

DISPATCHES

Monthly Magazine

MILITARY
WRITERS
SOCIETY
OF AMERICA

AUGUST 2010



FREEDOM ROCKS!

Inside this issue ...

Jeff Senour and CTS — MWSA Gold Medalist for a Music CD



Conference & Awards Banquet Plans

2010 MWSA Award Winners!

*Allegheny County's 'By the Dawn's Early
Light Flag Retirement Plaza' & the
special ceremony planned for MWSA*

Flag Lover & MWSA member John Kovach — a special kind of hero!

Let's All Become Lovecats!

Pat McGrath Avery



When I visit my son's home, I always look at his stack of reading materials. Last time I picked up a book, *Love is the Killer App*. The title intrigued me.

Let me explain that my son runs a company and devours motivational and business books with as much gusto as chips and salsa. That said, the first page of the book brought Bill McDonald, Joyce Faulkner and MWSA front and center in my mind.

Author Tim Sanders espouses that success in today's world requires three key issues: sharing knowledge, building networks and compassion. To become a successful leader, one needs to be a "lovecat."

I can just hear Mike Mullins' expressive "What in the @\$%#@ is a lovecat?" (By the way, he is one!) According to Sanders, a lovecat is a person who realizes that success is in sharing—our knowledge, our networks and our compassion. He encourages us to share our experience, give away our address books and always be human.

I believe that most writers possess a natural tendency to share. The first thing I noticed at last year's conference was the openness and sharing. We don't compete with each other. Your book is different than mine. Your success doesn't make mine less and vice versa. We celebrated each other. Attendees shared knowledge, resources, and publisher information. As I watched, people shared themselves. I think most felt they left richer for the experience.

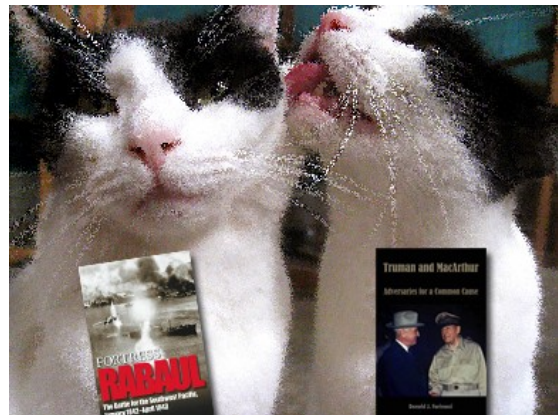
If you've not attended before, take this opportunity to be part of this caring group of people. Bill and Joyce are lovecats—so are Jeff and Maria Edwards. They share themselves freely, each with their own unique flair. What a blessing they are to MWSA members. Bill makes himself available to share his experience as a writer and his spirituality.

Joyce's success is in the success of others. Watch the expressions that cross her face when members are involved and honored. Mike's humor conveys his caring nature and warms any heart. Remember all of Maria's loving contributions? And Jeff's?

Our members give of themselves. You'll meet Connie and Eddie Beesley, Jim Greenwald, Lynn Salsi, Del Staecker, Dwight Zimmerman, Richard Lowry, the Boylands and a host of others who give 110%+. Dale Throneberry and Bob Calvert brightened our last event and will join us again this year. They are all lovecats.

There will be new faces and old in Pittsburgh. You'll meet Charlayne Henry who came into the organization to write, produce, and direct scenes from our 2009 award-winning novelists—and John Kovach who is planning a special Flag Ceremony for us. Get to know them and let them get to know you. I suggest that by living Bill's dream for MWSA, we will all become lovecats.

(By the way, Tim Sanders' book is a great reference. It is filled with ideas and strategies to enrich our professional and personal lives).



Congratulations to:
Bruce Gamble,
Gold Medalist for History, 2010
 and
Don Farinacci,
Silver Medalist for History, 2010.

Historical Fiction

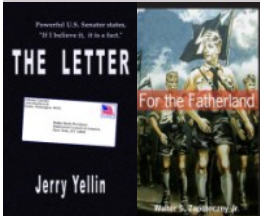
HONORABLE MENTION -- *Grey Wolf* – David Huffman

BRONZE -- *For the Fatherland* – Walter Zapotoczny, Jr

BRONZE -- *Sisters of Valor* – Rosalie Turner

SILVER -- *The Great Hour Struck* – Gary Varner

GOLD -- *Days of Smoke* – Mark Ozeroff



Literary Fiction

HONORABLE MENTION -- *Digger Dogface Brownjob Grunt* – Gary Prisk

BRONZE -- *The Letter* – Jerry Yellin

SILVER -- *Crack Between the Worlds* – Carmen Stenholm

GOLD -- *Internal Conflicts* – Flint Whitlock

Mystery/Thriller

BRONZE -- *Dangerous Past* – A. F. Ebbers

SILVER -- *Muted Mermaid/Shaved Ice/Chocolate Soup Trilogy* – Del Staecker

SILVER -- *Child Finder: Resurrection* – Mike Angley

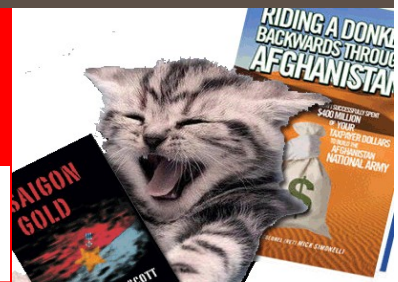
GOLD -- *Saigon Gold* – Hugh Scott

GOLD -- *Breath of the Choson Dragon* – Jack L. Wells

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror

HONORABLE MENTION —*Echo of a Distant Planet* —Wayne Lutz

SILVER —*Rhombus*—Bob Gore



Creative Non-fiction

HONORABLE MENTION—*America's Finest* —Stephen Peterson



Anthology

GOLD -- *Surviving the Folded Flag* – Deborah Tainsh

Biography

HONORABLE MENTION —*A Life Well-Built*—Lee Kelley

SILVER —*This is Latch: The Story of Admiral Roy L. Hoffmann* —Weymouth D. Symmes

SILVER —*An American Family in World War II* —Sandra O'Connell

GOLD —*An American Knight* — Norman Fulkerson

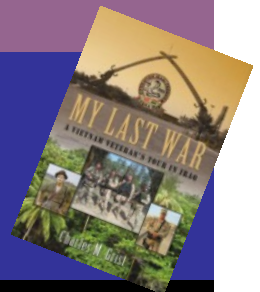
History

SILVER —*Riding a Donkey Backwards Through Afghanistan* —Mick Simonelli

SILVER —*Truman and MacArthur* —Don Farinacci

GOLD—*Fortress Rabaul* —Bruce Gamble

GOLD —*New Dawn: The Battles for Fallujah* – Richard Lowry



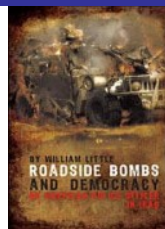
Memoir

HONORABLE MENTION —*Nam Sense* – Arthur Wiknik

SILVER —*Roadside Bombs* —William Little

SILVER —*Missions of Fire and Mercy* – William Peterson

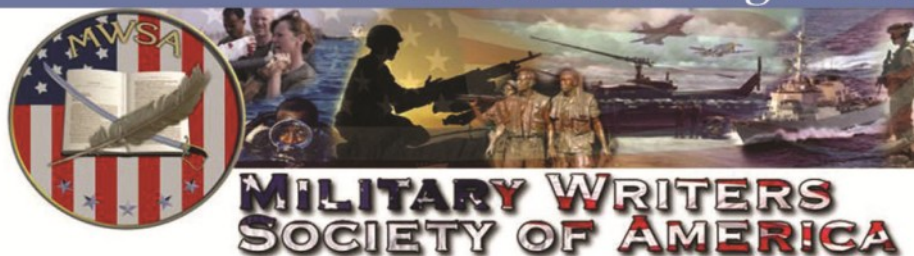
GOLD —*My Last War* – Charles Grist



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www.josephbeth.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Bill McDonald, our Founder, is still in ill health. Although he is upset at the notion, it doesn't look like he'll be able to make it to Pittsburgh this year. He also needs a few weeks to feel up to writing his usual column. He wanted you to know that he will get back to it as soon as he is able — and he plans on attending the 2011 Conference!*

This month's William E. Mayer Prize for Literary and Artistic Excellence phrase is "CELEBRATE"

From the Editor...

It's that time of year — and if you haven't already heard, we are announcing this year's book award winners starting on page 11. Please join with me in celebrating the successes of our authors. In fact, this month's William E. Mayer theme is "Celebrate!"

We have only a few entries for the People's Choice Award so I've extended the deadline to the end of this month. See information about this contest on page 31. I encourage those of you who write shorter pieces to submit something. Remember that the word limit is 1000.

One little surprise is on page 35. These books — from all eras and genres, award winners and some who didn't win — have been nominated for something special that will be announced at the Banquet in Pittsburgh. (One of our little secrets I've been referring to over the last few months.) If your book appears on that list, would you please contact me?


For those of you who didn't win this year, keep trying. For those of you who can't make the Conference, you might consider taking advantage of the publicity associated with it by buying an ad for the Program which will be sent around the world in electronic format and printed and distributed around the Pittsburgh area. For information, contact Pat Avery at patavery@gmail.com.

Many thanks to Nancy Smith who will once again be our vendor for t-shirts, golf shirts, and photo CDs. Franque Coleman and Everett Avery will be our videographers. Dale Throneberry and Bob Calvert will join us again. Other vendors at the Conference will be GS Signs, Print Pro, and Creative Cabin.

John Kovach is planning a very special and unique Flag Ceremony for us on September 30 at 11am. Each member will be retiring a flag that has some historical significance. Learn more about this wonderful event on page 46.

Joyce Faulkner, President of MWSA

Dispatches Staff



Joyce Faulkner — Editor
Mike Mullins — Columnist
Pat Avery — Columnist/Photographer
Bill McDonald — Columnist
Dwight Jon Zimmerman—Columnist
Jim Greenwald—Columnist
Kate Dunn — Cover Designer
Nancy Yockey Bonar — Copy Editor
Nancy Smith — Photographer
Evelyn Harless — Photographer

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

2010 MWSA Conference and Awards Banquet Information

Hotel:

The Wyndham University Place Hotel in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh. The facility is non-smoking and WiFi is free. The special rate for us is \$109/night plus tax plus \$10 a day for parking. Taxes are 14%. You can also get our rate three days before and three days after the event if you choose. You must make your reservations by August 30 to get this price. Call 412-683-2040 and identify yourself as a member of Military Writers Society of America. If you have special needs, please let the hotel know at this time, for example, if you need a refrigerator for medications. NOTE: Our room block sold out, but don't despair, the folks at Wyndham are working with us to find rooms for everyone! I'll be sending information.



Shuttle:

MWSA will supply transportation to and from the airport and to the various events. Please contact me at MWSAPresident@gmail.com once you have your flight schedules.

Fees:

Conference fees are \$240 for MWSA members and \$260 for non-members. This fee includes meeting room costs, a Special Interest Luncheon of your choice, a Theater ticket, transportation for Thursday events, the MWSA Anthology, a MWSA pin, the banquet, and other conference costs. If you can only attend for one day, the cost is \$75 and

will include all the events of that day. (This includes luncheons, theater ticket, or banquet if they occur on the day you attend.)

Family and friends are welcome! The cost for the Special Interest Luncheon is \$20, a Theater ticket is \$20, and the banquet is \$40.

If you plan on coming, it would facilitate our plans if you sign up and pay your fees right away. To do this, fill out the form on page 9 and send to MWSA, PO Box 264, Bridgeville, PA 15017 along with a check for the amount due. Be sure to let us know which luncheon you plan to attend and which workshops interest you, and IF (1) you want to participate in a book signing, (2) you want to participate in the Open Mic, (3) you want to be included in radio or TV shows, and (4) you are bringing guests so that we can have a good idea of count. Let us know if you change your mind as our plans become firmer.

