

DISPATCHES

MILITARY
WRITERS
SOCIETY OF
AMERICA

Rescuing History One Story at a Time

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Spring 2013

Remembrance



*Revolutionary War
Soldier's Grave in
Somerset Pennsylvania*



*Civil War Soldier's
Grave in Somerset
Pennsylvania*

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MWSA Anthology
Cover!

Getting It Right by Carolyn P. Schriber
I Have Returned by Bill McDonald
A Novel Approach Contest Results
Bob Doerr's Spring Reading List
Soldiers of Honor by Steve Hathcock
Smoky by Pat McGrath Avery

From the editor

Springtime brings a sense of renewal in every aspect of our lives. Our newly re-launched magazine, *MWSA Dispatches*, is a sign of hope and resurgence for our organization. With our mission of showcasing the work of members and educating readers, we are working hard to bring Spring into this issue.

The success of our effort depends on the creative energy and renewed commitment of our members. We need you to make *Dispatches* the magazine of choice for our readers. We need your talent, your enthusiasm, your knowledge, and your stories.

This issue brings back the work of our cartoonist, Charles Bailey. We're happy to present his art. New member Steve Hathcock's article on the Mexican-American War is excerpted from his soon-to-be published book, *Old Indio: Rio History Series*.

We all know that dogs enhance our lives but do you know how dogs have helped change history? In this issue we feature the story of Smoky, a decorated WWII heroine.

Historian Carolyn Schriber's *Getting It Right* is an intriguing story about a Civil War era African American soldier. Dwight Zimmerman recently sold his books at a community fundraiser in Florida and shares that experience with us. Nancy Smith begins a series on editing. As authors, we all learn from articles on writing, publishing, sales and marketing.

Choose books to read from Bob Doerr's reading list and keep up with MWSA happenings with Jim Greenwald. Jim and Mike Mullins contribute to the poetry corner. They always welcome the work of new poets.

We need fresh voices and new faces. Please join us in making *MWSA Dispatches* a top-of-the-line publication. Submissions for the Summer issue (July 1) will be the month of May. Send your articles to me at DispatchesEditor@hotmail.com.

PAT MCGRATH AVERY

MASTHEAD

EDITOR

Pat McGrath Avery

COLUMNIST

Dwight Jon Zimmerman

Charles Bailey

Bob Doerr

FEATURES

Carolyn P. Schriber

Bill McDonald

Mike Mullins

Steve Hathcock

Nancy Smith

Jim Greenwald

PHOTOGRAPHER

Nancy Smith

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Joyce Faulkner

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Dispatches is a Quarterly Publication including the works of MWSA members. A PDF version is available to all members — and will be on the website.

It'll also be available on Kindle for \$.99. If you would like a hard copy, beginning the end of February, they will be \$10 or \$30 a year for a subscription.

Contact PatAvery@gmail.com

THE FOUNDER'S THOUGHTS

I have returned...

The past few years have seen me just about disappear from this group for the most part. It was not lack of interest or being too busy — it was simply a matter of survival. Some of you know that I have been fighting with many health issues. These last couple of years have been a great test for how much I could handle. The good news is that even though I was enduring physical pains (which were extreme at times) and had several near-death-experiences — I gained so much from it all.

No matter what happens to us in life, it is always about how we handle it. Our attitude is what can make it either a good or bad thing. In all of this, I have discovered that below the murky surface of apparent events in our lives — there can be great positive, spiritual and even divine lessons and gifts! So I have been greatly blessed by ALL that happened.

It is not hard to see the symbolism of my return and that of *Dispatches* — both from their own kind of near-death-experience. I hope to become, as my health permits, more of a resource and inspiration to the MWSA leaders and members. There is certainly no lack of good leadership and great ideas for this society. I hope that I can at least add some direction from time to time — even if that is as simple as encouraging individual members on their books and creative journeys.

I hope to see *Dispatches* adding more information for the education of our members. I look forward to seeing more articles about e-books and marketing methods for this new emerging world of publishing where bookstores are not the primary focus. It is a changing world and we need to keep up with the trends.

I listened to internet radio this morning to our own MWSA President Dwight Zimmerman doing some very professional interviews with military authors. This is the kind of stuff that I had envisioned for the MWSA. I hope that many of our members take advantage of these kinds of opportunities to talk about their books. There are many other radio shows out there on the Internet that are always looking for interesting people to interview.

I look forward to meeting online or in person those

MWSA members who I have not had the privilege to meet before. I have plans to attend the MWSA Conference this year if my health allows me to do so. I am proud of the growth this organization has taken and I feel confident in those who are leading the MWSA to bigger and better places.

For those who wish to be considered for the 2013 Founder's Award, you can self-nominate yourself by sending me a PDF file of your book via email. I am always looking for inspirational and entertaining stories told well. I prefer non-fictional or self-help books but I have awarded fictional books in the past if they had an uplifting message of hope. You can still be considered for other awards so do not miss going through that process. Reviewers can and have recommended books to me each year — but this year I am opening up that process so that my vision of what might be considered for the award is fuller and more open. (My email address is: Angelnet@surewest.net)

My ongoing dream for this society to be bigger than just self-promoting our own books (which is okay and part of the reason we have MWSA). I hope that our members take on projects — i.e., at VA hospitals, working with PTSD veterans, Gold Star Mothers, Children of Veterans, homeless vets, helping aspiring writers, community events, etc.

It is by helping and focusing on others and not always on ourselves that we can truly grow in so many ways. It is also enriching for our spirits. I am asking that we all reach out beyond our limited self-absorbed world and become a part of the solutions to what is happening in our world. We can change the world through our writings, our actions and words and even our thoughts. I hope that you join me on that challenge this year. I would love to hear your thoughts on this and what you plan to do. I would love to be able to share some of those in my future articles in *Dispatches*.

Thank you for carrying on my dreams.... God bless you all.

Bill McDonald

Founder MWSA

DEATH IN THE BALTIC

The World War II Sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff

“The story of the worst maritime disaster in history... Prince has scoured the planet for survivors, treating their harrowing stories with gentle empathy, from the first sickening bolts of the torpedoes to the chaos and terror of the ship’s swift sinking as passengers fell into the freezing water, clambered for lifeboats and watched loved ones disappear in the tumult... An engaging study of a shocking tragedy.”

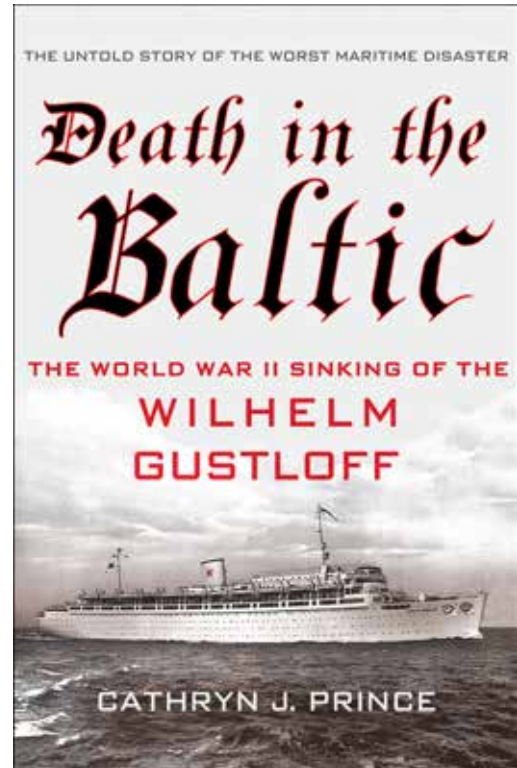
—Kirkus Reviews

By early 1945, the end of World War II was on the horizon. The Red Army was advancing towards Germany and civilians fled in droves terrified of the brutal assault. One way to leave was by sea through the Baltic. Wilhelm Gustloff, was a cruise liner turned escape ship for the thousands of refugees fleeing the eastern flank of Germany. Packed with over 10,000 women, children, the elderly, and wounded soldiers, it was torpedoed by a Soviet submarine, leaving more than 9000 dead. It proved to be the worst maritime disaster ever, resulting in six times more deaths than the Titanic. Having occurred during one of the most explosive eras of history, this story has been virtually overlooked, until now. In *DEATH IN THE BALTIC: The World War II Sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff* (Palgrave Macmillan; Hardcover; Pub date April 9, 2013; ISBN 978-0-230-34156-2; \$27.00) we hear their story for the first time.

