in the cold wind.

Some guy with a camera wandered by and took a quick snapshot as the job was being completed. Just one black and white picture of the many he took that day that even he wouldn't know was special until days later when the film was developed.

And their effort wasn't even the first flag pole to be raised on the mountain, it was just a replacement for a smaller one placed a couple of hours before. It wasn't a victory yet; not even close. It was just the beginning of what would take three more excruciating weeks. So their work that day was of small consequence. Not a big deal.

Half of the men lifting the pipe would be dead in a month. The other half would live longer but with emotional problems. One would die in less than 10 years. And two would live 30 or more years. All three would be reluctant to talk about that day or the weeks that followed.

Then why would someone make a statue of these men from that black and white photo and place it in a location of honor?

Because of what they represented: They were the sons, brothers, husbands, and best friends of America. The average guys that had gone off to fight and die for their country against the worst challenge America had faced since the Civil War. And the picture of the six of them became a symbol of sacrifice, determination and victory.

They were five US Marines and one US Navy corpsman atop Mount Suribachi on the Island of Iwo Jima. It was February 23, 1945.

And the bronze statue of them raising that flag stands proudly today by our nation's capital reminding service men and women and a nation that bravery and heroism is usually just average Joes and Janes doing their jobs under difficult circumstances. It reminds us of the strength of our diverse nation. It reminds us that by working together we can remain free.

Six bronze men. Who would have thought they could mean so much?

To vote for Jack L. Wells:

Send email to MWSAPCA2@gmail.com OR vote here:

www.MWSAPeoplesChoice.com



MWSA 2009 People's Choice Award Finalists

I took inspiration from all four photos and tried to acknowledge each within the lyrics, since each photo speaks volumes of sacrifice and memories...

Lyrics and Music by J. R. Jellerson

Freedom isn't Free

Vs. 1

It was Friday morning...the rain was fallin' down
Another true life hero...was headed for hallowed ground
Wrapped up in Old Glory...as the cart moved along
The Old Guard marched in cadence...an honored soldier's song
I can still recall what my...Grand-father said to me
Son when you grow to be a man...remember
Freedom isn't free.

Vs. 2

In his home hung pictures...a lifetime on the wall
Ninety years of memories...shadows walkin' down his hall
Once told me his fav-rit'...of him a younger man
On a hill high above the sea...with a rifle in his hand
In front of a flag they just raised...so those around could see
He told me too his proudest day...remember
Freedom isn't free.

Vs. 3

A photo caught my eye...by the den down the hall
It was hangin' down crooked...like it was going to fall
An old tin photograph...a young son in his father's arms
It didn't matter what color...was on his father's arm
The date down in the corner...was written 1863
A line there too was faded, still I could see...simply said
Freedom isn't free.

Instrumental:

Bridge:

Thru the years n' thru the wars...our family has fought and died
Thru all the generations...who have stood half mast and cried
We have watched the flags burning bright...when retired to another time
Just now I remember...my world torn apart in sixty-nine
Holdin' my brother's little girl's hand...as they brought her daddy home
Her mother too died in Vietnam...how she felt so lost and alone
And when I left to fight that war...
She smiled and said to me...
Uncle John, please come back ...remember
Freedom isn't free.

To vote for J.R. Jellerson:

Send email to MWSAPCA3@gmail.com OR Vote Here:

www.MWSAPeoplesChoice.com



MWSA 2009 People's Choice Award Finalists

Inspiration Image—IWO photo by Richard Lowry
Jerry Yellin

Iwo Jima, August 14, 1945

My memories of August 14, 1945 are very clear. I flew P-51's from Iwo Jima over Japan during WWII as a 21-year old Captain and Flight leader. On August 6, I returned from a mission when LT. Phil Maher jumped on my wing and shouted, "We dropped one bomb and wiped out a city, it's over!"

There was a sense of relief in the entire squadron. No more 8-hour missions. No more guys being killed. We had survived. Our motto "Back Alive in 45," seemed to have been fulfilled.

But it wasn't to be.

A notice was posted in the ready room on August 13, with our assignments for the next day's mission for all to read. The briefing would start at 1600 hours.

Major Jim Tapp, squadron commander stood in front of the map of Japan and started to talk, "Why another mission?" was called out from the gathering of pilots. Tapp responded, "We have to keep them honest. We will take off at 0800 but I doubt we will reach the target before the war is called off. If you hear the code word 'Ohio,' we will abort the mission and return to 'Hotrocks' (the code name of Iwo Jima)."