You can also pay by credit card at www.militarywriters.com

From Printed Page to Production Stage, a program featuring scenes from four of the 2009 award-winning books—*The Take-Us* by John Takacs, *Child Finder* by Mike Angley, *True Colors* by Erin Rainwater, and *The Final Salute* by Kathleen Rodgers. Award-winning singer/songwriter James Jellerson will perform for us between acts. There will be a few surprises, too.

If you want to buy additional tickets for your family and friends,

1. Go to www.CharlayneHenry.com
2. Go to the Box Office page
3. Click on PayPal button
4. Choose number of tickets you'd like
5. If you have PayPal Account, log in to complete your transaction
6. If you don't have a PayPal Account, click on "Continue" and fill out the form for your credit card.

Pre-Conference Schedule (Tentative)
Wednesday, September 29, 2010

	8th Flr UPMC Conf Room	Wyndham Bar Area	Schools	Wyndham Lounge	Other
08:00					
09:00	MWSA Open Access Television Interviews Set Up Franque Coleman Shirley Douglas	Bob Calvert Talking with Heroes Interviews	Bethel School District MWSA Author Appearances		
10:00	Host: Shirley Douglas Interviews Mike Mullins Tom McGraham Jim Webermuth	Bob Calvert Talking with Heroes Interviews	Propel School District MWSA Author Appearances		
11:00	Host: Shirley Douglas Interviews Connie Beesley Craig Anderson William Peterson				SoHo MWSA Officers Mtg Joyce Faulkner Mike Mullins Pat Avery Jim Greenwald David Tschanz 11:00 — 1:30 pm
12:00	Host Shirley Douglas Interviews Mike Angley Bruce Gamble Sandra Linhart				
01:00	Host Shirley Douglas Interviews Deborah Tainsh Fr. Ron Camarda Richard Lowry	MWSA Registration Packet Setup Jim Greenwald & Helpers 12:00—2:00 pm			
02:00		Bob Calvert Talking with Heroes Interviews			
03:00		Bob Calvert Talking with Heroes		Social Mike Mullins	Joseph Beth Booksigning 3-5:00 pm Jim Greenwald Mike Mullins James Jellerson Pat Avery Carmen Stenholm
<p>Free time from 4:00-6:00 pm Dinner on your own Hotel offers MWSA Members and Guests a 20% discount for Terranova Restaurant</p>					
<p>Cash Bar & Refreshments Open Mic, Book Signing & Social 6:00-10:00 pm</p>					

Event Schedule (Tentative)
Thursday, September 30, 2010

	Other	Wyndham Bar Area	Restaurants	Wyndham Lounge	Other
08:00					
09:00		MWSA Book School Committee Meeting 9-10:00 am Jim Greenwald Pat Avery Kathy Rodgers Mike Mullins Carmen Stenholm		Registration	
10:00				Registration	
11:00	Flag Ceremony Dawns's Early Light Flag Retirement Plaza South Park 11:00—12:45 pm				
12:00					
01:00	Mystery//Thriller/ ScFi Luncheon Wyndham Duquesne Room 4th Floor 1:30-3:30 pm	Graphics/Photography, Art Luncheon Wyndham Carlow Room 5th Floor 1:30—3:30 pm How To/Business/ Journalism Luncheon CMU Room 7th Floor 1:30—3:30 pm	Oral History Luncheon SoHo 1:30-3:30 pm Children & YA Luncheon SoHo 1:30-3:30 pm	Registration	History/Historical Fiction Luncheon Purple Rose Tea Room 1:30—3:30 pm Women Author's Luncheon 1:30—3:30 pm
04:00				Registration	
06:00	Theater Kelly Strayhorn Beginning with Reception & Book signing			Registration	
Theater — Kelly Strayhorn Reception & Book Signing 6:00 pm 7:00-10:30 pm					

Workshop Schedule (Tentative)

Friday, October 1, 2010

	Duquesne Room (4th Floor)	Carlow Room (5th Floor)	CMU Room (7th Floor)	Lounge	Other
08:00	Social Mike Mullins	Social Joyce Faulkner	Oral History Day Craig Anderson “Our History Project”		
09:00		Publishers’ Panel Traditional/Subsidy/Self Dorrance Publishing/Pat Avery Book Shepherd	Pittsburgh Stories Dan Holland Tom McGrahan, Iwo Veteran	Social	Talking with Heroes Bob Calvert Tin Front Café 9:30-10:30 am MWSA Officers, Lead Reviewers, Award Winners
10:00	Storytelling Part I Lynn Salsi	How to sell books to libraries, archives, and museums Panel	The Sinking of the Sultana Louis Intres The 75th Aniv of the Battle of Gettysburg Maggie Abbott		Poetry Corner Tin Front Café Homestead 8th Avenue 10:30-11:30 a.m. Mike Mullins & Jim Greenwald
11:00	Victorian Woman in Crimean & Civil Wars Part I Maggie Abbott	A Printer’s Perspective Joe Migliozi Scott Edgel	SCUDS on the Golf Course: American Civilians and the Gulf War David Tschanz Khobar Towers Mike Angley	Lynn Salsi Q&A Louis Intres Q&A	
12:00		How to sell books to bookstores Chris Rickert, Joseph Beth Booksellers	Escape from East Germany Carmen Stenholm The Unlikely Hero Deborah Tainsh		PJ Talk with TV hosts Shirley Douglas Holly Winters 12:30—1:30 pm Hotel Bar
01:00	Write engaging prose for nonfic- tion. Bruce Gamble	Sell Yourself & Your Book Autumn Edmiston	Liberation of Nordenhausen Leila Levinson Truman & MacArthur & The Korean War Don Farinacci		
02:00	Humor Writing Rob Ballister & Joyce Faulkner	So You’ve Written a Novel! Now What? Del Staecker	The Battles for Fallujah Richard Lowry/Craig Rizzo Tear in the Desert Fr. Ron Camarda		Talking with Heroes Bob Calvert Award Winners Hotel Bar
03:00	Graphical Books Dwight Zimmer- man & Cartoonist	How to Write a Media Release David Tschanz	A Passion for Mili- tary History Bruce Gamble The Flag Retirement Plaza John Kovach		Joseph Beth Book signing 8 Authors 3-5:00 pm

Free time from 4:00-6:00 pm

Dinner on your own

Hotel offers MWSA Members and Guests a 20% discount for Terranova Restaurant

Cash Bar & Refreshments

Open Mic, Book Signing & Social

6:00-10:00 pm

Workshop Schedule (Tentative) Saturday, October 2, 2010

	Duquesne Room (4th Floor)	Carlow Room (5th Floor)	CMU Room (7th Floor)	Lounge	Other
08:00			Volunteer & Reviewers Appreciation Breakfast By Invitation Only		
09:00	Marlyce Stockinger	Writing Our Way Through Trauma Leila Levinson	Reviewers' Meeting Jim Greenwald Joyce Faulkner	Social	Veterans Radio Net- work Show with Dale Throneberry Hotel Bar
10:00	Storytelling Part 2 Lynn Salsi	Vetreprenuers Magazine Matt Pavelek	Reviewers' Meeting Jim Greenwald Joyce Faulkner	Social	Talking with Heroes Bob Calvert Award Winners Hotel Bar
11:00	Converting your book to a script Charlayne Henry	Theft of Middle Eastern Antiquities that Fund Ter- rorism Louis Intres		Social	
12:00	Using Violence as Literary Device Mullins, Angley, Faulkner	Treat Your Manuscript with TLC Editing Joyce Gilmour	Stealth & Precision America's High-Tech Air Force Jim Hannibal	Social	Bob Calvert GI Radio Show Hotel Bar 12-1pm
01:00	War Gaming Jim Werbaneth	Communications Panel 1:00-2:30 pm	Victorian Woman in Cri- mean & Civil Wars Part 2 Maggie Abbott	Social	Joseph Beth Book Signing Children's Books 1-3:00 pm Kathleen Dunn Sandra Linhart Michelle & DeAnne Sherman Lynn Salsi Ross MacKenzie
02:00	Dealing with PTSD Jerry Yellin Ed Schloeman		The Good, the Bad, and the Slutty Lee & Vista Boyland Part 1	MWSA TV Meeting Hotel Bar	Talking with Heroes Bob Calvert Award Winners Hotel Bar
03:00			The Good, the Bad, and the Slutty Lee & Vista Boyland Part 2	Social	
Free time from 4:00-6:00 pm People's Choice Award Voting					
Cash Bar Banquet and Awards Ceremony 6:00-10:00 pm					

MWSA Pittsburgh Conference and Awards Banquet Registration Form

Name:

MWSA Member #

Special Interest Luncheon (Check 1):

- ☐ Lunch with Founder
- ☐ Oral History
- ☐ Women Authors
- ☐ History/Historical Fiction,
- ☐ Illustration/Photography/Graphics
- ☐ Children and YA Authors
- ☐ Mystery/Thriller/SciFi
- ☐ Nonfiction/Business/How To

Book signing (Check 1): ☐ Kelly-Strayhorn Theater (add \$20), ☐ Open Mic

Theater Ticket for Guest (add \$20): Y/N

Are you bringing a Guest to Banquet? (add \$40): Y/N

List Workshops of interest to you:

Member Fees: \$240 (inclusive of luncheon, theater ticket, and banquet)

Non-member Fee: \$260 (inclusive of luncheon, theater ticket, and banquet)

Guests for Luncheon? If yes, add \$20 per person

Guests for Theater? If yes, add \$20 per person

Guest for Banquet? If yes, add \$40 per person

If you are signing at Kelly-Strayhorn, add \$20

Example, if you are a member who is NOT signing at the Kelly-Strayhorn and you are bringing 1 guest who wants to participate in a luncheon, go to the theater and the banquet, your fees would be =
 $\$240 + \$20 \text{ for Guest Luncheon} + \$20 \text{ for Guest Theater Ticket} + \$40 \text{ for Guest Banquet} = \310

Send check and application to :
MWSA, PO Box 264, Bridgeville, PA 15017

Contact Wyndham University Place at 412-683-2040 to make hotel arrangements separately!

How To

SILVER —*The Burntwater's Cook Kitchen Guide* — David Michaelson
GOLD —*A Retailer's Guide to Frugal In-Store Promotion* —Carolyn Howard-Johnson

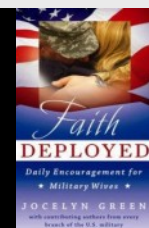


Reference

HONRABLE MENTION—*MST: Military Sexual Trauma* – Miette Wells
HONORABLE MENTION—*25 FREE References EVERY Texas Veteran Needs to Know* – Marylyn Harris
BRONZE--*The Politics & Security of the Gulf* – Jeffrey Macris

Spiritual/Religious

HONORABLE MENTION —*A Quiet Reality* —Emilio Marrero
BRONZE —*Faith Deployed* —Jocelyn Green
SILVER —*Tear in the Desert* – Fr. Ron Camarda
GOLD —*Battlefields and Blessings* —Jocelyn Green



Military/Air Force

SILVER —*If You Fly Don't Crash*—Charles Bailey
SILVER —*Of War and Weddings* —Jerry Yellin



Military/Coast Guard

GOLD -- *So That Others May Live* – Martha LaGuardia- Kotite

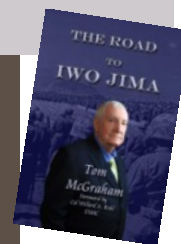
Military/Army

BRONZE -- *They Were Ready: The 164th Infantry* – Terry Shoptaugh
SILVER -- *A Hill Called White Horse* – Anthony Sobieski
GOLD -- *Porcelain on Steel* – Donna McAleer
GOLD -- *The Texas Gun Club* – Mark Bowlin



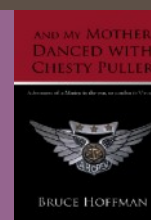
Military/Marines

HONORABLE MENTION —*And My Mother Danced with Chesty Puller* – Bruce Hoffman
SILVER —*The Road to Iwo Jima* —Tom McGraham
GOLD —*Immediate Response* —Claire McNaughton



Military/Navy

HONORABLE MENTION —*War on the Rivers* —Weymouth D. Symmes
BRONZE —*Paper Dragon, Wooden Ship*—Jack L. Wells
SILVER —*How Can You Mend This Purple Heart* —Terry Gould
GOLD—*Shore Duty* —Stewart Harris