Through newly declassified records, award-winning author Cathryn J. Prince brings this catastrophic event to life through personal interviews with survivors, and new historical context. She explains why the ship’s chain of command may have contributed to the tragedy, and why the story remained unknown all these long decades.

After 65 years, this tragedy is finally detailed in full, along with the fascinating personal stories of the 10 remaining survivors. Prince’s moving and enlightening account puts a human face on this unimaginable catastrophe that was overlooked in the shadow of the Second World War.

Cathryn J. Prince is the author of *A Professor, a President, and a Meteor: The Birth of American Science*, for which she won the Connecticut Press Club’s 2011 Book Award for non-fiction. She is also the author of *Burn the Town and Sack the Banks: Confederates Attack*



Vermont! and *Shot from the Sky: American POWs in Switzerland*. She worked as a correspondent for The Christian Science Monitor in Switzerland and in New York, where she covered the United Nations. Prince covers the Connecticut State House for Patch.com.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Over the recent March 16th weekend, I was a guest of the Broward Public Library Foundation in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, one of 20 authors who were featured guests at the 25th Annual Literary Feast. This is a fundraising event and has raised more than \$3 million in support of childrens' and adult literary programs and services for the Broward County Library system. The publicity materials promoting the authors' works featured my 2012 graphic biography *THE HAMMER AND THE ANVIL*. I saw two other books of mine for sale at one of the book signing events.

Events included signings, dinners, and luncheons (formal and casual) in which the authors socialized with guests. There were also panel discussions and lectures at local universities and high schools. I had a great time. My wife had an even better time because she took that opportunity to have a vacation in Fort Lauderdale. Among the many sights was a gigantic yacht that locals said was owned by director Stephen Spielberg.

I was impressed with the high level of organization. I want to thank Executive Director Dorothy Klein, Director of Development Jennifer Smith, Special Events Manager Natasha Rogers, and Office Manager Sue Keller for all their fine, hard work and upbeat attitude. The many volunteers, among them Helen Schodowski and Bateman Blair — made the occasion memorable, so much so that I hope to be invited back!







As the program unfolded, I realized that this might be a partnership opportunity for members and their communities. In talking with the long-time members of the foundation, I learned that it started out small. With seed money from local businesses and individuals, it grew into a complex, multi-day conference which benefits both communities and authors.


Obviously, individual communities, library systems, and other organizations have their separate and unique situations and challenges, but I was impressed at how BPLF demonstrated what is possible when like-minded people work together for the common good.

With that in mind for MWSA members, instead of simply seeing yourself as an author and your book/s as something you want to sell to the public, view yourself and your work as a package, or in today's parlance, a



Sunday, March 17, 2013



FREE ADMISSION

12:30PM to 5:30PM







Nova Southeastern University
John Shannon Library, Research
and Information Technology Center
3900 Ray Avenue, 3rd-Building Floor


OTHER LITERARY FEAST EVENTS

East of the Sun, West of the Moon
March 17, 2013, 12:30-5:30 PM
Author: ...
Moderator: ...

A Night of Literary Events
March 17, 2013, 12:30-5:30 PM
Author: ...
Moderator: ...

Author: ...
March 17, 2013, 12:30-5:30 PM
Author: ...
Moderator: ...














Supporting Business & Public Library Foundation

LitLIVE! is a free event for all ages. It is a celebration of the power of the written word. The event is held at the John Shannon Library, Research and Information Technology Center, 3900 Ray Avenue, 3rd-Building Floor, Nova Southeastern University. The event is free and open to the public. The event is held on Sunday, March 17, 2013, from 12:30 PM to 5:30 PM. The event is held at the John Shannon Library, Research and Information Technology Center, 3900 Ray Avenue, 3rd-Building Floor, Nova Southeastern University.

For more information call 954-557-7382 or visit us on the web at www.literaryfeastonline.org












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Father Ron Camarda at 2012 Conference in Dayton, OH

GETTING IT RIGHT

by Carolyn Schriber

I had planned to stop at Fort Donelson only long enough to drop off a copy of *Beyond All Price*. Its cover features a photograph taken on the grounds of that Civil War battle site. The young woman at the desk was already flustered, and, when I asked for the park ranger, she threw up her hands, saying “You, too?” and went scurrying out of the office, presumably in search of that missing gentleman.

An African-American couple wandered aimlessly around the small room, shaking their heads in amusement at the sudden departure of the young clerk. We smiled and exchanged the usual pleasantries, since there seemed to be no hope of the imminent arrival of someone in charge. The gentleman asked about the book I was clutching, and I launched into my elevator speech about the story of a Union nurse in Civil War South Carolina. To my surprise, he nodded, saying, “Oh, yes, I know the place well. My grandfather was there.” We were soon chatting like long-lost family.

The man’s grandfather, a member of the 55th Massachusetts, had recently been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his role in the Battle of Honey Hill. He showed us a picture frame containing the image of the Medal of Honor and an old photo of a black soldier. “I try to deliver one of these to every place where my grandfather fought,” he explained. “He wasn’t a soldier at the Battle of Fort Donelson because black men weren’t yet allowed to enlist, but he was here, acting as a horse servant to Major John Warner of the 41st Illinois Volunteers.”

Intrigued by the encounter, I did some research. Andrew Jackson Smith was a slave who ran away from his Kentucky owner, Elijah Smith, who intended to take him to join the Confederate Army in 1861. Andrew fled to the free state of Illinois. Because blacks were not eligible for military service, he signed on as Major John Warner’s horse servant in the Battle of Fort Donelson.

At the Hornet’s Nest at Shiloh, Andrew was hit by a rifle bullet that lodged just under the skin of his forehead.



While recuperating in Illinois, he learned of the Emancipation Proclamation and immediately renewed his desire to join the Union Army. He volunteered for the famous 54th Massachusetts, the black regiment whose story was told in the movie “Glory.” He arrived after their roster was full and so had to settle for their sister unit, the 55th Massachusetts.

The 54th and 55th Massachusetts fought side by side throughout the war. In November 1864 they were sent to clear the way for Sherman’s March to the Sea by cutting the Charleston and Savannah Railroad near Grahamville, SC. A force of some 5000 men started up the Broad River from Hilton Head, but dense fog and poor maps led to several units running aground. Marching troops fared little better, becoming hopelessly lost and bogged down in the swamps.

The Massachusetts regiments finally encountered Confederate fortifications across the road to Pocotaligo and fought a hopeless battle. When their color bearer was killed by a mortar shell, Corporal Smith grabbed the flag from his dying hands and carried it throughout

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the rest of the battle, even though it made him a prime target and exposed him to extraordinary danger.