I was scheduled to lead Blue flight. Phil Schlamborg, a 2019-year old pilot from Brooklyn, NY, was my wingman. Schlamborg, sitting next to me, leaned over, and said, "Captain, if I go, I won't come back."

Startled, I said, "Why?"

"Just a feeling I have," Phil responded.

When the briefing ended, I approached Tapp and told him what Schlamborg told me and asked if there was a replacement.

"There isn't anyone to take his place, Jerry. Doc Lewis can get him off if there is a medical reason and Schlamborg agrees," Tapp replied.

When I asked Phil, he said, "No way."

On the morning of the mission, I told Phil, "Just stay close on my wing, tuck it in tight, you will be OK. We will probably abort before we reach the target."

No one heard the code word before we dropped our wing tanks and started strafing airfields near Tokyo. Phil was tight on my wing while we strafed our targets and on my wing when we started back toward the B-29 navigation plane. I looked over gave him a thumbs up and led the flight into some clouds. When we emerged into clear skies, Phil was gone, no radio transmission, no visual contact, just gone.

When we landed back at Iwo, we learned that the war had been over for three hours while we were over Japan. In my mind Phil Schlamborg was the last man killed on a fighter mission over Japan and may very well have been the last man killed in combat in a war that took the lives of 60 million people.

POSTSCRIPT

I knew 16 young men who were killed during the war. I hated the Japanese all of my adult life. Then I attended a wedding in Japan on March 6, 1988, between the daughter of a Japanese Imperial Air Force veteran and my youngest son, Robert. This wedding between children of former enemies made me rethink, not only of my life as a warrior, but the lives of all of us who served in combat. Today I have three grandchildren living in Japan, aged 19, 17 and 13. They love me, I love them. I can't help feeling that all of Humanity is the same, that the pure purpose of war is to kill and the pure purpose of life is to connect to all of Nature. It is up to the young people of our World to find a way to eliminate War and find a way to live in Unity with all of Humanity, in Harmony with Nature and find Peace for our Planet.

To vote for Jerry Yellin: Send email to MWSAPCA4@gmail.com OR Vote Here:
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MWSA 2009 People's Choice Award Finalists

Inspiration Image — Untitled sketch by Bob Larkin

Bonnie Bartel Latino

The Rush of Butterflies

Chief Warrant Officer² Jerry Pruet loved America and the U.S. Army as if they were his blood relatives. Alone in his parked UH-1H "Huey" helicopter, he was a long way from the comfort and safety of family or country. He peered through the windscreen. Fog clouded his view as the sound of a northbound F-105 "Thud" reverberated overhead. Not far away, somewhere in this godforsaken Quang Tri River Valley, six exhausted Rangers had been on the run all night. Radio reports painted a bleak picture. The North Vietnamese Army surrounded their long-range reconnaissance patrol.

Scanning the airfield perimeter for his launch signal, he saw no one. He pulled a snapshot of his wife from his flight suit. His mouth curved into a grin. Yen brought more than the 'peace' her name implied. As fair of spirit as of face and form, she had proven as faithful as dawn. To thrive, he needed Yen, just as his helicopter needed JP-4 to soar.

###

The somber tones of Walter Cronkite reporting the daily body count from Vietnam filled Yen Pruet's Honolulu apartment. She constantly rotated the gold band around her finger. When she and Jerry left her homeland, she never dreamed he would volunteer to go back. Chills raced along her arms raising tiny bumps. Hawaiian friends called the unexpected sensations *chicken skin*. The description fit perfectly. From the day she and Jerry met in Soc Trang, they shared a sixth sense connection. It had never felt stronger.

###

"Mr. Pruet," an operations sergeant said from outside the Huey. "The major says the Rangers are taking a heckuva lot of fire. We've got to get 'em outta' there ASAP. Cobras aren't available, and fixed-wings don't have visibility in the zone."

His jaw tightened as he cranked the engine.

Co-pilot and crew climbed aboard strapping on their bullet-proof "chicken plates."

"The Rangers are northwest of the Rock Pile about a hundred meters up Razor Back Ridge," the ops sergeant said, handing Pruet the mission brief card with pick-up coordinates.

He took the card and, per regulations, handed Yen's photo to the ops sergeant. "Hang on to this for me, will you?"

His co-pilot laughed. "I should have known you'd have that. You always do."

Nodding, he pulled on his green Nomex gloves. "OK, troops, we all know what our odds are. But those Rangers are depending on us."