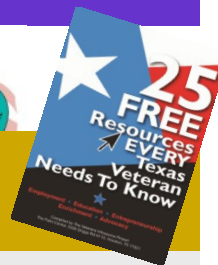


Poetry – Book of Poetry

HONORABLE MENTION—*She Wore Emerald Then*—Carolyn Howard-Johnson & Magdalena Ball
GOLD—*Twisted Tongues*—jim greenwald and Ruth Gerhardt

2010 MWSA Award Winners

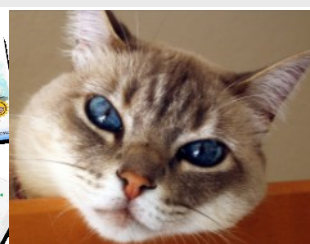
Poetry – Single Poem
GOLD —*POW/MIA* —Mike Mullins



Artistic/Graphic
GOLD—*The Vietnam War: A Graphic History*—Dwight J. Zimmerman

Artistic/Pictorial
HONORABLE MENTION—*AMARG: America's Military Aircraft*—Nicholas Veronico and Ron Strong
BRONZE —*Fields of War*—Robert Mueller
SILVER -- *Cold War Peacemaker* – Don Pyeatt and Dennis R. Jenkins
GOLD—*Lockheed Blackbird Family*—Tony Landis

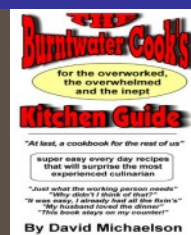
Children Under 12
BRONZE —*Momma's Boots* —Sandra Linhart
SILVER —*The ABC's of OCD* —Kathleen Dunn
SILVER —*Daddy's Boots* —Sandra Linhart
GOLD—*My Sailor Dad* —Ross Mackenzie



Young Adult
HONORABLE MENTION -- *My Story: Blogs by Four Military Teens* – Michelle Sherman & DeAnne Sherman
BRONZE —*Tecumseh: Shooting Star of the Shawnee* —Dwight J. Zimmerman
SILVER —*Firefight on Brown Water* —Lynn Salsi
GOLD -- *Finding My Way: A Teenager's Guide to Living with a Parent Who Has Experienced Trauma* —Michelle Sherman & DeAnne Sherman



Audio Books
SILVER —*Kings of the Green Jelly Moon* – Mike Mullins, James Jellerson, Lloyd King, & jim greenwald
SILVER —*Lucky Enough* —Eddie Beesley
GOLD—*Vietnam in Verse* —Mike Mullins



Musical CD
SILVER —*Sailing Away* —James Jellerson
GOLD —*No Turning Back* —Jeff Senour & CTS

MWSA President's Award
Charlayne Henry

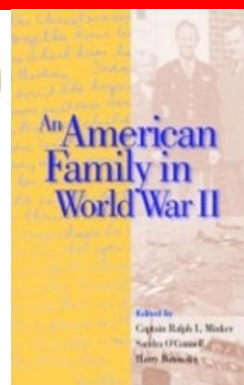


CONGRATULATIONS
TO 2010 WINNERS!



FROM ALL OF MWSA'S
LOVECATS

MWSA DISPATCHES—August 2010



Introducing MWSA Gold Medalist, Jeff Senour

The Sounds of Freedom

By Danny Jones/Independent Writer/Music Critic



Few passengers have realized over the years that Jeff Senour, the captain of their Southwest Airlines flight, was also in a rock band. On the other hand, in 2002 Jeff didn't realize that one of his passengers was Bill McDonald, author, producer of several military movies and founder of the Military Writers Society of America (MWSA). The meeting between the two was nothing but fate.

On this particular trip, a flight attendant mentioned to Bill that Jeff was the lead singer, rhythm guitarist, and head of the CTS rock band—and she then told Jeff who Bill was.

Shortly after landing, the two men met outside the terminal and introduced themselves. Bill told Jeff about MWSA, how it's supportive of authors as well as those aspiring to be ones. Bill said, "Not all, but many members/authors have served our country and have written about their experiences." Jeff joined immediately and from that point he's had MWSA's support.

As one of Jeff's biggest fans, Bill has written numerous positive reviews for his music. And this year, Jeff and CTS won a MWSA Gold medal for their CD, *No Turning Back*. In 2004 he received the organization's band music video of the year award. Additionally, CTS was recently given an award from the Congressional Medal Of Honor Society for its original song, *You Won't Be Forgotten*, placed in the recent "Run for the Wall" Veteran memorial DVD in honor of our Veterans.

Since that chance encounter eight years ago, the friendship between Jeff and Bill has grown stronger. Their relationship greatly affected some



of Jeff's efforts, including producing the CTS "Freedom Rocks Experience."

This production will headline the Patriot Guard Riders' (PGR) Thursday, September 9 — Sunday September 12, "National Gathering of the Guard 2010" in Killeen, TX, home of the Army's Ft. Hood. Jeff describes CTS's concert Friday night, September 11, as "a multi-media rock experience honoring the real American hero. From the military and police to firefighters and teachers, Freedom Rocks captures the idea of the American dream." He adds, "The American heart and spirit are what made this

country the place everyone in the world wants to be a part of, and the Freedom Rocks concert honors those Real American Heroes who've made this possible."

At the concert, he will also show CTS's support of area high school orchestras by having them play on stage. This event represents a continuing partnership with PGR as Jeff has aligned himself with its mission through past Freedom Rocks shows. Many riders have even been featured in several of the CTS music videos.

This year Jeff's contribution to PGR is coming to fruition in a very unique way. For those unable to attend the rally and concert, he has paired with PGR for "Sponsor a Fort Hood Soldier to the CTS Freedom Rock Experience." Your ticket purchase not only sends a soldier out for a night of fun, but ticket sales will go to Patriot Guard Riders

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(Continued from page 14) **Jones**

and Snowball Express charities.

Tickets for the rally, or for just the concert, can be purchased on the following link:

<http://mrsliutenant.blogspot.com/2010/07/sponsor-fort-hood-soldier-or-wounded.html>

Patriot Guard Riders' Jim Grant says of Jeff and his mission, "I've known Jeff for some time, but it feels like forever. Honestly, he's a rare individual, always wanting to know what he can do to help support our Troops. He has an unbelievable heart of gold, and remaining true to who he is, he's on the threshold of amazing things!"

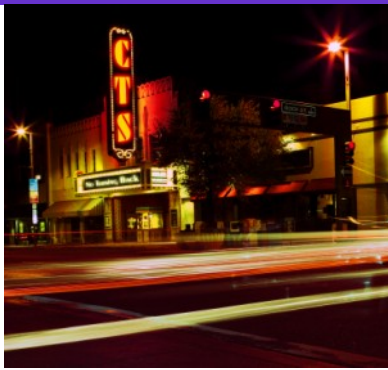
Jeff hasn't stopped there. He's donating to PRG 20 percent of the "No Turning Back" album sales in support of its causes, including shielding bereaved families and their communities from protestors at military funerals.

The continued relationship with MWSA has presented several invaluable opportunities and exposures in the patriotic artists' journey. For example, member Lillian Cauldwell, author and the woman behind the microphone on her own show, "Internet Voices Radio," has been helpful. For several years, she has not only granted the singer/songwriter air-time for his music, but on several occasions he's hosted her talk show.

Lillian also supported him by sending his video, "You Won't Be Forgotten," to a White House contact. About a month later he received from President Bush, on official White House letterhead, the President's thanks for Jeff's musical contribution to our Troops. Proudly, he displays it in his office.

Experiences like that have provided other opportunities for the musician. For instance, several of his songs have spent four years on *Run for the Wall*, a DVD produced by International Pictures FX.

In the past three years he's enjoyed involvement with the charity, Snowball Express. Thanks to American Airlines, Snowball Express annually flies to a four-day festival more than 2,000 children and adults who, since 9/11, have lost loved



ones on active duty. These gatherings, also held regionally, provide love, healing, hope and happiness. Jeff has written and recorded on CTS's latest CD the song, *Snowball Express*, specifically dedicated to the organization. On a side note, Snowball Express members are attending the rally and PGR is donating to the charity \$3 for each ticket

sold.

MWSA has been very instrumental to Jeff in getting to where he is now. Who could have known that his dream could be accredited to a fateful meeting with Bill McDonald so many years ago? "I'm very much honored to say that it's all because of Bill's belief in me," says Jeff.

The PRG rally is a major event for all of us who support our heroes. What better place can you express your patriotism to our heroes than at Fort Hood? It will be an event you'll never forget. And the "Freedom Rocks" production is just the beginning of a new chapter in the continuing story of CTS.

For tickets to "National Gathering of the Guard 2010," go to <http://gotg2010.eventbrite.com/>

To learn more about Jeff Senour and CTS, visit www.ctsbackstage.com



They keep on coming

“Kamsahapnida”/“Thank You”

By Barbara Killmeyer

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the beginning on June 25, 1950, of the three-year Korean War. Supported by the Soviet Union and Red China, North Korea's military attack on the Republic of South Korea was to envelope the entire Korean Peninsula in communism.

South Korea has never stopped saying ‘thank you.’ Those who receive continuing gratitude from the Republic of Korea (ROK) are U.S. veterans and those of 15 other U.N. countries who helped the ROK military push North Korea back across the 38th parallel. It was the first major conflict of the Cold War and it was bitter. Of America's 1,800,000 troops, about 37,000 died, and with those missing in action, the total is in excess of 54,000. South Korea lost more than 415,000 soldiers and about 1,500,000 citizens; North Korea and China, an estimated 1,500,000 to two million.

The strong bond between Pittsburgh's veterans and the South Korean people goes back to 1991 when Ed Stevens and about a dozen other Korean War vets formed the Matthew B. Ridgway chapter, Korean War Veterans Association. (One of these bonds: Pennsylvania had the fifth highest number – 201,400 – of men and women in the Korean War and, of these 27,000 were from Western Pennsylvania.)

Today, the Matthew B. Ridgway chapter has 390 of the KWVA's about 17,600 members. One of the chapter's initial accomplishments was the for-

mation of a Color Guard to provide military honors at funerals and post colors at various community functions and to carry the colors in parades.



President Lee Myung-Bak, Republic of Korea, asked Pittsburgh area Korean War veterans if he could honor them with a wreath-laying at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. With President Lee at the 2009 ceremony is Korean War veteran, Ed Vogel (right) who, at the time was president of the Matthew B. Ridgway Chapter, Korean War Veterans Association. Chapter members raised the funds to build the memorial. It was dedicated in 1999 and, when the site was further enhanced, rededicated in 2001.

Photo -- Burt Kennedy, Matthew B. Ridgway Chapter, Korean War Veterans Association.

“Our partnership was forged in blood.” — Brigadier General

Koo-khan Kim, Republic of Korea,
Pittsburgh, June 2010,
60th Anniversary, Korean War

Also early on, chapter members began receiving “thanks” from the Pittsburgh Korean community. And on or near the anniversary of the war's start, the veterans are dinner guests of the city's Korean Church and its Reverend Young Cho.

The bond with South Korea was further strengthened after the chapter raised about \$750,000 to build the Korean War Veterans Memorial on land donated by the city. The memorial, one of the earliest among 99 in the country, was dedicated in 1999 and, when the site was further enhanced, rededicated in 2001. The memorial is positioned and shaped to capture sunlight through its vertical spaces. As the sun travels the horizon, columns of light shine onto the ground, highlighting words that express individual and shared experiences about the war.

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(Continued from page 16) **Killmeyer**

“The Koreans always go out of their way to show appreciation,” says Don McIlrath, vice president, Matthew B. Ridgway KWVA chapter. “Our memorial is well-known to them. It’s even on South Korea’s television.”

As luck would have it, in September 2009 the G-20 Summit was in Pittsburgh and among world leaders to attend was the Republic of Korea’s President Lee Myung-Bak. A day before the Summit, President Lee honored Korean veterans by laying a wreath at the memorial. During a pre-ceremony luncheon that he hosted, President Lee presented the vets with original tiles depicting South Korean scenes. Among Korea’s Washington Embassy officials at the event was Attaché Brigadier General Koo-khan Kim.