For his bravery, many felt that Smith should have been awarded a medal on the spot, but due to the enormous casualties suffered by staff officers, the paperwork was never completed. Smith received only a promotion to Color Sergeant after the battle.

In 1916, he was formally nominated for the Medal of Honor but was turned down because of the lack of official records. Smith died in 1932, his bravery still unrecognized.

Andrew S. Bowman, the humble man I met at Fort Donelson, raised the issue again after he had helped his own son research their family ancestry. A new appeal resulted in the awarding of the Medal of Honor to Andrew Jackson Smith. The ceremony took place in President Bill Clinton's Oval Office on January 16, 1991. At the end of the ceremony, the President turned to Smith's family:

"It's taken America 137 years to honor his heroism. We are immensely honored to have with us today eight of his family members, including Andrew Bowman, here to receive the Medal of Honor on behalf of his grandfather, and Mrs. Caruth Smith Washington, Andrew Jackson Smith's daughter, and a very young 93. I want to say to all the members of the Smith family, sometimes it takes this country a while, but we nearly always get it right in the end. I am proud that we finally got the facts and that, for you and your brave forebear, we're finally making things right."



Flight 93 Crash Site Near Somerset Pennsylvania



40 Marble Columns representing victims

HOW ABOUT A FORUM?

by Mike Mullins



Betsy Beard, Mike Mullins, & Maria Edwards accept Founder's Award on behalf of Stacey & John Holley for their book, "Medals, Flags and Memories"

Do our reviewers think that we should plan a forum about our review experiences? It could be a live, interactive event or we can leave comments on an open thread. It could help writers and reviewers alike. There is nothing quite as reassuring as knowing you are not alone in your experiences — good, bad or indifferent. Very little in my life has left me feeling “indifferent.”

In the last couple of years I have reviewed three books by foreign authors. It is difficult to account for their approaches to writing, but more than that, to editing. If they write colloquially it would be the greatest of surprises if we “Yanks” understand. It would also be remarkable if their compositions translated easily and comfortably into Americana. Even when dealing with

British authors there are huge differences in technique and style. In the English, colloquial differences are almost as great as those of other languages.

Grammar is a glaring weakness in some budding authors, especially those making a one and only attempt to record personal history for posterity. That applies to all of us, not just our foreign compatriots. That leads me to my point I suppose. I have done columns for a while now and I imagine some people think I never have one. However, I do discover one on occasion. This time it is the value of editing.

When I first wrote for eyes other than my own, I was convinced I was capable of cleaning up my own manuscript. I saw it as one more expense to be either

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absorbed or recovered by anticipated sales. (Marketing, even in its most efficient forms, is another, but I am a poor one to speak to that slice of the writing pie.) Anyway, I was cocksure enough to believe I could not be corrected by someone else. After all, most of us are our own worst critics. But the game elevates. It becomes one of those situations like others in life: I can complain about my spouse, but if you do I will knock you on your butt! Criticism, editing as it were, is a difficult pill to swallow. When I conspired with others to do book number three, I found that it was necessary for the medicine to be forced on me. Once I got beyond the taste, I learned that I was better for it. Book number three was my greatest effort. The difficulty and extent of editing multiplies exponentially. It does make a difference between doing a book and doing a "BOOK." Now, if I ever write another solo piece, I will budget for it. Even if it doesn't sell I see myself as both better and more professional, at least in that regard. I will know that I have offered my very best to any reader who happens to descend into my mind.

To that end, I want to confer a suggestion on our foreign brethren and sisters. If you want an American audience to read and enjoy your book and if you have gone to the trouble of editing in your homeland, have it edited again by an American editor before going to press here. There are times when the translation is off target or so stiff and formal that it harms the "read." I've seen three books that could have used it if they are to experience any kind of success now and in the future for American audiences.

And for our American members who export: do we have the same problem going to other lands, especially non-English speaking lands? It would be worth a targeted edit too.

* Listen to Mike Mullins perform Joyce Faulkner's short story "Just Hold Me" on YouTube. (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yQgSNfK_Mw)

Also, enjoy his poem "Independence Day" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rx0I2vwVUG4>)



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A NOVEL APPROACH CONTEST RESULTS

by Jack Woodville London

Entering a literary contest is a bit like eating oysters, or riding a vertiginous loop-de-loop at the carnival, or taking a nip of baby food. The experience will make one queasy, the rewards are uncertain, and somewhere in the middle of the exercise there is a moment of embarrassing self-clarity in which one realizes that what at first sounded like a good idea will most likely end in one of two ways — bragging rights or, (statistically more probable), something short of what was sought. In literary contests that most often is in the form of bitterness, directed quite rightly at the faceless myrmidons who in this instance would not know a well-written short story from a dark and stormy night.

But there was something else about your having entered the A Novel Approach contest: you did something new. I salute you. The judges and American Authors Association salute you. You indeed did win.

You left your comfort zone to write something ... different. Rather than write the same type piece that you ordinarily would do when you pick up pen or processor, you in this case wrote against the length of your work having been set by someone else. The topic of your paper was anchored by two sentences that had to play some role in your work. And, most importantly, by working around two pre-written sentences, you had to adapt your turns of phrase and style to blend with something written by another.

In short, you ventured into the unknown. You did not put down your pen when the temptation reared its head. In the end, you renewed your faith that doing that which does not make you kick the laptop or break the Bic makes you stronger. In the end, you made yourself a better writer for your effort. Admit it — it was easier than you thought it would be.

A final remark, and then Glory. We were very happy to see so many entries but especially surprised and pleased at the number from young people (or alleged young people — no one asked for birth certificates). We decided early on to add a Youth Division.

The entries, both Youth and Overall Divisions, were

very, very good. I was privileged to read a number of them (with nary a word to the judges and, in most cases, with anonymity). I was never asked to be a judge but now say with complete confidence that if I am asked in the future, I will decline. To judge which composition was more original, or clever, or the best story arc, or the best conflict, or dialogue... No, thank you.

And now, for the envelopes.

Our SECOND RUNNERS UP:

Youth: "Real," by Angel Solorzano.

General: "The Fox," by Julie Eger.

Our FIRST RUNNERS UP:

Youth: "Lost Hope," by Kayla Her

General: "A Proper Fit," by Brooke Fossey

And our GRAND WINNERS

Youth: "Walking from my Past, Toward my Future," by Sarah Tran

General: "Cooper's Bird," by Rob Morris

Congratulations, indeed!! Hear, hear. Thank you so much for your hard work and fine compositions. I hope to see each of you in a literary conference or somewhere along the way and to hear from you the joy of reading your piece in Dispatches.

Now, to recap my opening thought: Entering contests is also like eating oysters. The first go is not for the faint of heart, no matter how it ends. It is the second go that counts, the doing of it again when you've gotten over the first time. For writers, no matter how it ends, you know in your bones that you will do what writers do — you will write, again. For that we are grateful and to that, we say...

Write on.