At lift off, the crew's voices roared as one like jungle thunder. Within minutes the Huey drew enemy fire.

"We're taking AK-47 and 37mm fire *around the clock*," the door gunner yelled.

"They're throwing everything they've got at us," the co-pilot said above the chaos.

Pruet's eyes narrowed in concentration. Flying into a fog shrouded hollow, he approached the pick-up zone. Amidst firepower as thick as the fog, he transitioned to hover. Eternity stretched every second. He prayed the Rangers were nearby. A thunderous explosion slammed the cabin. His head banged violently against the door post. The sharp smell of hydraulic fluid filled the cockpit.

"Rotor head took a direct hit," the crew chief shouted. "Got an engine fire!"

Vibration and smoke obscured the instrument panel. Sweat soaked the insides of Pruet's gloves. Warm liquid stung his eyes. Sweat or blood? Either way, just another distraction. The machine tugged and spun. He had run out of ideas, rotor turns, and luck. Control slipped away. He and his crew were trapped beneath the churning blades of a fuel-loaded Huey.

"Get a grip, guys! We're going down!"

Intensity gave way to stop-action movement. One by one, his senses shut down. The strain on his arms eased. Chaos dissolved into white silence. Instrument lights faded into a soft green glow like eyes. Yen's eyes.

Mentally, he reached out for his wife as one of the helicopter's blades sheared its tail. The blade flew through the fog like the wrath of Goliath's great sword! The main rotor blade flexed down, slicing the cockpit like a scythe. His scream vanished in the engulfing fireball.

###

Yen Pruet's body jerked in a force of disturbance. Then, a sensation like a swarm of butterflies spiraling through her body brought instant peace. She and Jerry floated on a gossamer ripple in time. The rush of butterflies intensified . . . then vanished through every pore.

She wouldn't need an Army chaplain to tell her Jerry had been killed in action.

She already knew.

To vote for Bonnie Bartel Latino:

Email MWSAPCA5@gmail.com

OR Vote Here:

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MWSA 2009 People's Choice Award Finalists

Inspired by IWO – photo by Richard Lowry

John Cathcart

Flag from a Grateful Nation



Piercing white sun, on a majestic hill.
Was it hot, or was it cold?
Silent sentinels guard the graceful slope.
One spot on the hill has been opened, ready to accept a new tenant.
Proud and Erect.
Apart from the crowd I stand.
Damn the wind! Damn the sun!
They know the truth, and assault my eyes with it.
Proud and Erect.
Over and over, the words are repeated,
as the trees sway and the flags gently ripple.
In the distance, slow salutes and disciplined, well-practiced movements bring him close.
Did the birds stop singing?
Despite the preparation, the crack of the rifles makes all jump.
The sound enters like a spike into every bone of every body.
The straight arrow flight thunders overhead... one missing.
Proud and Erect.
Finally I have it, the neatly folded triangle.
All blue and white—the red forever hidden inside.
I can wait no longer; this must be done.
Her eyes are strong.
Then, the dreadful words come out:
"This flag is offered by a grateful nation
in memory of the faithful service of your husband."
A tear runs gently down her cheek.
Her eyes are still strong.
Proud and Erect.
Slow salutes and disciplined, well-practiced movements lower him.
The distant, mournful echoes of Taps accompany him on his final trip.
Proud and Erect.
Good-bye Jim!

To vote for John Cathcart:

Send email to MWSAPCA6@gmail.com OR Vote Here:

www.MWSAPeoplesChoice.com



MWSA 2009 People's Choice Award Finalists

Inspiration Image -- "Father and Son" photo by Pat Avery

Marlyce Stockinger

The Choice We Make

My son is young
A life barely begun
Tender years without his dad
Makes me wonder.....will he turn out bad?

Me, my heart is torn
I'm proud to be American born
I want to serve my country..help to make it free
must it be at the expense of my family?

Ohhhhhh the pain of the choices we make
War or taking my son to the lake
What if I don't come back
Will he understand and cut me some slack?