The now Korean Embassy’s Defense Attaché Brigadier General Kim, returned to Pittsburgh in June to host a 60th Anniversary Luncheon for Korean veterans and their guests. Beyond the always spoken “thank-yous” for their service in helping to make South Korea the free nation that it is today, the veterans received a framed thank-you letter and a commemorative medallion.

President Lee and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton observed the 60th anniversary in April by laying a wreath at the Korean War Memorial in Washington. In return, in July Secretary Clinton laid a wreath at the Korean War Memorial in Seoul, Korea.

The Korean War, once referred to by some as the “Forgotten War,” is now the “Unforgettable War.” South Koreans and our veterans and those of other countries have made it so.

“All Koreans pay tribute to the heroes fallen in defense of our freedom and democracy.”

— President Lee Myung-bak,
Republic of Korea, Washington,
D.C., April 12, 2010, 60th
Anniversary, Korean War



Veteran Ed Stevens posing with the Pittsburgh Korean War Memorial

Military Vehicles Trader magazine lists trader shows, auctions and special events as well as military-themed books. Among this month’s activities: jeep collection auction, annual military show and exhibition, and the Nokesville, VA, American War-time Museum open house featuring more than 50 vintage military vehicles, demonstrations and reenactments. <http://www.militarytrader.com/GeneralMenu/>

Korean War Vets Honor General Ridgway

"I cannot conceive that God has given any man a richer, fuller more satisfying life than mine, for it was spent in service with, and for, that finest product of our civilization – the American soldier." General Matthew B. Ridgway (1895-1993)

In 1991 Pittsburgh's Ed Stevens gathered together about a dozen other area Korean War veterans to form the General Matthew B. Ridgway Chapter, Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA). While naming the chapter – now with 390 members – in honor of General Ridgway, the strong links between the Western Pennsylvania/Pittsburgh Korean veterans and the general include more than his historic salvaging of U.S. and U.N. efforts during the first year of the Korean War.

"Heroes come when they're needed; great men step forward when courage seems in short supply."— Ronald Reagan in presenting General Matthew Ridgway the Presidential Medal of Freedom, 1986.

Two years after the chapter organized, and in the Pittsburgh area home of General Ridgway and his wife, he died at 98 from cardiac arrest. He'd moved to the suburb of Fox Chapel in 1955 following retirement, and until 1960 was Chairman, Board of Trustees, Mellon Institute for Industrial Research. (The Institute and Carnegie Institute of Technology merged into what is now Carnegie Mellon University.) He's left an intellectual presence in Western Pennsylvania. In 1989, Carnegie Mellon University dedicated its Ridgway International Peace Shrine and, a year earlier, the University of Pittsburgh opened its Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies.

During his Pittsburgh retirement years, General Ridgway published two books – an autobiography and *The Korean War*. He's called "one of America's greatest generals" by military historians. But no reference to the general would be complete with his nickname, "Old Iron Tits," given to him by troops. When touring battlefields, Ridgway wore two metal canisters clipped on each side of his shoulder harness. One was a first aid kit, the other, a hand grenade.

Career Highlights, General Matthew B. Ridgway

West Point graduate; infantry instructor (Texas), WWI; Commander, 82nd Airborne Division, WWII; Commanding General, U.S. Eighth Army, Korea 1950-51; Supreme Allied Commander, Far East, including overseeing the Korean War, 1951-1952; Supreme Allied Commander, Europe 1952-53; Army Chief of Staff, 1953-55.

Nancy Yockey Bonar

Pittsburgh Korean Veterans Memorial.



The establishment of the memorial was spearheaded by members of the local Matthew B. Ridgway Chapter, Korean War Veterans Association. The Korean War Memorial is located on North Shore Drive (Allegheny River) between Heinz Field and PNC Park within walking distance of SoHo Restaurant.

Moon's Mutterings—Mike Mullins

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Normally, we stay away from politics at MWSA because there are as many perspectives about war as there are veterans. Having said that, sometimes our beliefs—our understandings of the world that surrounds us—are at the root of our need to write. In particular, for those suffering from PTSD, anger simmers, nightmares torment, and grief aches forever. Often, writing releases the building pressure like a valve releases steam. Mike Mullins has agreed to share with us his very private sorrows and fury in this piece that he wrote called "Today I Cried." It's an extra-ordinary peek into his pain and frustration.*

Today I drove to the Veteran's Administration Campus in Marion, Indiana. It is hilarious that they refer to them as "campi" because they certainly are not collegial. It was my first appointment with a counselor. Somehow I was never steered to one during the entire process of being evaluated for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and denied compensation.

I never wanted to admit I had a disorder. I have had nightmares and anger issues for years without admitting or even understanding why. Even though I counsel others—listen to them, tell them to seek help, claim what is rightfully theirs, and care—I have never heeded my own advice. The first step in any process is taking one. I thought I had. However, the man who evaluated me did not like me. His only purpose was to reject me. He did. He pissed me off, made me fight harder, and inadvertently made me take the next step.

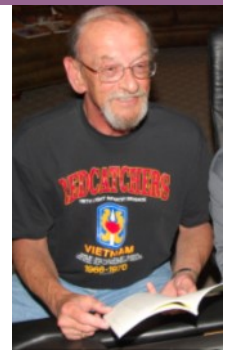
I'd crammed myself into my wife's cute bug of a little yellow car. She has my vehicle—traveling on a well-deserved respite from her mother and me. The radio hummed some oldies while I thought about an essay I plan to write about the man I consider the number two enemy to the Vietnam veteran, right behind Jane Fonda. It will be an opinion piece. It will be controversial. I am going to speak about a dead icon in the American news industry, but in my opinion he is not as good a man as any

man whose name appears on that black granite Wall in D.C. My mother used to tell me to never speak ill of the dead. The quasi-intellectual crowd does not let that little moral boundary muffle them, therefore I will not. I had not even planned on writing this tonight. I was going to write some mini-stories for a section in my new book—yet here I am..."a-settin'" and "a-pokin'" at the "puter."

Last night, I took a break from a short story I was writing, thinking about the same topic in my head now. I mulled over it this afternoon as well. The cruise control was set right on the money. I have grown particularly averse to speeding tickets and the accompanying fines. My cell phone, set on vibrate, rested comfortably under my testicles so I would not miss an important call. I could focus and sort thoughts, thereby committing them to some memory card inside my withering mind.

Walter Kronkite was a news giant at one time. His word was gospel. His employer made money from every word he spoke. By the sixties, news was no longer a break-even proposition for the networks with programming the cash cow. It was a cash cow on its own. The role of newscasters had changed and they were more and more becoming opinion-spewers—and less and less news reporters. It was subtle, but now we have seen the evolution so complete that the mainstream media relies almost one hundred percent on that and it does very little news. They revel in controlling public opinion. They learned about that power while covering the Vietnam War. It was not the reporters as much as it was the puppet masters. The puppets had to respond to keep their jobs, I believe. Salary increases and success were tied to doing it well eventually and "eventually" had begun.

Kronkite looked right into the camera while the smoke still wafted into the air from the battle and



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(Continued from page 19) *Mullins*

said we lost the 1968 Tet Offensive. He told the American public that we lost! He stood right there, knowing that he only saw what was around him, knowing in his heart he had no facts, only an opinion, knowing he was *against* the war, and said we lost! He blatantly lied to America. And because he was who he was, the public took it as irrefutable and true. It twisted the mind and heart of American supporters and her future warriors. We did not lose that battle. I am going by memory here, but I am pretty sure I am close to the numbers. We killed 70,000 enemy troops around the country that day and wounded approximately another 150,000 NVA and Viet Cong. We sadly lost 2,000 dead and 20,000 wounded—but their supply lines were in disarray. Their communications were almost completely destroyed. Their bunker complexes were in tact but sparsely populated as many of the professional troops had retreated into neighboring countries and it would take time for the VC to mount a successful recruitment campaign. Kronkite's words gave them that time as it turned out. They were so defeated that the Spring Tet was a miserable failure for them. The *facts* never supported his assertion.

Kronkite's words were so powerful that Lyndon Johnson stupidly resorted to prevarication about our successes and inflated numbers rather than doing what was making us successful with our Search and Destroy missions. Doing what is right works. Lies do not. I firmly believe Westmoreland lied because he had to do so. He became a political scapegoat. Johnson was a goat. We became the sacrificial lambs. The public was in large measure poisoned. The proof is in the pudding. Many soldiers came to war then believing they were fighting a lost war, for a lost cause, and all for false reasons. They were half-hearted and there was weak commitment then at all levels. Kronkite did that from his pulpit—and he was the strongest preacher in town. Young men fled to Canada. Nobody wants to play on the losing team. Kids used to leave the schoolyard when they were the last to be chosen for a team. Professional athletes ask for trade clauses in their contracts today to get away from losing teams. It is an undeniable mindset. I

am convinced that had the assertion never been made it would have made an incredible difference. The soldiers who came after me often believed they were joining a bunch of losers, only to be wasted themselves. Soldiers did not lose that war.

Wow, I have shared the gist of what I was thinking about writing. My point in sharing it is that I had opened my mind and heart during the drive to Marion. My soul was unbuttoned before I ever got there. It is opinion too.

The session started late. I remembered the counselor. After we started, he remembered me. I had donated a book to his group after the first one was released. He had read my file but we still had to dance. The questions came then. I usually deflect. I never really talk about me. I avoid the tough stuff although I have talked about some of it with a very select few. In short, I opened up to a complete stranger and I have no clue why. He seemed to doubt I had dreams. He wanted proof. He wanted to know how many, when they started, why they were bothersome, how they interfered with my life. He had me answer 17 questions after I calmed down. Always questions that quantify. I told him that what is normal and common to me may be entirely different to another. Those things are subjective as hell. If someone else were in my head he might think every thought was extreme even though I have come to view them as acceptable and normal. That whole routine is bogus, but they have to have a baseline of some kind I realize.

Suddenly, I am sitting there with my guts in my hands, like I had been shot with an AK-47 from about 100 meters. They were spilling all over the floor and I was crying like a freaking baby. God, I could not believe I let myself go like that in front of anyone, much less him! Tears were streaming down my face and I couldn't talk. My shoulders shook like they did when my dad died. I'd stood in the shower that morning all alone and screamed into the showerhead like it was a microphone linked directly to God. I did not even do any kind of sequence. It was exactly the way dreams hit me—randomly, out of order. The demons were all screaming and leaping out of their boxes, the lids

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(Continued from page 20) *Mullins*

were off and the flames were screaming out of my ears. I told the counselor that the ringing was enough by itself to keep me from sleeping at night, but add the demons to it and the world explodes!

I remembered the sampan being pulled up to the river bank and us pulling body parts out and trying to match them up so we could get a body count from the morning patrol.

I remembered lying there in the dark night by myself, as ordered, tapping my tube on the bank of the river to get a live hang-fire out without killing myself. My God, I was scared.

I remembered holding the saline bag for a man I never knew while we waited for a medevac chopper. He had been hit in the collar bone and the round ricocheted down through his body. It went through his heart, his lungs, his guts, and went out between his legs, castrating him. He begged me to cover him and not tell the guys on the ship so it would not be reported. He did not want his wife to know that he died less than a man. He took off his ring and had me put it in his New Testament and promise not tell anyone. He died there while I held him.

My God, I am crying again! I will forever and ever. Tell that frigging psyche doctor I have no damned memories or dreams. Tell the pencil-neck geek that, will you? I did everything he asked. He died.

The first time I was in an ambush, we could not shut the combat photographer up. It took many, many shots of morphine to quiet him. The leech almost got me shot. I learned to smoke that night too. That is killing me now. That is funny as hell, is it not? That same operation, a guy threw a grenade up hill. I was walking drag. The grenade came back down the hill. The fuse delay gave it time to go off about 20 feet from me, but I am not dead. I should be, but God's hand turned my poncho into some kind of invisible shield and the shrapnel went all around me. Why? I earned my CIB (Combat Infantry Badge) the second week I was in the field.