Jack Woodville London

www.JWLBooks.com

BOB DOERR'S MWSA RECOMMENDED READING LIST — SPRING 2013

The Military Writers Society of America (MWSA) is an organization of over one thousand writers, poets, and artists drawn together by a common bond of military service. One purpose of our Society is to review the written works of our members. From our recent book reviews, which can be found on our website www.mwsadispatches.com, we've selected the following as our 2013 Spring Recommended Reading List:

- No One Else to Kill by Bob Doerr*
Hamfist Over the Trail by George Nolly
My Corps: Short Stories and Reflections by Gene Rackovitch
The First Casualty: A Vietnam Memoir by Karl Orndorff
The Rule of Ranging 1: Eclipse of the Midnight Sun by Timothy M. Kestrel
Pass The Salt Doc by Mike Mullins & jim Greenwald
Wedded to War by Jocelyn Green
The Donors by Jeffrey Wilson
Sketches of a Black Cat by Ron & Howard Miner
Mystic Dancer by Frederick Rist
Valdinato, 1943 by David Westwood
Big Mother 40 by Marc Liebman
Code Word: Paternity by Doug Norton
The Kissing Sailor by George Galdorisi
In Arms and Idleness by Emmett Slake
The Night Sky: A Journey from Dachau to Denver and Back by Maria Sutton
Mitakuye Oyasin by jim greenwald
The Sound of Caissons by Suzanne Semsch
A Call to Arms by William Hammond

This is one of my favorite times of the year. The weather is nice, at least down here it is, and the warm sun is a welcome friend after the winter's cold. I start thinking of firing up the grill and eating outside. With all the approaching yard work and other chores summer will bring, I suggest you take advantage of the few weeks you have left before the grass starts really growing to read a few good books. That's right, settle back with your Kindle, Nook, iPad, or just an old fashioned book and take your mind on an intellectual vacation, or perhaps simply on a flight of fantasy. Yes, once again we have just what you're looking for: a superb selection of good books. Check out a few of the books mentioned above.

SOLDIERS OF HONOR

By Steve Hathcock



Captain Seth Thornton's command, consisting of fifty-two American dragoons, slipped out of camp (near present day Brownsville, Texas) during the night of April 24th, 1846. They had a clear-cut mission — determine if Mexican forces had crossed the Rio Grande River and reconnoiter their position and numbers. Reports from local rancheros indicated that the enemy had indeed crossed in strength and were located somewhat farther to the west.

Late in the day, Thornton's guides — recruited from the local population — grew convinced of the presence of Mexican soldiers and refused to travel any farther. He pleaded and threatened to no avail and the Americans were left to finish the patrol on their own. (Captain Thornton believed the Mexicans had not crossed, and if

they had, they would not fight. He was wrong on both accounts.)

About an hour later, the recon force arrived at Rancho de Carricitos, a large plantation bordering the river. A natural fence of thick chaparral surrounded the ranch, and houses and outbuildings dotted one corner.

Advancing in single file the Americans fanned out hunting for people and found an old man. While Captain Thornton talked with him, a cry of alarm arose. A large force of Mexican soldiers approached from the west. Thornton immediately led his men toward the gate but he was too late. The Mexican infantry had stationed themselves in the field on the right of the passageway — and their cavalry lined the exterior fence. The enemy had secured the entrance, and it was impossible to force

it. Seeing this, Thornton turned to the right and led his men along the interior of the enclosure.

Chaos reigned as the Americans tried to escape the snare. Frightened by the discharge of Mexican muskets, Thornton's horse bolted and his men followed. The Americans tried to cut through the thick brush but the Mexican infantry continued to fire — forcing them to retreat and regroup. Captain Hardee led a small group of men toward the river intending either to swim it or set up a line of defense. Surveying his men Hardee realized that of the twenty-five he counted, almost everyone had lost a saber, a pistol, or carbine.

Determined to sell their lives as dearly as possible, Hardee advanced under a white flag and after a short negotiation, surrendered himself and his men as “prisoners of war,” to be treated with all the consideration of the “rules of civilized warfare.”

The Americans were taken to Matamoras where Hardee reported, “I take pleasure in stating that since our surrender I and my brave companions in misfortune have been treated with uniform kindness and attention. It may soften the rigors of war for you to be informed fully of this fact. Lieutenant Kane and I are living with General Ampudia: we lodge in his hotel, eat at his table, and his frank, agreeable manner and generous hospitality almost make us forget our captivity.”

In his official after-battle report, Hardee went on to relate that “General Arista received us in the most gracious manner; said that his nation had been regarded as barbarous, and that he wished to prove to us the contrary.” As there were no confinement facilities in Matamoras, General Arista offered to provide half pay for the prisoners so they could “find lodging in the city” and ample rations while they awaited an anticipated ending of hostilities.

Declining the offer, Hardee requested “that we might be permitted to send to camp for money, he said no; that he could not permit it; that he intended to supply all our wants himself. These promises have already been fulfilled in part.”

After President Polk received news of the incident, he addressed a joint session of Congress, announcing: “American blood has been shed on American soil.” On May 13, 1846 Congress declared war on Mexico. The rest of course, is history.

The Americans defeated the Mexican military and Mexico was forced to cede much of its northern territories. Suffering defeat at both battles of Palo

Alto and Resaca de la Palma and being criticized by subordinates, General Arista relinquished his command to Francisco Mexía and requested trial by a court-martial. Absolved of guilt General Arista became Mexico's secretary of war in June 1848. In January 1851, the Mexican Congress declared him the constitutional president of Mexico. He resigned in January 1853, was forced into exile, and died near Lisbon, Portugal, on August 7, 1855.

Trapped in the city plaza during the Battle of Monterrey and bombarded by U.S. forces with howitzers, General Ampudia chose to request a flag of truce and retreat his battered army. His arrangement with Zachary Taylor allowed the Army of the North to keep its weapons but to march as far south as possible and desist fighting for three months. Despite his controversial retreat at Monterrey, Ampudia remained popular in Mexican folklore as “the only man who could defeat Taylor.”



New MWSA member Steve Hathcock is a long-time columnist for local newspapers. He loves sharing his stories, adventures and treasure-hunting skills with his readers. If one is searching for information about lost treasures, forgotten battles or early development on the island and the Rio Grande Valley, he is the go-to expert. He currently is working with the local historical society to open a museum featuring the island's history.

EDITING 101: DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR GRAMMAR RULES?

By Nancy Smith



Back in the olden days when I was in the eighth grade, my English teacher wrote punctuation rules on the black board (yes, they were black back then) and told us to learn these rules. Each day after that, we would come into the class and take a test using the rules. We did this until almost everyone in the class passed the test. Next, we had to learn phrasing and types of sentences. Again, we took tests daily until our teacher felt comfortable with the general outcome. Of course, back then we used those skills to diagram sentences. Most students thought this was quite tedious, but I enjoyed these activities.

Little did I realize that later in life, I would use the skills I worked so hard to learn in that eighth grade class room. Now, as I write, judge books for the Stars and Flags Book Award contest, and also for MWSA, I am glad I had such a strict teacher. I don't claim to maintain perfect grammar, but I do recognize that poorly edited books distract the reader. If you want readers to appreciate the stories or research that you are presenting, you must EDIT, EDIT, EDIT.

A good way to brush up on these skills is to reference a style sheet, like the Chicago Manual of Style. This style sheet has become a book writing standard. It will help with every aspect of your writing. If you are interested in purchasing the online version, they have a group discount to make it more affordable.

Edit your book as well as you can, but understand that even the best writers (especially when cutting and pasting with your computer) make a myriad of errors or inconsistencies. Yes, the word processing software

we use contains checks like spellcheck, and grammar check. What if you typed the word "for" instead of "four," "there" instead of "their," or "to" instead of "two" or "too?" Spellcheck would not catch it. For these types of errors you need to use an editor called a proofreader. Proofreading is the simplest form of editing that finds spelling and grammar errors. Sure, you can do that also, but it's easy to miss mistakes in your own words. It takes many sets of eyes to locate all of those tedious errors. Few books I have read are completely clean of typos. The job of the proofreader is to avoid this. Errors on the first page or two of the book, especially, can hurt the reading experience.