I know what I must do
To my country I must be true

Ohhhhhh the pain of the choice I made
Please god.....don't let his memory of me fade!

taps

To vote for Marlyce Stockinger:

Send email to MWSAPCA7@gmail.com OR Vote Here:

www.MWSAPeoplesChoice.com



MWSA 2009 People's Choice Award Finalists

Inspired by IWO – photo by Richard Lowry
Jeff Senour & CTS

Way Back Home

One day I dreamt
I woke up in
A peaceful paradise
People laughing, children smiling
No more tears in their eyes
When storm clouds rain
And the levee breaks
And our time has washed away

Chorus
Make the darkness bright
In the heat of night
Tear down these walls in my way
There's a new day dawning
In a world that's loving
Open up before it's too late
Help me find my way back home

Ways that keep me
Bound from seeing
Hope on this horizon
I've got no excuse
Sometimes you win or lose
But I won't give up ever trying
When storm clouds rain
And the levee breaks
And our time has washed away

Chorus

To vote for Jeff Senour and CTS:
Send email to MWSAPCA8@gmail.com OR Vote Here:
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MWSA 2009 People's Choice Award Finalists

To Vote by email:

- 1—Mindy Phillips Lawrence—Calling—MWSAPCA1@gmail.com
- 2—Jack L. Wells—MWSAPCA2@gmail.com
- 3—J.R. Jellerson—Freedom isn't Free —MWSAPCA3@gmail.com
- 4—Jerry Yellin—Iwo Jima, August 14, 1945—MWSAPCA4@gmail.com
- 5—Bonnie Bartel Latino—The Rush of Butterflies—MWSAPCA5@gmail.com
- 6—John Cathcart—Flag from a Grateful Nation—MWSAPCA6@gmail.com
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FINALISTS TO PERFORM THEIR WORK ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

AT 9:00 AM EST

www.veteransradio.net

www.talkingwithheroes.com

Voting ends October 10th, 2009 at 5pm

Winner to be announced at MWSA Awards Ceremony

Beginning 7:15 PM EST

October 10th, 2009

Video Broadcast on www.militarywriters.com

MWSA Program Schedule

FRIDAY October 9th:

Registration -- 9-5pm Hospitality Suite

-- Bill McDonald & officers will greet you.

-- Eddie Beesley available to press.

Volunteer Meeting -- 10-11am Meeting Room

-- Led by Connie Beesley & Lynn Salsi

Radio/Video Interviews for Winners by appointment

-- Bob Calvert -- 1-3 pm Meeting Room

Book Store -- Burke Salsi -- 1-5pm Hotel Lobby

The Bloggernaut — John Faulkner — 1-3 pm Meeting Room

Silver Team Meeting – Pat Avery – 3-3:30 pm Hospitality Suite

Gold Team Meeting – Mike Mullins – 3:30-4:00 Hospitality Suite

Radio/Video Interviews for Winners by appointment

-- Bob Calvert 4-5pm Meeting Room

Members on their own for dinner

Cash Bar 5-10pm Meeting Room

Welcome & Mixer -- 5-6 pm -- Meeting Room

-- Bill McDonald Welcome

-- Joyce Faulkner -- Comments

-- Maria Edwards -- Comments

-- Connie Beesley -- Activities & Schedules of the Evening

-- Silver Team Buddy program -- Pat Avery

-- Introduction of Last Year's Winners -- Eddie Beesley

-- Introduction of 2009 Winners -- Mike Mullins

OPEN MIC -- 6-8 pm -- Mike Mullins MC Meeting Room

Precious "Medals" Reception - 8-9 pm Hospitality Suite

—for Previous and new winners (Invitation only)