He asked me if I was combat. That is funny. I told

him I was rarely out of the field. Maybe three times in the entire year. We had some duty that was around Saigon, but it was always combat type duty, not REMF (Rear Echeolon Mother F**ker).

Three days in-country and I am doing in-country orientation. We are Tet replacements. Now I have known since the 5th or 6th week of Basic where I was going and what I was going to be doing. No surprises for me. I have been well trained. Hell, I like throwing hand grenades and stuff. But the desk jocks who got their MOSes changed ain't so happy. We are going through an impromptu grenade training course and some of us have jumped in twice already. The cadre force us out of line and let them go again. There is a sandbag barrier where we toss them. All you have to do is pull the pin and throw. If you get in trouble, you simply drop the live pineapple on the other side and everything is cool. No panic, no sweat. Ain't no thang, ya know? One guy drops the pin and freaks. He drops his grenade and panics, knocks the grenade out of the guy's hand next to him. The next we know we have two or four dead and seven wounded. We have a head blown twenty feet in the air. We have an SFC dead who is due to rotate home in two weeks. We have blood and carnage and guts and screaming and gore and dead bodies all over the f~%-ing place and we ain't even in the f^&*ing field yet! It is real! Man, this is real. We could be dead right now! This ain't a game no more! Yah, I got some memories.

It is late April. Tex-mex is down in front of us. He has a 60. He has been hit. Damn! His arm is gone. He is screaming for help but he is still firing that gun. Oh God, a B-40 got his leg. It is gone! He is still fighting. He is yelling for his mother. Oh my God, nobody can get to him. He is trying to crawl over that log. Damn, that sniper just took his head off. Good, he wasn't gonna make it anyway. He doesn't need his mamma anymore. F+*^ those Gooks. Yes, I heard all of that. I saw that. Yes, I have memories.

Today I cried. F@#* it, it don't mean nuthin'.

Excerpt from *Bullets and Boo-Hoos* by Mike Mullins

Author of the Month goes to jim greenwald and co-author Ruth Naphas Gerhardt for *Twisted Tongues*

Twisted Tongues is a book of Native American historical poetry written by Ruth Naphas Gerhardt and jim greenwald. The poetry is sincere with the authors opening their hearts to show how history has been misrepresented. They share the truth about a part of history that didn't appear in my history books and I wonder about yours.

Having lived in Wisconsin all of my life, you might think that I would know many Native Americans, but I really don't. There was a five year part of my life that I did, however, share with three beautiful Winnebago Indian children. They were a sibling group that happened to be in our county system as foster children. I had the honor and pleasure of being a foster mom to these kids and fell deeply in love with them.

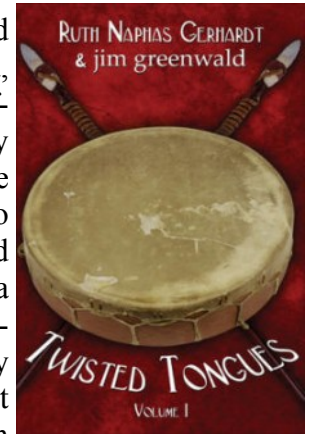
The authors share that there are many stereotypes about Native Americans. My group of three children came to us because their mom was dealing with alcoholism. Their father was not a part of their life. After five years with these children (ages 12, 14, and 16), my husband and I checked into the possibility of adopting the sibling trio. The tribe would not hear of it because they "didn't want their children assimilated into 'White culture.'" When the children were all teenagers, an aunt from out-of-state came into the picture and received custody of the children, after telling lies to the foster care system, and we ended up in court to defend our reputations, which was majorly important considering I am a school teacher, and the false accusations could have lost me my license and the future adoptions of five children. It cost us a lot of money to work through that whole process, but none of that matters to me anymore. What matters is that I "lost" my three children, and it was worse than experiencing a death, because I didn't even get a good-bye.

The ONLY thing that pulled me through the loss was that our first baby (through adoption) came into our life and every time I went to the threshold

of his nursery door, I said this prayer: "Dear Lord, please don't let my pain affect my baby. Don't let my hurt transfer to my little boy. Help me, Father, to regain my strength and move on from this." After a year with this aunt, the oldest child contacted me, very unhappy because she felt her aunt had taken them in

order to get their "Indian money." This whole situation absolutely broke my heart. I felt like a number of the stereotypic comments about Native Americans were being "proved" to me.

So I have lived with a broken heart due to "my children" being taken and communication cut off forever. I can't say that I've been living with resentment within myself, but I have lived with not understanding the reasons the tribe had for their decisions. Somewhere within me I buried the pain. I didn't have the history that has been shared in *Twisted Tongues* to help me on this journey in life.



Authors of the Month August 2010

(Continued on page 23)

(Continued from page 22) *Gilmour*

When offered the chance to read *Twisted Tongues* I had no clue the impact that it would have on my heart and my thinking. I didn't even have a clue that it dealt with Native American history. The authors had no clue that I had any experience with loving three Native American children. I believe that the connection was meant to be, and fourteen years after this painful time in my life, *Twisted Tongues* has begun to heal the hurts that have been buried deep within me.

Why do I share all of this? Because *Twisted Tongues* has revealed Native American history to me. Authors greenwald and Gerhardt have written beautiful poetry to explain history and no condemnation comes through it. I now understand that the birth parents of my three Winnebago (Ho-Chunk) Indian children could have had to deal with unbearable hardships. Who knows what their parents and grandparents faced? Who knows what they themselves faced? I now totally understand why the tribe wouldn't want their children "assimilated" in the "White world." Read the poem, "Suffer the Little Children" to see what happened to approximately 12,000 Indian children.

Have you heard the expression "Walk a mile in someone else's moccasins"? Well, *Twisted Tongues* certainly will get you out of your shoes and into a pair of moccasins. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to read this book. I hope that others will receive a blessing from reading it, because of the understanding it brings about Native American history. Thank you, jim greenwald and Ruth Naphas Gerhardt, for pouring your hearts into this project. Thank you for working at enlightening people and doing it in such a way that we can learn and hopefully it will make a difference in our thinking and our lives.

Review by Joyce M. Gilmour (July 2010)

Meet MWSA 2010 Gold Medalist, Ross MacKenzie

Ross H. Mackenzie graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1994 with a BS in English. In 2002, he earned an M.A. in Liberal Arts from St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr. Mackenzie is a Navy pilot who has deployed multiple times on eight ships to many parts of the world. His missions have included the enforcement of UN sanctions against Iraq, counter-narcotics flights, and global presence with the multi-nation Standing Naval Maritime Group. Mr. Mackenzie has also taught English literature and writing at the US Naval Academy for four years.

Mr. Mackenzie finds his passions in wide open spaces as an avid outdoorsman, boater, backpacker, and mountaineer. He is extremely involved in his church and committed to the *Anglican Mission in the Americas*. He is a devoted father and husband.

Mackenzie's other books include *Brief Points: An Almanac for Parents and Friends of U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen, Third Edition* (Naval Institute Press, 2004).



***David and the Mighty Eighth* by Marjorie Hodgson Parker is August Book of the Month**

A Terrific Read for Young Adults (and their parents)

Marjorie Hodgson Parker's book, *David & the Mighty Eighth*, is an easy and engaging read, highly recommended for the young adult audience she is aiming for (and adults will find it excellent as well). Marjorie's historical fiction book is based on a true story of the British who endured the relentless attacks of the *Luftwaffe* during the *Blitzkrieg* ("Blitz") of World War II.

From the opening sentence ("Sirens wailed between deafening explosions."), the book flows relentlessly along. It opens with bombs falling on London as the Freeman family huddles in a bunker. David, the son, is young and scared. Mary, his sister, is shell shocked—and their mother stoically endures it all. We soon learn that the father is a hero, a *Spitfire* pilot, defending the skies against great odds from the *Luftwaffe* attacks. Then, this family, which has endured so much, finds out that the father has been shot down over Holland and his fate is not learned until the denouement of the book.

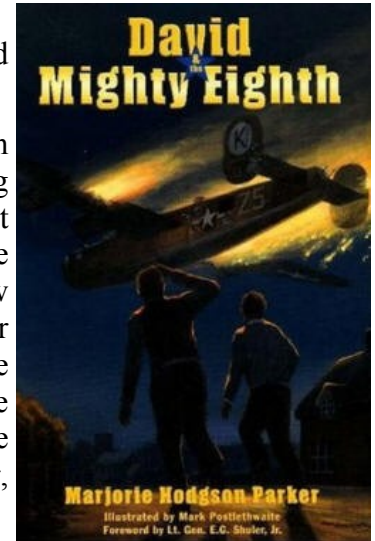
Because London is so dangerous, David and Mary are sent by their mother to their grandparents' farm in East Anglia. There the two siblings work hard on the farm at chores, and David hopes for his grandfather's approval, which always seems withheld. David forms a friendship with Roger, and they develop a fascination with the planes the "Yanks" bring when they arrive to begin fighting the war alongside their British allies. Eventually David meets an American—Tex, pilot of a B-24 *Liberator* named "Pugnacious Patty." Much of the remainder of the story is a coming of age tale, as David questions his courage, worries continually about his father's fate, and has anxious days trying to win his grandfather's approval, succeed in school, and handle his fear that Tex and his crew will not return from their dangerous missions over Germany. Meanwhile, romance burgeons between Tex and Mary. David's courage is tested as a V-1 bomb explodes over a farmhouse and David

must rescue the blind man within.

The author has done an excellent job making the reader **care** about these people. We care that Tex and his crew return safely from their missions and are able to return home to the United States. We care about David's father, David, and his family.

This is a book about faith, courage, sacrifice, strength, and families. There are lessons here aplenty for young readers, and one hopes this book is widely read by American youths who have not been tested as these stalwart Brits were during the dark days of World War II.

Review by Weymouth Symmes, July 2010



Book of the Month August 2010

Frank Evans, Chairman of the Judging Committee ...



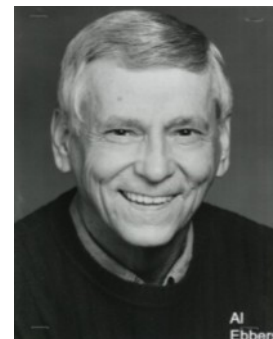
We are getting close to our annual conference in Pittsburgh and I am excited about all the great opportunities that Joyce and the other volunteers have arranged for us. As you know, we will announce the winner of the William E. Mayer Award during the conference. We are closing out the competition soon. We

have received only a few candidates for July. In order to make this a true competition, we will combine July's entrants with those we receive for August. This is your last chance to compete for this distinguished award so I am looking forward to receiving numerous offerings from you. Let's end up this competition with a bang! This month's word is "Celebrate!"

News Brief

Landing ship, tank, USS LST-325, is set to cruise the Ohio for visitors' tours in several river cities where many LSTs were built. Among the WWII and Korean War achievements of LST-325 – in the Navy's first convoy to reach the European war zone and participation in the Sicily invasion. Acquired in 2000 by USS LST Memorial, Inc., she's now the official LTS memorial, she's homeported in Evansville, Indiana. This is her port-of-call schedule: Wheeling, August 27-30; Pittsburgh (location of Amphibian Week Reunion, US LST Association Convention) – tours September 2 – 6, three short river cruises, September 7; Marietta, September 10-14; Evansville homeport, September 11. (Schedule can change without notice. To confirm arrivals and departures <http://www.lstmemorial.org/events.htm> or the ship's phone—812-435-8678

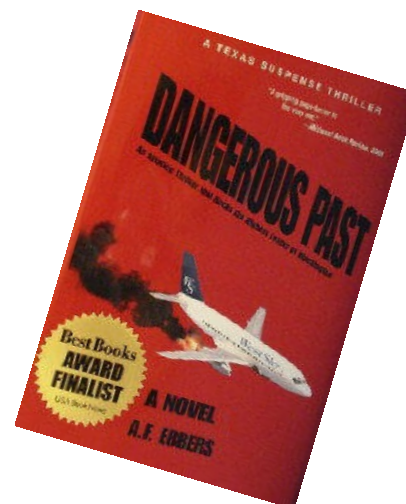
Meet Allen Ebbers, MWSA 2010 Bronze Medalist



I retired from the Army in 1985 as a CW4 aviator after 24-1/2 years. In the service. I flew both fixed wing and helicopters. After high school I was drafted and served in Alaska during the Korean War and afterwards used that GI Bill at Ohio University. Then, I served two tours as a pilot in Vietnam.