All types of writers need editors other than themselves. These editors need expertise in spotting and fixing errors, and the best seem to be people with some distance from the writing. They can be objective observers of the material, locating the errors that the writer overlooked. I have even heard of some proofreaders that read the sentences backward and then forward to catch any particular inconsistencies.

Editing is just one step to make your writing successful. Don't be stubborn — ask for help!

In further articles, I will visit other forms of editing, including Line Editing, Copy Editing, and even Developmental Editing.

IN THE RANKS...

"Moderation in war
is imbecility."
Admiral John
Fisher



AYE, AYE,
SIR.



c. bailey

"NAVY"

IN THE RANKS...

REMEMBER,
YOU ARE *NOT*
SUPERMAN.



BATMAN?



c. bailey

"MARINES"

IN THE RANKS...

"SEMPER
PARATUS"



ALWAYS
READY.



c. bailey

"COAST GUARD"

IN THE RANKS...

The journey of a
thousand miles
begins with one
step...



... and a lot
of bitching.



c. bailey

"ARMY"

LEAD REVIEWER'S NOTES

By jim greenwald



Joyce Faulkner with winners of the 2012 MWSA President's Award - Chris Wyatt, Terry Gould, & Jim Greenwald

Book Donations

Please note information under "2013 Conferences" on www.militarywriters.com. We are collecting books for the VA Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. One or more copies of your book(s) would go a long way toward improving the morale of Veterans who are hospitalized.

For each book you donate you will receive \$1,000 Buckaroos in addition to the great feeling you will get from participating in this worthy endeavor. We have about 1,000 members so the minimal goal of 100 books should be easy to surpass.

We are planning a formal presentation by the board members to the hospital on September 25, 2013 in the afternoon. Contact me at LeansToFar@aol.com for shipping information.

I want to thank the following who have donated books for the VA Hospital (this is a complete listing of members who are participating so far):

Dwight Zimmerman

Joyce Faulkner

Pat Avery

Richard Bessette

Fran & Bud Orr

jim greenwald

E. Frank Evans

Jack London

Terry Gould

Ken Farmer

Bill Hammond

Francis Hamit

Conference Items

If you want to present a seminar please get in touch with Dwight Zimmerman soon. You will need to attach a file outlining the material/subject you wish to present. This

needs to be done no later than July 15th as the program will be printed in the back of the Anthology.

Book table space is limited. You must apply and pay for the space no later than September 15th. You may place up to five copies of one title on the table. This is first come first served. No books will be accepted after that date. No signs, brochures, or business cards unless they are inside the book. Do not bring books to the conference expecting to place them on the table unless you met the September 15th requirement.

Auction donations are being accepted now. Email me with the item you wish to donate and its value LeansToFar@aol.com.

The Registration Desk requires volunteers. See the schedule below. Please contact LeansToFar@aol.com to volunteer for one or more spots. Two people are needed for each time slot.

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
08:00-10:30			
08:00-10:00			
10:30-12:30			
10:00-12:00			
12:30-03:00			
12:00-02:00			
03:00-05:00			
02:00-03:30			

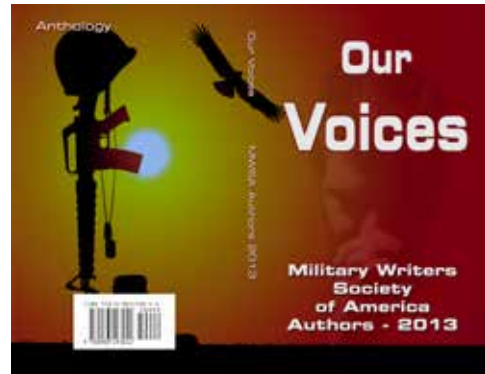
Anthology Cover

Have you voted yet? I noticed many reads but a very small percentage of actual votes. Could this be because like myself you are pondering which best suits the title "Our Voices?" (<http://www.mwsadispatches.com/node/1308>)

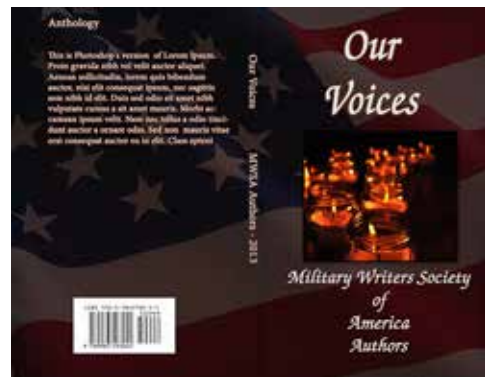
I hope so. Me, I pondered for a time and finally settled on the "Candles." Why candles? Because more than any other choice they speak to and for all the voices no longer with us, the silence of their shouts, echo in both

my waking and sleeping moments. So, ponder away, but please add your vote to this poll, this is after all your organization, be an active part of it.

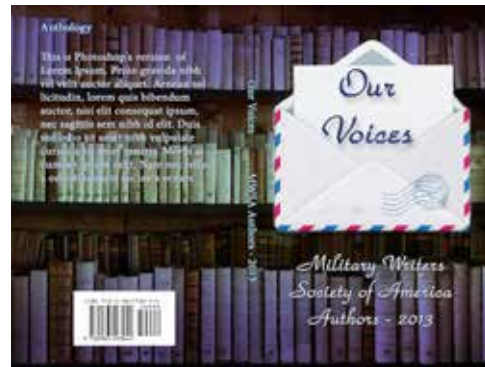
Number One -- *Helmet & rifle with eagle*



Number Two -- *Candles*



Number Three -- *Letter in front of books*



Number Four - *Man on mountaintop with flag*



SMOKY

by Pat McGrath Avery



When we think of war dogs, we generally picture German Shepherds, Doberman Pinschers, and other large breeds. However, did you know that a four-pound Yorkie (Yorkshire Terrier) earned eight battle stars in her twelve combat missions in WWII?

In researching my latest book, I discovered Smoky's story and her courageous actions in the Pacific Theater.

In 1944, American soldiers found Smoky in an abandoned foxhole in New Guinea. Bill Wynne adopted her and the two became good friends. Bill's buddies fell in love with the little dog and she became the mascot for the 5th Air Force's 26th Recon Squadron.

She won a mascot contest from "Yank Down Under" magazine.

Smoky stayed with Bill Wynne throughout the war, eating his food, sleeping in his tent, and flying missions with him. She even had her own parachute.

Corporal Wynne was on a ship during the Lingayen Gulf Invasion on Luzon, Philippines. It ran aground

after an attack by a Japanese plane. Corporal Wynne grabbed Smoky, tucked her under his arm and waded to shore.

When the soldiers arrived on land, they needed to set up communications. To do this they had to string telephone wire under a 70-foot-wide airport runway. If they had to dig up the runway to bury the wire, planes wouldn't be able to land and provide operational support. They located an eight-inch drainage pipe under the airstrip but it was clogged with dirt and sand. None of the men could crawl through it. Corporal Wynne's superiors asked if Smoky could crawl through with the wire attached to her collar. He agreed to try.

He put Smoky at one end of the pipe with his buddies, ran to the other end and called her. Smoky was afraid but when he continued to call her, she trusted him enough to crawl through the pipe. Corporal Wynne continued to call her, "Come, Smoky..."

She slowly crawled through the pipe and even in the dark, her eyes searched for Corporal Wynne's face.