Movie TROOPER screening & Q&A by Chris Martini -- 9-11pm Meeting Room

SATURDAY -- Oct 10th

Volunteer and Reviewers Breakfast -- 7-8:30 am Invitation Only

-- Pat Avery -- MC

-- Joyce Faulkner Comments

-- Mike Mullins -- Presentation of Thank you gifts

-- Pat Avery -- Special Recognitions

-- Bill McDonald -- Formal Thanks

Book Store -- Burke Salsi -- 9-5pm Hotel Lobby

Special Activities during event – 9-5pm

-- Autograph Table

-- Vendors

-- The Bloggernaut — by appointment — John Faulkner

-- PCA Voting Station

-- Hands on Photo Class by appointment -- Nancy Smith

— Army

— Amazon Listmania Setup — by appointment — Volunteer

-- Book Display -- Lee Boyland

PCA Radio Shows -- Simulcast --9:00 am Meeting Room

- Dale Throneberry & Dwight Zimmerman

Program Introduction -- 10:00 am Meeting Room

-- Honor Guard and Presenting Flag

- While You Were Gone — CTS

-- Welcome and comments -- Jeff Edwards

-- Activities & Schedule for the Day -- Connie Beesley

-- Comments from past Winner tbn

Poet's Corner -- **Read your poetry & discuss** -- 11:00—12:00 pm

Suite tba — Bill McDonald, Mike Mullins & Pat Avery

Lunch Break -- 11:30 - 1pm -- **On your own or snacks in Hospitality Suite**

MWSA Reviews -- Criteria & Methodology -- 1:15-2:00 pm Meeting

Room -- Joyce Faulkner, Lee Boyland & Rob Ballister Meeting Room

Publishing your book for the Kindle — 1:15-2:00 pm Hospitality Suite

— Lee Boyland

Marketing Techniques -- 2:00 -3:00 Meeting Room -- Dwight Zimmerman & Lynn Salsi

Writing Memoirs -- 2:15 - 3:00 Hospitality Suite -- Craig Trebilcock, Hodge Wood, Eddie Beesley

Research -- Tools, Contacts & Techniques -- 2:15 -3 pm Meeting

Room -- Pat Avery, Tim Davis, Lynn Salsi & Richard Lowry

Sensitive Topics -Politics, Military, Legal & Family Considerations 3 - 4pm Hospitality Suite -- Bill McDonald, Jeff Edwards

Combining Storytelling with Art -- 3-4:00pm -- Meeting Room --

Dwight Zimmerman, Nancy Smith, Tom Ruck

Making Thrillers Thrilling -- 4:15 - 5pm Meeting Room -- Joyce Faulkner, John Cathcart & Jeff Edwards

Pre-Banquet Reception -- 6:00 pm -- Outside Meeting Room

-- Cash Bar

-- Photo Op

-- Photo Op

Banquet -- 6:30 pm -- Meeting Room

Award Ceremony — 7:15pm — Meeting Room

Formal photo shoot -- 9:00-9:30 pm Meeting Room

Bob Calvert -- Interviews of winners -- 9:00-9:30 pm -- Meeting Room

Room

Screening of Documentary PERFECT VALOR with Q&A to follow --

Richard Lowry -- 9:30 pm -- Meeting Room

SUNDAY Oct 11th

Welcome & Schedule for the Day -- 9 am Meeting Room -- Connie Beesley

Working with Military Channel -- 9:15 Meeting Room -- Dwight Zimmerman

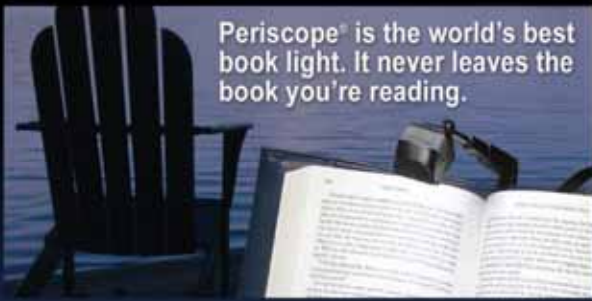
State of the Org -- 10:00 am Meeting Room — Joyce Faulkner

MWSA Bucks Auction -- 10:30 am -- Meeting Room


MWSA 50/50 Raffle Drawing — 11:15 am — Meeting Room

Closing — 11:30 am


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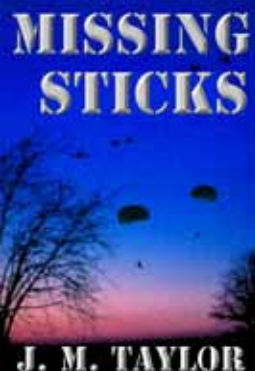
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MISSING STICKS
by J. M. Taylor

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Contact Pat Avery:
patavery@gmail.com



The Sharon Rogers Band
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patavery@uspb.com