While a civilian, I flew for the Army National Guard both in Ohio and Kansas. Prior to returning to active duty, I was a reporter/writer for major newspapers and ad agencies. I worked in public relations for the Cessna Aircraft company for several years. I've also written screenplays, short stories, and feature articles for national business, trade, aviation and travel magazines. After I retired, I flew for both corporations and regional airlines. *Dangerous Past* is my debut novel with a sequel pending. I live with my wife in Austin, Texas.

My publishing company is silverhawkbooks.com and since Baker & Taylor is my wholesaler my books can be ordered through any bookstore or dot.coms



**We must understand the gravity of this disorder—
and help our returning Warriors**

I was eighteen years old when I enlisted in the Army Air Corp, nineteen when I graduated flying school as a fighter pilot and three weeks into my 21st year when I landed on Iwo Jima on March 7, 1945.



The sights, remnants of 21,000 Japanese and 7000 American Marines who were killed on that 8 square mile Island, the sounds and the smells were fresh in my mind when I was discharged in December 1945 and they did not leave for thirty years. I could not get what I saw and did out of my mind. I truly was a lost soul with no help, no guidance, no diagnosis and no one to turn to.

Then in 1975 I learned Transcendental Meditation, it changed my life, I found a way to connect with myself, to begin thinking and acting in a manner that made me aware of my place in society and helped me lead a normal life.

We have thousands of young veterans coming back from war today suffering from what I suffered and now known as PTSD. It is important for me that they do not wander for a good portion of their lives as I did. TM is available to all veterans and their families through Operation Warrior Wellness, a division of the David Lynch Foundation, a non-profit corporation. I urge all who read this to understand the gravity of this disorder and help us help our returning Warriors.

Captain (ret) Jerry Yellin

P-51 Pilot WWII

Co-chair, Operation Warrior Wellness



Introducing 2010 Gold Medalist, Hugh Scott

Hugh Scott has enjoyed a broad background as a newspaper reporter, career Army officer, financial manager, and university instructor.

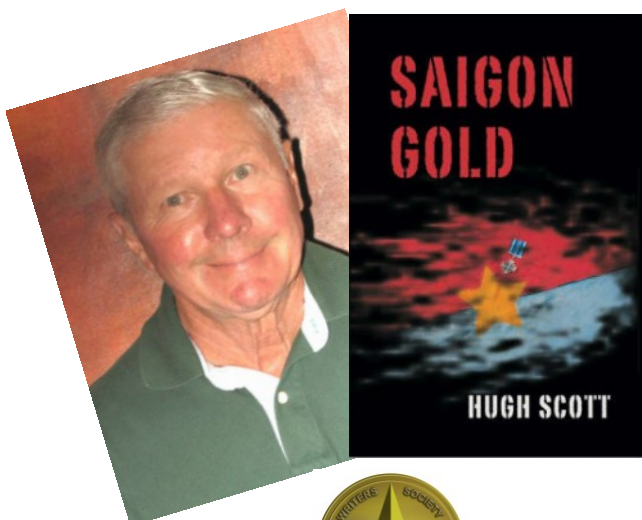
Military service includes two years in Vietnam with U.S. and South Vietnamese combat infantry units. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, four Bronze Stars, four Air Medals, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He returned to Vietnam four times in recent years for educational and business reasons and to collect materials for his book and website, www.saigongold.com.

Following his military career, Scott worked in senior financial management and taught corporate finance courses at the University of San Francisco and the University of California Berkeley International Diploma Program.

His education includes a BA in journalism and an MBA in finance. He graduated with honors from the Army Command and General Staff College.

Saigon Gold is his debut novel. A censored version is licensed and distributed in Vietnam.

He and wife, Christine, have lived in Sedona, Arizona since 2003.



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INTEGRITY...



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Books for Brats by Michelle Ferguson-Cohen

It took some distance for me to truly value my upbringing as a military brat. The courage, strength, and bravery exhibited by my parents and by my father's colleagues during his service in the military were part of my everyday life. In retrospect, after some time in the civilian world, one realizes how truly rare and unselfish the lives of military families are. I took it for granted, but it most definitely gave me my ideal of a true hero.

Everyone's very first hero is his/her parent—the person who they can depend on, look up to and always count on to save them. Children completely depend on their parents for everything from food and shelter to emotional support and nurturing. For children of military personnel, their parent is not just a hero to them, but to their country and the world. Their concept of hero is even more personal, rich, and multi-layered.

Military parents put service before self and teach their children the concept of sacrifice first hand. For a military brat, a parent is not just someone who comes to his/her rescue, but who comes to the rescue of others. Children in military families accept early on that they too must make sacrifices for the greater good—and without any choice often do sacrifice the most basic and important needs in their young lives.

I came to the realization of what my upbringing in a military family meant after watching 9/11 from my rooftop in Brooklyn. My heart went out to my fellow military brats. I knew that it was those families like my own, who would be making tough sacrifices and suffering years apart as we did during Vietnam. Then, I thought about the children from my community. I wanted to show my fellow military brats that they were not alone. Like their



parents, they too were heroes—not just for making sacrifices every day, but more importantly for understanding and living a tradition of service.

I sat down and wrote my own experience as the child of a deploying soldier. It was one of

those rare occasions as a writer where the words just burst from my heart and landed like teardrops on the paper.

I painfully remembered how, during my father's multiple tours in Vietnam, the media and several trusted adults suggested that my father's mission or actions were less than honorable. I encountered everything from subtle insinuations to direct slurs and attacks on his character and even name-calling. In essence, adults were telling children that their own parents were not heroes. This, sadly, was an experience many adult children of veterans tell me they have shared. I did not want this same experience for this next generation of military brats.

Suggestions that a soldier is “wasting their time” or on a “failed or useless mission” may make a child feel that their parent has abandoned them for no good reason. As with most parents, I would never leave my child behind unless it was for a critically important reason. It would be a tragedy and a heart-breaking experience for any parent if they felt that their child doubted that for one second. This implies that a parent is neglectful, as opposed to the truth—that they are making the ultimate sacrifice only a hero would make.

While many adults view these comments as their right to express a political opinion, their insensitivity is an indicator of their lack of awareness about military families. So few people make the sacrifice

(Continued on page 29)

(Continued from page 28) **Ferguson-Cohen**

in our country that ignorance and stereotypes about the military community abound. Military families defend with their very lives the right for people to express their opinions. However, one would hope that that right would be accompanied by sensitivity, thoughtfulness, graciousness, and consideration, especially where young children are concerned—and especially in a classroom setting.

Why should this matter to civilians? For all young children, their self-image, confidence, and identity is closely linked with their perception of their own families and communities. Their self-worth is shaped by their sense of pride in where they come from. Children of service personnel are rooted in the military community. What they hear in school or in the media about their community often determine how they feel about themselves.

We have recognized and acknowledged the importance of this concept in bringing equal opportunity and rights in education to an array of populations and communities in our country, showing more sensitivity and awareness for the experience of all children regardless of race, color, creed or sexual orientation. We have created a safer, more tolerant environment in the classroom for these children by teaching them to value where they come from and who they are. That is the same opportunity I wanted for children whose parents were serving our country.

While I don't believe in censorship, it's very important to have an alternate message with an equally loud voice. I was always very proud of who I was and where I was from. I never encountered an adult with my background and, personally, I thought it would have been helpful when I was a child. I wanted to reach out to the next generation of children, and let them know they were not alone and other people shared their same experience, culture, and struggles.

When I went to share my literary message of pride with the publishing world and civilian media, it was surprising to me how controversial they thought the titles of my books were. "Daddy, You're My Hero!" and "Mommy, You're My Hero!" express a child's natural admiration and

pride in their parent. However, publishers and journalists felt it was political to suggest that our military personnel were heroes, when all I was trying to do was give children the freedom to acknowledge their parents as heroes and have public expression of pride in their parents' service.

This reaction shouldn't have been that surprising since it was likely the reason no other children's picture book featuring military brats had been distributed through mainstream channels. That realization truly gave me further motivation to bring my books to the civilian world. I was determined to prove that my "invisible" community be acknowledged and represented respectfully in the media. It was my mission to prove that the military community deserves the attention of the civilian world not only for its contribution to our society, but also as a viable market appropriate for investment. I knew this would ensure other authors the opportunity to write for this audience. I am proud to say, 10 years later, I have achieved my mission!

In the beginning, I received many recommendations to seek government funding or distribution through military channels. The idea that someone would write a children's book for this audience was new and the instinct was for someone to try and turn it into a bureaucratic pamphlet or deliver it through an adult media. But I wanted these children to have something that was written for them—and presented to them in a way appropriate for their age and allowed them to be children.

I also realized more than ever how important it was for this alternative message of pride to be heard by our civilian neighbors in schools, libraries, and commercial book shelves. I wanted everyone to hear how proud our military families were of our parents in service. I wanted to give civilians an opportunity to get to know their military neighbors. Most of all, I wanted military brats and "suddenly military" families to see themselves and their families represented positively in a book their friends and classmates could read too.

These books were intentionally and unabashedly prideful in our parents. My illustrations proudly displayed our parents' uniforms and the American

(Continued on page 30)

(Continued from page 29) **Ferguson-Cohen**

flag—both so integral to our self identity. For children who are used to being at the mercy of decisions made high above them, these books were written about them, for them, and in their voice.

Even the term military “brat”, which some civilian educators regard as derogatory, many military brats, like myself, wear as a badge of honor. It is a kind of linguistic reclamation. I thought it was important to use that term in marketing my books to remind our community that whatever slurs people might use against you to take them, and remind yourself of who you are, and where you come from.

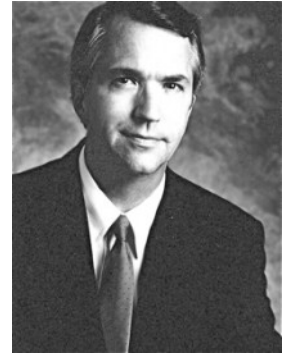
As was my experience, children often don’t recognize how unique their roots are. It’s our responsibility and the primary mission of my books to let our children know how special they are, and how valued their contributions and sacrifices are. They should be told that though they may not come from one geographic area, they are part of a proud community; a community of service, a community of Heroes.

News Brief

Iraq War veteran, Troy Yocum, **Army National Guard**, Indiana’s 151st Infantry, is more than four months into his 16-month, 7,000-hike across America. The Kentucky musician/drummer is banging a real drum as a call for \$5 million to help struggling veterans and military families. With dog, Emmie, at his side, he’s also gathering signatures from mayors and governors to help establish a national “Day of Deployment.”

Troy’s Army roots are deep. The day after the Pearl Harbor bombing, his grandfather and five brothers hiked 15 miles across the Kentucky countryside to enlist in the Army. All brothers returned home, including two who’d been POWs. Visit <http://www.drumhike.com/> for Troy’s video and travel postings, map and 2010-2011 schedules for the cities he’ll visit.

Meet Chuck Bailey. 2010 MWSA Silver Medalist



Charles E. “Chuck” Bailey is a retired Air Force command pilot with tours of duty including the Vietnam War, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and the Cold War. He is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, plus the Air Medal. He holds a BA degree in Communications from the California State University at Fullerton, an MS in Systems Management from USC, and an MA in Education from Chapman University, California. The author is married, with one son. He has survived the debilitating symptoms of Parkinson’s since 1996; he plans on regaining his flying status as soon as possible.