Continue on Page 19

Continued from Page 18

She knew she had to be brave. As she moved closer to him, she crawled faster. Soon she started running. When she reached the end of the pipe, she ran straight into Corporal Wynne's arms. All the soldiers cheered. An officer treated Smoky to her own steak dinner that night.

Because of her actions, the phone lines enabled communications for the US and Allied troops.

Smoky remained with the squadron for the rest of the war. She survived a typhoon in Okinawa and a sting by a jungle centipede. However, when it was time for the soldiers to return home to the United States, Army regulations would not permit Smoky to board the ship.

Corporal Wynne decided to smuggle Smoky aboard. He put her in an oxygen-mask case and walked on board with her.

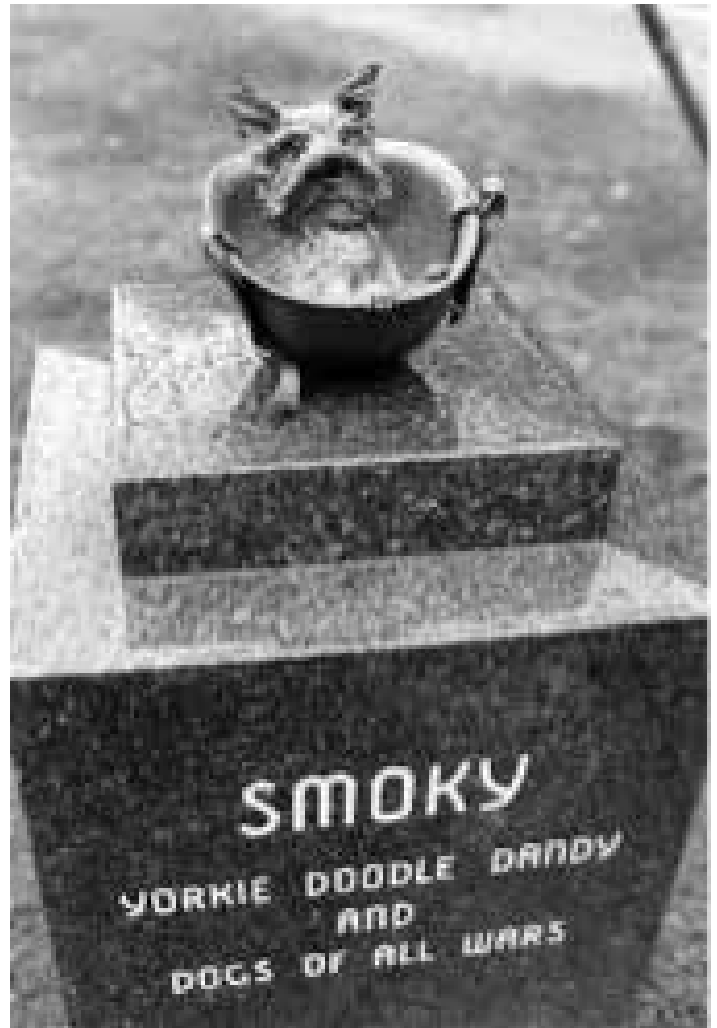


Smoky in Parachute

She lived with Corporal Wynne the rest of her life. She died in 1957 and is buried under her monument in Ohio in Cleveland Metroparks. There are six memorials in her honor and she is recognized as the first therapy dog because she visited so many soldiers in military hospitals.

Smoky showed an amazing ability to do tricks and spent most of her war career visiting hospitals and entertaining wounded troops. After the war, she and Bill spent the next ten years performing for audiences on stage and television. Wherever she went, the crowds loved her.

His book, Yorkie Doodle Dandy, tells her story.



Smoky's Memorial



Smoky in Uniform

MWSA AWARDS CRITERIA

MWSA is a writing group designed to encourage active military, veterans, their families, and historians to write. Our focus is on the stories themselves. Our goal is to create a body of work that will support historians in the future. To that end, we recognize the efforts of our members — whether they are professional writers or beginners or those who simply want a legacy for their families — using the same standards for all.

We are happy when our recognition helps authors sell their books and we try to provide as much information and publicity as possible to that end. However, book promotion is NOT our mission. Our programs focus on education — both for our members and their communities. We want to help our writers produce better books. Reviews and awards constitute only one part of this effort.

MWSA member volunteers read and review fellow members books. This service is free. However, if an author wishes his/her book to be considered for an award, there is a \$25 fee which is collected at the time of submission.

Reviewers score books which have been submitted for the awards program against a standard. They are provided with spreadsheets which ask 20 questions. They comment on applicable issues of technique or approach in a general way in the public review. However, they are encouraged to provide more detailed notes/comments to boost or detract from the general score.

The standard measures quality in five areas — content, style, visual, and technique.

- **Content:** These criteria evaluate plot, characterization, message or theme, believability, intent of book, storytelling, and construction.
- **Style:** These criteria evaluate readability, book structure, language, % dialogue to narration, % description to action, % passive to active voice.
- **Visual:** These criteria evaluate cover design, cover art, book block layout, font size, font serif, use of illustration.
- **Technical:** These criteria evaluate redundancies, spelling, grammar, word usage, sentence structure,

adverb and verb tense usage.

- **Comments:** This is an opened-ended area where reviewers are encouraged to provide details about their decisions. They are also encouraged to tell us why they believe a book should win an award or why it should NOT receive an award.

The relative weights are: Content - 5, Technique - 4, Style - 3, & Visual - 2.

The public review is posted to the website. If the reviewer is enthusiastic about a book, he may post it on Amazon, Goodreads.com or any other site. Authors can use reviews any way they wish. An author may appeal the review if he/she feels it doesn't represent the value of his/her book. In that case, a new reviewer will be selected by the Lead Reviewer. The second review will be posted and the two scores will be averaged for ranking. Both reviewers' comments are evaluated during the awards process. The detailed analysis and score is stored in a spreadsheet and ranked with others in the same category.

Author of the Month, Book of the Month & Quarterly Reading Lists reflect those books that reviewers have ranked highest in the period before publication of *Dispatches*.

At the end of the Award Year (July 15th. of each year), reviewer scores of books entered into the Awards Contest are ranked within their individual categories and the top finishers are nominated for awards. At that point, a committee assigns books to judges. Neither the President nor any of the officers know who judges which book ahead of time. The nominees are asked to provide two additional books for judging (one to each of the two judges). Judges are provided with spreadsheets that mirror the spreadsheets used by the reviewers but the questions are designed to confirm specific criteria required for awards.

Award winners receive a medal and one-hundred award stickers to be placed on their books at the Awards Banquet. If a member wins and does not attend the conference they need to forward a check to: MWSA, P.O. Box 264, Bridgeville, PA 15017 in the amount of \$6.00 to cover shipping/handling.

Continued from 4

When judges complete their inspection of the books and submit their spreadsheets, those numbers are compiled. At that point, four different people have examined each nominated book and assessed its quality based on the criteria defined above — content, style, visual, and technique. The final score consists of 25% for each judge plus 50% for reviewer. To be recognized, a book must have a minimum technical score of 16 for Bronze, 17 for Silver, and 19 for Gold. Minimum total score for Bronze is >49, for Silver 55, and 64 for Gold. Those books with scores that qualify for awards are then ranked. The winner in each category has the top score. If two books have the exact same score, that category will be called a tie and both will receive the same award.