2007 Gold Medal Poetry

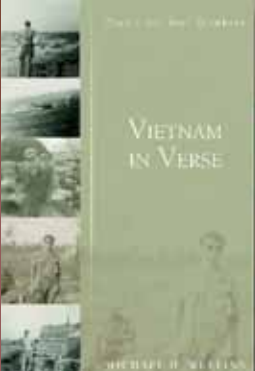


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Jeff Edwards

Lynn Salsi

John Cathcart

Pat Avery

Bill McDonald

Dwight Zimmerman

Eric Wentz

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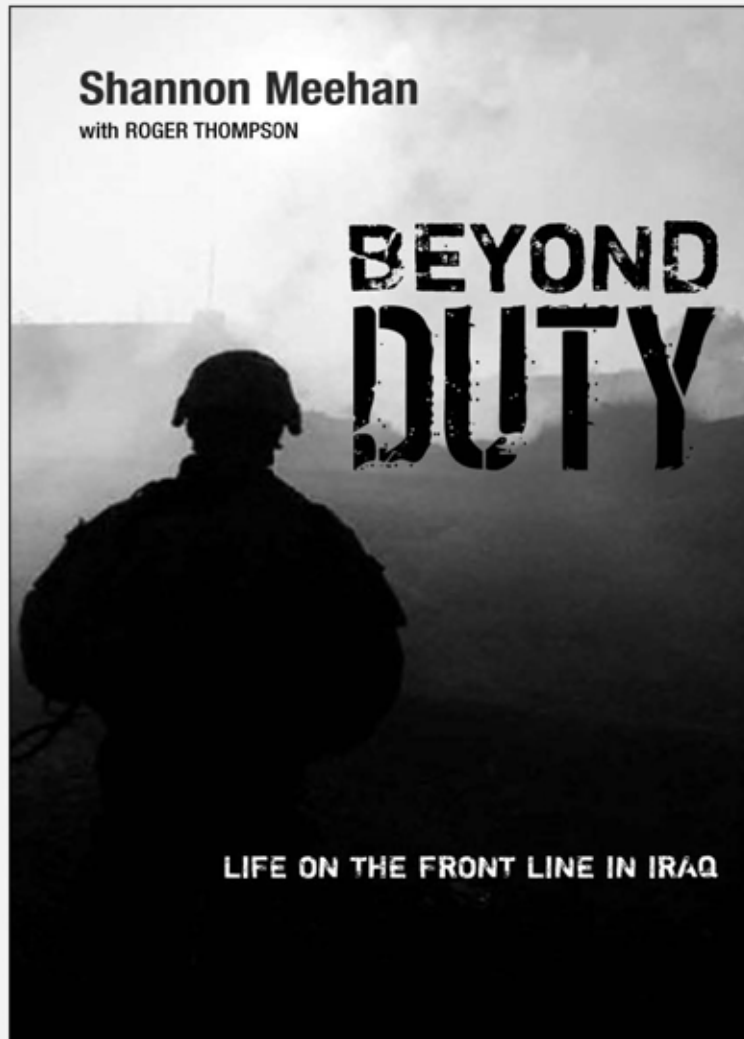
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James Randy Jellerson

James Randy Jellerson is a former Navy Corpsman, OM; he is a Vietnam Era Veteran and a member of the DAV. He was a Police Officer who became a Police Chaplain. He is also an ER/Trauma, Critical Care, Surgical, and Psychiatric Nurse, who is presently a 'Veteran serving other Veterans' at the Sparks M. Matsunaga VA Regional Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

James was raised in Southern California and grew up amidst the "Jesus Movement" music explosion of the 1960's and 70's. James has been writing Music and Poetry for more than 35 years, he says that writing helps to keep him balanced and maintain a good perspective on what this life has to offer.



While stationed at Pt. Loma's Submarine Base in San Diego in the late 1970's James co-founded the Contemporary Christian Band "FAMILY", which was home based in Anaheim, California. Since the late 1990's he has spent most of his free time coaching high school and college athletics. Upon his recent relocation to the Island of Oahu, James once again has begun to devote time to his writing and music; since the late seventies James has published over 100 songs, recorded 4 music albums, and written 5 books.

In March of 2009 James competed in the VA Creative Arts Festival, receiving Gold Medals in the local competition in two different categories featuring Music and Poetry. He then represented the State of Hawaii in the VA Creative Arts National Competition; receiving the Silver Medal for his poem "The One".

Recently, the MWSA (Military Writers Society of America) announced their Annual Award recipients. James received a Gold Medal for his music album "Goin' Home", and a Silver Medal for his book "Poems of Passion & Songs for the Soul". In addition to the awards received for his album and book, James was also selected as one of eight National Finalists for the "People's Choice Award"; for the lyrics to his song entitled "Freedom Isn't Free". A copy of the soundtrack for this song can be obtained by sending an e-mail to James at jrjmusic@kimoproductions.com or by writing a note to KIMO Productions, 570 Dillingham Blvd #410, Honolulu, HI 96817-4601.

To obtain individual poems from his recent book you may also contact James at jrjbooks@kimoproductions.com. To purchase any albums, books, or to read the complete bio on James, please visit the website at kimoproductions.com

And as we say in Hawaii...Mahalo, for looking.