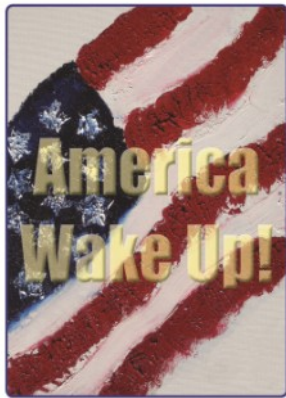


Historical Note

Merchant Marines were in battle before Pearl Harbor. In 1939 one of its ships and crew were captured by a German battleship and, later, released by Norwegian commandoes. The first ship sunk during WW II was the SS City of Rayville which struck a German-laid mine off Australia in 1940. One merchant marine died. To see more published stories go to: <http://www.usmm.org/newsarticles.html>

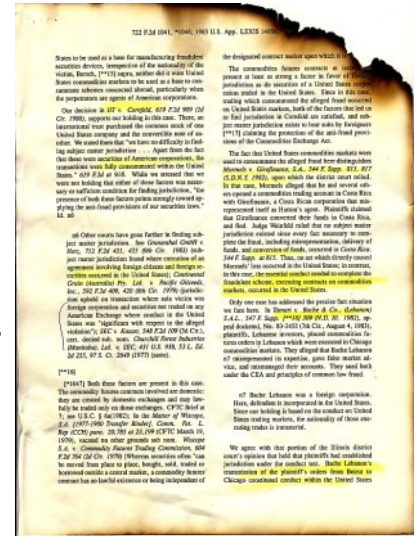
People's Choice Award Contest

MWSA People's Choice Rules: Choose one or more of the images as your inspiration and write something that can be performed in less than five minutes. You will be reading it on the radio. It can be a poem, essay, short fiction, song, or any other creative piece. The deadline for writing and submitting your work has been extended to August 31. Send your work to me at MWSAPresident@gmail.com with "2010 PCA Submission" in the subject line. The work will be judged for quality, impact, and connection to the inspiration image. A committee of judges will evaluate the submissions and pick the eight finalists. Their work plus the four inspiration pieces below will appear in the Conference program, which will be sent around the world in search of One Million votes.



NUMBER 1: America, Wake Up! Oil and Photoshop by Kathleen Dunn, author of *The ABC's of OCD*.

NUMBER 3: Detritus from World Trade Center, 9-11-2001 submitted by Dwight Zimmerman, Award-winning author of *The Book of War*



NUMBER 2: "Empty Chairs: Murrah Building Memorial, Oklahoma, City," Photo by Larry Wikoff—each chair represents one of the 168 victims.



NUMBER 4: Lucky Enough, Cover Art of *Lucky Enough* by Eddie Beesley — the moment at the Wall when Eddie first found the names of his fellow marines killed by the explosion that took his legs in Chu Lai in 1965.



ONE AUTHOR'S SAGA OF GETTING PUBLISHED

- PREPARING AND POLISHING A MANUSCRIPT
- QUERY LETTERS AND REJECTIONS
- FINDING AND LOSING AN AGENT
- APPROACHING PUBLISHERS
- "WHAT IS SUCCESS?"

2 HOUR WORKSHOP WITH Q&A



AWARD WINNING AUTHOR
DEL STAECKER

MWSA 2010 CONFERENCE AND AWARDS BANQUET
PITTSBURGH, PA

Stealth and Precision: America's High-Tech Air Force

A Multi-Media Presentation

from Former Stealth Bomber Pilot James R. Hannibal

MWSA Conference, October 2010

Pittsburgh, PA



How does a Stealth attack its target?

What happens on a UAV mission?

What is Link-16?

How does a Bunker Buster work?

Listen as a real-life Stealth Pilot talks you through a Top Secret mission and shows you the futuristic technology that brings synergy to today's battlefield

James R. Hannibal is the author of *WRAITH*, a military thriller about covert Stealth operations. He served 10 years as an active duty Air Force pilot, flying the tank-busting A-10 Warthog and the Top Secret B-2 Stealth Bomber. His former clearances in the Stealth require that his books, even fiction, be reviewed by Air Force security personnel before even his wife can read them. James now flies Predator UAVs for the Texas Air National Guard.

"Suspenseful...Exciting...A great tale!"

Clive Cussler, NY Times Best-seller and Undisputed Master of Adventure

"Incredible...So real you'll wonder if reading it could get you arrested."

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Paul Cowan's Story

As told to Bob Flourney

Michigan was the state where I grew up, and Muskegon was the town, right on Lake Michigan. The lake resembled the Gulf of Mexico, with its modest surf, sugar-white sand, and big, high dunes. That similarity ended with the appearance of icebergs in the winter, and water so bone-chillingly cold, even in August, that "your lips are blue!" was a common comment heard after one had spent barely 10 minutes in the water.

Muskegon in the 1950s was a pretty simple place. We played all day, and half the night; kick-the-can, duck-on-a-rock, chase, war, king-of-the-hill, hide-and-seek, and anything that had to do with a ball. Depending on the weather, it was kickball, basketball, baseball, football, or variations thereof. When it wasn't a ball game of some sort, it was swimming, wrestling, ice-skating, tennis, or fishing. We would even fish in the winter. Chip a hole through foot-thick ice, bait a hook with frost-bitten fingers, drop your line through the hole, and try to keep moving so's not to freeze to the very surface supporting you while waiting for a bite.

My father, and mother grew up in Muskegon, and after WWII they moved my three-year-old brother Terry, and me to Coral Gables, Florida, ostensibly for Pop to go to dental school at the University of Miami. Dad had landed at Normandy on D-Day, stormed across Europe with Patton, and won a battlefield commission along the way. He didn't speak of the war unless he was drunk, and then so sullenly, and maudlin that he was scary and made little sense to us, because there was no way for us to understand.

Coral Gables was a damned fine place to be a kid. The weather was balmy, stormy, or blowy, but never cold. My folks weren't hands-on parents, so we roved, and roamed at will like orphans. For all



Paul Cowan 1971

the attention we got from our parents, we were just that; orphans. We swam with sea cows in the canals, and we were man-o-war stung together in the Atlantic. We fished, and we hunted with our BB guns. We constructed huge forts from palmetto fronds, ate lemons, limes, oranges, and grapefruits right off the trees, and we shinnied up

palms, and consumed the coconuts as if we were Swiss Family Robinson brothers.

During a neighborhood rock fight, I hit a girl named Gretchen in the head, and she nearly bled to death. Dad asked if I did it, and I said no. He said he would punish me badly (and he could) if I lied, and it would go easier if I "fessed up." I fessed, learning forever after to pick my lies carefully, because I got punished anyway.

After a couple years of idyllic life in this paradise, my parents lost their minds and moved us back to the snow and blow of Muskegon. I attended Irish Catholic grade and high schools, and distinguished myself as the youngest ever altar boy and an able athlete. Academics were so-so for me, which was good enough, because Mom always said she didn't want any eggheads in the family. She didn't get one in me.

After high school I got an athletic scholarship to a Chicago junior college, and following that a four-year ride to Southern Colorado. I captained each football team as a defensive back. I won an academic postgraduate scholarship to the University of Nevada in Reno, dropped out after one semester, and joined the army, as things were getting interesting, and that's what we were supposed to do. After basic training, advanced infantry, infantry OCS, and jungle school I went on to Vietnam

(Continued on page 34)

CONFERENCE PROGRAM ADS

It's time to start preparing our annual Program for the Conference. We'll be using it to try once again for our 1 Million Votes for the People's Choice Award. We'll also be posting it on a variety of sites and tweeting about it often. We'll distribute hard copies at all libraries, stores, restaurants, and Military organizations in the area and at all of the MWSA events at the Conference.

Back Cover	\$1,000
Full Page	\$ 595
1/2 Page	\$ 345
1/4 Page	\$ 195
1/8 Page	\$ 125

We'll also have two pages of Cover Art sized at 1 X 2 inches for \$25 each.

To place an ad, contact Pat at patavery@gmail.com

(Continued from page 33) **Flournoy**

where I initially served as a rifle platoon leader, then as recon platoon leader in the 2d Bn, 8th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division, Airmobile.

Recon would stay out for days in the deepest part of the bush, trying to gather intel on VC and NVA, attempting to pinpoint their bunker complexes, and routes of movement. Our mission was to avoid contact, and report back to battalion so that they could airlift rifle companies into the area, and hopefully provoke a confrontation. Or, artillery would blow hell out of infiltration routes that we identified. We frequently walked right into the little bastards, however, and it would hit the fan. Sometimes we could not resist, so we would ambush them when we knew their force was limited, and we could didi out of the AO after the contact, and get extracted.

Our group was small, so the last thing we ever wanted was to get tangled up with a superior force that could overwhelm us. It happened, though. We never talked, and we were real quiet. We were damned good. By 1971, both sides had their blood up and we hated them enough to want to kill as many as we possibly could. Something about those young American kids let them take instinctively to the jungle, and its uniquely vicious fighting style.

My platoon sergeant had that part of the 23d Psalm that talks about walking through the valley of the shadow of death scripted on his helmet cover. It ended by saying that he didn't fear anything because he was the baddest son of a bitch in the valley. He was. We all were. Maybe that's why we always won in the bush. Little did any of us know the price we would pay for the rest of our lives.

Now I know why, when Dad got drunk, he was sullen and maudlin talking about the war. He was just confused, like me. And like me, he probably never got over the surprise of coming back alive. Or the guilt, although later in life I began to think that the guilty feelings should belong to those who avoided going.

(Paul and Bob served in the same infantry battalion in Vietnam)

And the Nominees are:

(In no particular order)

God Does Have a Sense of Humor
by Rob Ballister

Stand To a Journey to Manhood by Frank Evans

Immeasurable Spirit by Latoya Lucas

Gift of Change by DT Sanders

Ryann Watters and the Kings Sword
by Erin Reinhold

Lucky Enough by Eddie Beesley

The Texas Gun Club by Mark Bowlin

Cold Winter's Kill by Bob Doerr

How Can You Mend This Purple Heart
By Terry Gould

*Battlefields & Blessings: Stories of Faith and
Courage from the War in Iraq & Afghanistan*
by Jocelyn Green

Grey Wolf by David Huffman

*The Elementary Adventures of Jones, JEEP, Buck
& Blue, Jones, Book 1*
by Sandra Linhart

*French Letters, Book One Virginia's War: Tierra,
Texas 1944*

by Jack Woodville London

The Road to Iwo Jima by Tom McGraham

Love Leaves No One Behind

by Claudia Pemberton

America's Finest by Stephen Peterson

Missions of Fire and Mercy by William Peterson

Madam President and the Admiral

by Carl Nelson

A Hill Called White Horse

by Anthony Sobieski

The Lady Gangster by Del Staecker

Surviving the Folded Flag by Deborah Tainsh

Sisters of Valor by Rosalie Turner

The Letter by Jerry Yellin

Behold an Ashen Horse by Lee Boyland

Chum Water by Hodge Wood

Delta 7 by John Cathcart

A Quiet Reality by Emilio Marrero

Detachment Delta by Don Bendell

**If your book appears on the list, contact
MWSAPresident@gmail.com**

Meet MWSA member and Silver Medalist, Terry Gould

Born in Akron, OH, Terry Gould spent his childhood on small farms and rural towns across Missouri before joining the US Navy in 1968.

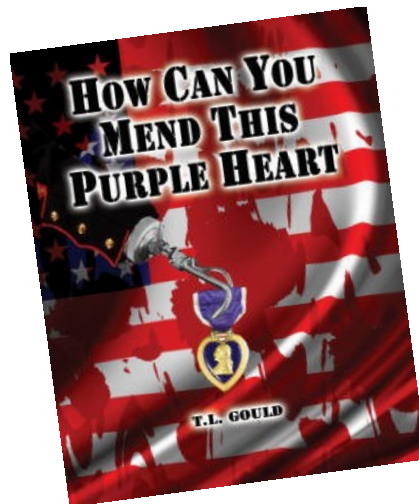
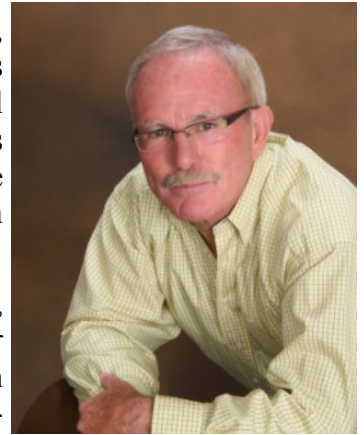
After leaving the Navy, Terry earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from the University of Akron, afforded by the GI Bill. He received his Masters in Business Administration from Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, OH.