It must be noted that this process only allows us to reach a consensus of opinion about the quality of a book. The spreadsheets focus reviewers and judges on the specific criteria that we have decided to recognize with awards. The comments and the scoring also give us an idea of the kinds of classes, articles, and blogs we need to provide our membership to help our authors grow. If individual authors want more specific critiques, that would be a different process which hasn't yet been defined.

MWSA encourages reviewers and judges to measure against a standard rather than a more general, "I like this book better than that one." In fact, judges aren't asked to make a choice between one author or another. We only want to know how well they think a given book fits the criteria. That way, authors know the criteria they will be judged against and can work to improve their writing before they submit a book for review.

These techniques are based on the principles of Critical Analysis which are widely recognized in the writing industry.

The top three books go through the same process. However, they are pulled and awarded special recognition because they represent important aspects of the MWSA mission. They may or may not be nominated for an award so the first time an author knows his/her book has received such an award may be at the awards banquet at the annual conference. Also, if no book qualifies for one of these awards in a given year, they won't be given.

General Awards Program — consists of Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals.

The Founder's Award. Founder Bill McDonald selects the book that most represents the values of the organization — it must be well-written, inspiring, and end on a hopeful note. It must meet all of the other criteria for quality and then some.

The President's Award. This award goes to either a person or a book (or both) that focuses on forwarding MWSA's mission. If it is awarded for a book, it must be of the highest quality (at least Gold Medal rated based on the judging criteria) and then have content or message that furthers the goals of MWSA. If it is awarded to a person, it represents his/her leadership in thought and deed and how he/she impacts MWSA as an organization. It's about quality, passion and achievement.

The Author of the Year. This award is new and is about quality of writing and a body of work. If timing permits, MWSA may submit this author's work for other awards in other organizations like the Pulitzer or Pushcart Prizes. This author's work will be used as an example for teaching certain principles about writing or storytelling throughout the year of the award and beyond. The work may be honored for historical relevance and/or new thinking as well.

Not every category will have a winner every year. It depends on what is submitted. Even if a book is nominated, it may not win an award or even a recognition. The judge's role is to confirm or refute the opinion of the reviewer and his/her opinions can remove a book from contention in highly-competitive categories. Even if your book is the only nominee in a given category, that doesn't guarantee it will win a Gold Medal. The medal it wins or if it wins anything, depends on the final score. Finally, a book may be slotted into a different category if deemed appropriate by the President and Lead Reviewer. (Both have to agree.)

Our goal is to make sure that the process produces recognition for those books that represent our view of quality. We want to insure that we judge every book on the same criteria and that judges are scoring the same issues the same way. The process is part of our bylaws and once the President confirms an award, there is no appeal.

NOTE: The details of these criteria may change from time to time and when/if they do, they will be posted on the website and discussed in *Dispatches*.

and of me
sitting in a corner
styrofoam cup, china of choice

cold cup of watery coffee
sits untouched next to an overloaded ashtray
me, wondering which to relight

wishing for sleep without sorrow... sadness
a night free of dreams of lost love
moments and times past
wondering if the end is near
as my not so paradise fades
to a blackness devoid of all

a black breath creeps toward me
no forgiveness for what is ahead

no harp

no sad song

derision floats on the wind

am I merely a dream dreamt inside my body

a mirror image

left over gossip

prayers added to the pyre
is there a me – was there a me?

Jim greenwald

of emptiness

of niagra and the great falls
we have much knowledge

of the incomprehensible sound
of sorrow so little understanding

water crashes violently down
upon the waiting rocks without repentance

tears flowing freely down the face
lips moving, saying not a word

death never easy to explain
impossible to comprehend for the very young

in Newtown the calm of innocent youth
shattered forever...friends lost forever

only shadows in the mind now
wishing to be remembered

leave them in peace
remember them always as they were

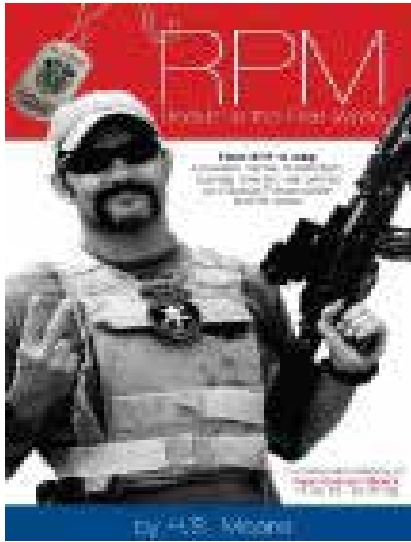
sit quiet now, listen to their families speak
it is their voices that carry the memories

The Ojibwa have an old expression:

sometimes I go about pitying myself
and all the while
I am being carried across the sky
by beautiful clouds

Jim greenwald

AUTHORS OF THE MONTH



February 2013

RPM Rockin' in the Free World

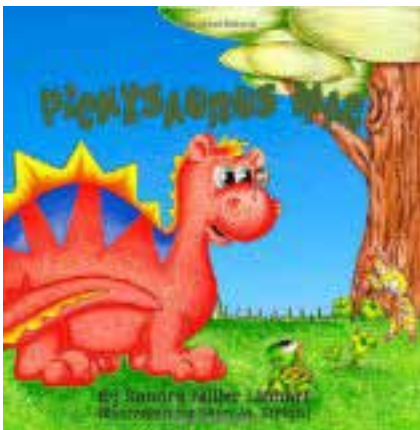
by

H.S. Means (Memoir)

Pickysaurus Mac

by Sandra Miller Linhart

(Children Under 12)



March 2013

Pass The Salt Doc

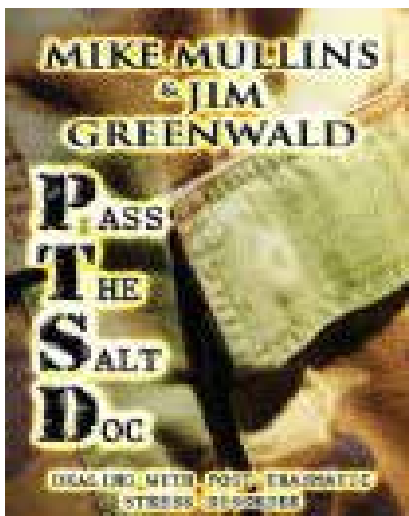
by

Mike Mullins & Jim Greenwald

(Poetry

that deals with Post Traumatic Stress

Disorder)



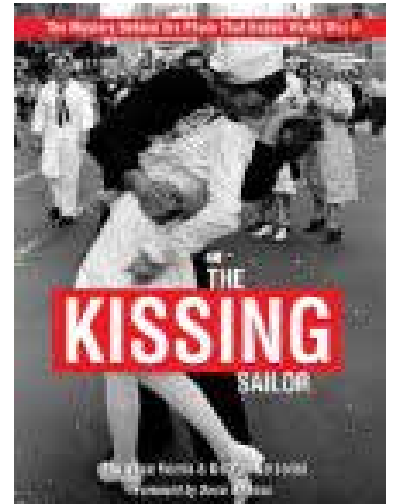
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

February 2013

*The Kissing Sailor: The Story Behind the
Photo that Ended WWI*

by

*L. Verria, G. Galdorisi, D. Hartman
(NF History)*

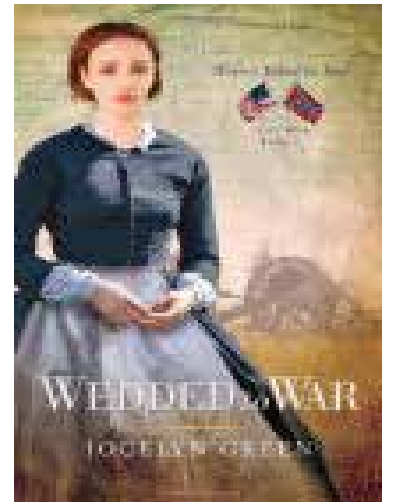


March 2013

Wedded to War

by

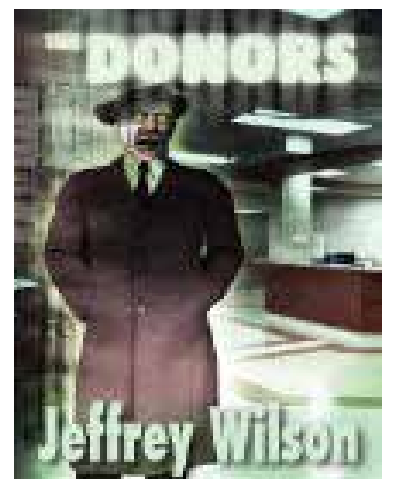
*Jocelyn Green
(Hist Fiction)*



The Donors

by

*Jeffrey Wilson
(Sci-fi)*



Life's Vagaries
by
Michael "D" Moon Mullins



Love...faith...charity...hope...
Words that shape us and confuse, too.
What they mean...what they are...
Touch us every day in some way.
Not thinking of them we live them.
Not thinking of them we act on them.
Loving, believing, giving, dreaming...
We are what they are.
We are what they mean.
Is a dream hope?
Is a nightmare a dream?
If a dream is hope it means one thing.

If it is a nightmare it is another.
A nightmare may be the absence of hope.
What do I prefer? The dream...
To dream is to hope.
To hope is to believe.
I like having a good dream.
It makes the day brighter, warmer,
And the mind is freer.
Hopelessness makes each sunrise
A dreaded thing for many,
But perhaps the sun restores hope like it does
light
And life.
When offered the choice I choose to hope.
I want to enjoy each moment and
Look to the next with joyful expectancy.
Perhaps the sun displaces the nightmares
Restores hope and joyful expectancy.
The child finds that in every moment.
The moments are hoped for even if undefined.
Everything is new.
Cynicism has not yet been born.
Cynicism is an enemy of hope.
It is one of life's vagaries.
Cynicism can lead to hopelessness.
Mankind experiences both,
But the battle rages between them.
I root for hope.
Love, faith, and charity follow in its wake.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Dwight Jon Zimmerman



2012 Awards Banquet Cake

It's April already! I remember back in high school my best friend's father once observed that up until the age of eighteen, time seemed to pass so slowly. Then, as one got older after age eighteen, the years seemed to go by at an accelerating rate. That seems so true, because in June of this year I'm going to reach (I don't know if I can quite say "celebrate") my sixtieth birthday! In a word . . . yow!

More seriously, it being April there are some items regarding this year's conference that I need to bring to everyone's attention. The most important of them is this year's anthology. Normally the vice president edits our anthology, but as we have yet to fill that vacancy, in the meantime we need someone to volunteer for that duty.

The volunteer will be reimbursed in the same amount of buckaroo bucks that the vice president would have received. Though it obviously helps for someone to have editorial experience, it's more important to have someone willing to help. We have a number of members (including me) who do have editorial experience who are willing to assist, it's just that we need someone to take the lead.

One of the events on the conference schedule is a visit to the Air Force Museum. We've scheduled it for Friday afternoon, and because we need to arrange ground transportation to and from the museum, as well as coordinate things with the museum itself, we need to know sooner rather than later how many people are interested

Continued on Page 29

Continued from Page 28

in participating in the guided tour. It'll be the high point of the conference, so we'd like to have as many participants as possible.

For both of the above, you can email me at mwsapresd-jz@gmail.com.

I'm happy to say that we're lining up some interesting events and panels for this year's conference. Member Don Helin has volunteered to do two workshops "Travel Writing for Fun and Profit" and "You've Landed that Publisher—Now What?". Given the nomadic nature of military service, the former sounds like a perfect dovetail to take advantage of that experience, and with the latter, it's less about having a publisher and more on what you can do to get ahead of the game in promoting it. Our state of the industry panels have proved popular, and we're going to have them again this year, with Joyce Faulkner handling the brave new frontier of the e-format and self-publishing world and me the traditional print side of the industry. We also have members who will be giving individual manuscript critiques, a panel on how to use websites, posting reviews, the awards process and submitting books for review, as well as Dale Throneberry and yours truly doing author interviews in a special edition of Veterans Radio Network. Perhaps the biggest event (next to the awards banquet) is the Buckaroo Auction and we need members to contribute more items to that fun event. And, on the subject of donations, we've arranged to make a book donation to the VA hospital in Dayton. I'm one of a number of members who's contributed books to this worthy cause, for which contributors receive Buckaroo Bucks, and if you haven't already done so, I urge you to add your books to the growing stacks. See Jim's column for details.

In closing, as part of our outreach to members, we want you to let us know about what's going on in your life, or if you have any questions or comments. We want to post them in a special column in Dispatches.

Until next time,

Dwight



Award-winning author & emcee, Dick Hrebik with award-winning author Terry Gould

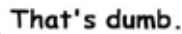


Ric & Jan Hunter with Darlene Iskra

IN THE RANKS...



Military
intelligence is a
contradiction.

That's dumb.



c. bailey

"AIR FORCE"

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Lifetime MWSA member **William Robert Stanek** is celebrating the publication of his 150th book. When he began writing stories so many years ago, he had no idea that that 7.5 million people would have read those books. This long road has included a dozen awards for outstanding writing and excellence from peers, recognition from reader groups and other organizations like the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge, features on my books and work in Parenting Magazine, Children's Writer, The Children's Bookshelf, Writer's Digest, The New York Times, Publisher's Weekly, and other fine publications and periodicals.

Bonnie Latino and **Bob Vale's** book, *Your Gift to Me* has garnered 169 Review and has earned Amazon's top ranking in War Fiction, Contemporary Romance, #3 in Romance and #10 in Genre Fiction.

Mike Mullins' performance of **Joyce Faulkner's** thriller *Username* is now available on audible.com.

Terry Gould won the 2013 James Webb Award for distinguished fiction dealing with U.S. Marines or Marine Corps life. All winners receive a \$1,000 cash prize, a medallion and a commemorative brick along the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park pathway at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

Dwight Zimmerman's book, *Lincoln's Last Days*, remained on the NY Times bestseller list for 25 weeks, and reached #1 for several of those weeks. He was one of 20 authors at the 25th Annual Broward Public Library Foundation Literary Feast in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Joyce Faulkner has released a revised version of *For Shrieking Out Loud* on Kindle and an iBook version of *Losing Patience*.

Pat McGrath Avery's latest title is *Famous Dogs: Changing History One Dog (& Cat) at a Time*. For children and dog lovers.

Francis Hamit is in the process of releasing audio editions of his books.

Call for Entries

Stars & Flags Book Awards

is looking for good
military based
books for its
2013 contest.

MWSA members get a
10% discount on the
entry fee. Enter by
May 31 for best cost.
Visit www.starsandflags.com
for guidelines &
application form.



Air Fiesta celebrated the 50th year of Commemorative Air Force shows in the Rio Grande Valley with a tribute to WWII planes and a reenactment of Pearl Harbor.

Held at the Brownsville-South Padre Island Airport on March 9 and 10, the event showcased planes from WWII to the present day. Enjoy the photos.



*Smoky
World War II
Heroine*

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