Following a thirty-year career in marketing, advertising and public relations, Terry finally had the opportunity to write the story that had haunted him for more than forty years.

Through his story, *How Can You Mend This Purple Heart*, Terry hopes to inspire all Americans to recognize and honor the veterans of all wars, but

especially the veterans of the Vietnam War. For they truly deserve recognition—an unconditional recognition so long overdue—for their love of country, their commitment to duty and their unselfish sacrifices at a time when it was so shamefully unappreciated.

Terry resides near Nashville, TN, with wife, Barb.



Introducing MWSA 2010 Honorable Mention Medalist, Marylyn Harris

Marylyn Harris is a Service Disabled Veteran living in Houston, Texas. Ms Harris, an Army Nurse, served during the Gulf War during Operation Desert Storm/Shield, as a night Supervisor in a Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) of a field hospital.



Ms Harris' professional portfolio includes experiences in many Nursing areas including, psychiatric, addictions, rehabilitation, oncology, medical-surgical, corrections and nursing education.

In 2000, Ms Harris sought treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) after personal tragedies exacerbated her war trauma memories. She utilized many of the services available to veterans to help her heal. These services included, the VA Hospital's Trauma Recovery (TRP) Program, the Vet Center's Counseling Services and the VBA's Vocational Rehabilitation Program.



In 2007, Ms Harris formed Harland Healthcare Consulting, LLC, a Healthcare Management Consulting Firm. In September 2009, Harland Healthcare Consulting, LLC launched *The Veterans Info-source Project (The VIP Project)*. The VIP Project is a support resource for Veterans,



Universities and Colleges, Employers and others that service Veterans and Military Families. The VIP Project's mission is to inform, educate and advocate improving and enhancing the quality of life of Veterans and Military Families. The VIP Projects' initial publication, *25 FREE Resources EVERY Texas Veteran Needs To Know*, was released in November, 2009. Books can be purchased at www.HarlandCompany.com or from Ms Harris directly.

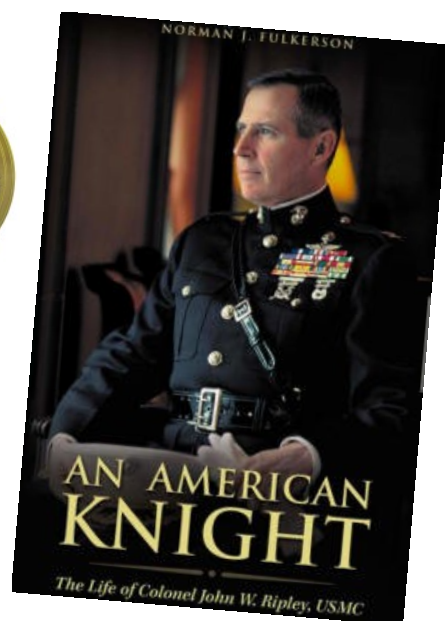
Meet Norman Fulkerson, 2010 MWSA Gold Medalist

Norman Fulkerson was raised in Red Hill, KY, and is a 25-year veteran of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP). He is a contributing editor to the TFP's *Crusade Magazine* with a current circulation of



130,000. In his "Only in America" column, he describes the little-known cultural richness of the United States. He has also written for the illustrious fifty-year-old Brazilian periodical, *Catolicismo*. His articles have also appeared in the Australian magazine, *Quest* and the Polish magazine, *Polonia Christiana*. His first book, *An American Knight: The Life of Colonel John Ripley*, was the fruit of his enthusiasm for heroism, as seen in American servicemen, which he documents on his blog, *Modern American Heroes* ModernAmericanHeroes.wordpress.com.

He now resides at the TFP headquarters in Spring Grove, PA.



Unconditional Surrender to Unknown Sailor

"I went from Doctors Hospital to Times Square that day. And this guy grabbed me and we kissed, and then I turned one way and he turned the other. There was no way to know who he was, but I didn't mind because he was someone who'd fought for me"—**Nurse Edith Shain.** While many WW II sailors have claimed to be the picture's Hollywood-



style kisser, a Houston Police Department forensic artist has identified the sailor as Texas' Navy veteran, Glenn McDuffie, who for years said he was Shain's smoocher. Now at age 83, he's battling lung cancer. For so many years Edith Shain kept the WW II spirit alive. She died in her Los Angeles home in June, age 91.

Submarine Kiss-In The spontaneous V-J Day celebration smooch seen around the world will be reenacted beginning at 2 pm Sunday, August 15, at the WW II USS Cod Submarine Memorial/Museum, a historic landmark anchored on Cleveland's North Coast Harbor. Cod's president, curator and volunteer crew chose the "Pucker Up" theme for the 65th V-J Day anniversary based on the famous August 1945 Life magazine cover featuring photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt's famous photograph that immortalized the kissing couple.

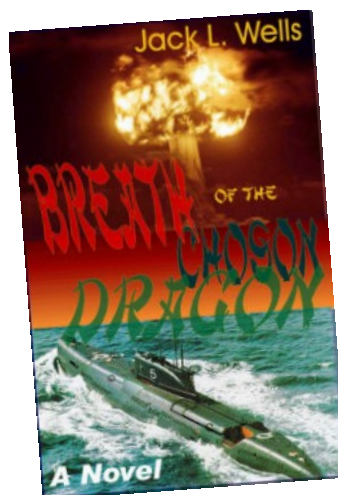
On tap for the Cod public event—period reenactors, big band music, jitterbug dance demonstrations, dancing (prize for the best jitterbugging couple) and, as the climax, a mass restaging of the famous Times Square kiss. White paper nurses' and sailors' hats will be given to the smooching participants (prize for the best couple impersonating the V-J Day kissing sailor and nurse.) All attendees are invited to wear 1940s garb. For details about admission cost (vets are free) for the Kiss-In—which includes Cod tours from 10 am to 5 pm—check www.usscod.org

Introducing MWSA member & Bronze & Gold Medalist, Jack L. Wells

Jack enlisted in the US Navy in 1960 and attended college under a full Navy scholarship. He graduated from Penn State University in 1966 and was commissioned Ensign, USN. During the Vietnam War, Jack served aboard destroyers, intelligence ships and mine sweepers. He holds the Vietnam Service Medal with five campaign stars in addition to multiple other decorations.



Lieutenant Wells was released from active duty at the end of 1970, at his request. He completed his military career in the reserve component retiring as Commander in 1984. In civilian life he was the Technical Director for Mars, Inc. a large multinational consumer products company and he retired from that position in 1998. He now lives and writes in Lakeland, Florida. He and wife Terry are members of the Tampa Sailing Squadron, and enjoy cruising Florida and the Bahamas.



Introducing MWSA member Kate Dunn and her daughter Kathleen



Welcome to The ABC's of OCD

where you will meet 10 year old Author Kathleen and her quirky BossBax™ friends. This book provides a whimsical look at a child's view of dealing with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) challenges and maintaining a sense of humor and calm to cope with daily life. Kathleen and her older sister Bridget, who also has OCD, share a bedroom. Although they have different compulsions, they talk with each other about how to work through their OCD problems.



The mission and purpose of sharing this book are to provide a non-threatening method for families and children to understand and explain the OCD disorder in a new way. Many will learn that by taking one step at a time, one day at a time, it is possible to understand OCD in a new way.

In addition to making the book available to the community at large, *The ABC's of OCD* may be used by medical professionals and made available through the OCD Foundation as a method of providing education to families coping with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

What professionals are saying:

"Throughout my years in private practice, I have always believed that the greatest source of wisdom comes from the people we serve. This is especially true of our youngest patients, who often see their life situations clearly, and without the filters of theory, statistics or diagnostic guidelines."

The insight, humor and warmth of this book is an example of the best resources of the human spirit! Healing comes in many forms and Kathleen Dunn has captured the essence of a difficult disorder that has affected but not defeated her family. It is a tribute to the entire Dunn family that they have chosen to devote their creative energy to provide this beautiful book to educate others. To me "The ABC's of OCD spell h-o-p-e!" **Mary M. Brand, Ph.D. Psychologist, Alliance Psychological Services, LLC**

The sisters dedicate this book to their Grandfathers—"Farm Pap," 1929-2008, Korean Army Veteran, whom they are sure had OCD himself. His tools were never hung up straight enough, he counted raspberries to one hundred then started again. And to "Frank Pap," 1941-2008, Vietnam Veteran, whose investment to their project of a new color printer for the very first book comps. Their times together and the memories they shared are special—as were they.

The life lesson Kathleen and Bridget have learned is that everyone has something they deal with each day and that **"Life will be Ok!"**. These sisters realize the importance of making the best of what life brings and wish to share those lessons with you.

Kate Dunn, Kathleen's mother, shares with parents that OCD or any mental health challenge can be frustrating, but maintaining a sense of calm during the challenges of daily life helps keep things in perspective. It takes fortitude and courage for your journey, but love your child for who they are and will become. Make sure to count the blessings that each day brings. It is important for Kathleen to tell her story that even though she has struggled with OCD that **"Life will be OK!"**.

CONNECTIONS

Joyce Gilmour, MWSA Book Reviewer & Editor

Thanks to those of you who took the time to read my first column in the July *Dispatches*. I want you to understand that I *do* know the difference between a corporal and a sergeant. Yes, I shared the picture of my son in his dress blues with his corporal stripes and the article mentioned that he was a sergeant. Well, guess what? I love the dress blues photo! But this month, I'm showing that he actually did make the rank of sergeant. I didn't want you to think that this Marine Mom didn't know what she was talking about. But hats off to those of you that noticed the "discrepancy." But I guess the new photo doesn't prove it, you'll just have to take my word for it.



Recognize this great guy? Of course you do! Well, Jim Greenwald, the Lead Reviewer for MWSA, and I made a CONNECTION in a very unique way. Last year for the MWSA conference, I donated 30,000 words of editing service. Jim bid on it and won.

Well, that isn't so amazing, but the reason *why* surprised me. Jim told me that he chose to bid on the editing service because he wanted to prove that he didn't need an editor. (He'll have to share the story behind his non-capitalized names, which drives his newest editor crazy.)

If you've been reading Jim's column, I'm sure that you've noticed he has become an advocate for getting manuscripts edited, even if you are an English major! Here is what he said about the copyediting process: "Recently, I decided to place my next effort into the hands of an editing service, arrogantly, more so to prove how good I am, not necessarily expecting much as after all 'I am good.' Well, to call the experience an eye opener would be kind to me. My level of being comfortable seriously diminished, as I went through my returned manuscript I was amazed at some of the simple errors I

had made, and repeatedly. My level of checking my own manuscripts will be as a result, much improved. The feeling of need to have future works professionally edited has skyrocketed. Clearly from my experience I

can say that editing makes the difference between a good book and just one more book. If, like me, you feel you are that good that you do not need to have an editor go through your manuscript, welcome to my world of surprise."

So THANKS, Jim, for the CONNECTION that we have made and for contributing to my second column for *Dispatches*. Thanks for the encouragement to get more involved with MWSA and thanks for your friendship. I can't wait to meet you and all of the other amazing authors in Pittsburgh.

REQUEST:

To Authors of Children's Books: I am a third grade teacher and will have a brand new group of kiddos in September who would love to hear a great children's story and be able to write to a *real author* who would like feedback from a great group of eight and nine year olds. My students always enjoy receiving a letter from a *real author* after they've written letters and drawn pictures for him/her. Think about it and if you'd like to CONNECT with us at Brooklyn Elementary School in Wisconsin, contact me at jmgteach@yahoo.com. Thanks!

PTSD Walk Across America to Start September 11th



As many of you know, MWSA started in order to encourage veterans to write about their military experiences to help deal with the after effects of combat.

Over the years the realization of what many veterans (or active-duty military personnel) may be suffering from has often led to the diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Unfortunately, many people with the symptoms of PTSD are not diagnosed, or if diagnosed do not receive adequate treatment. (Yes, there is treatment for PTSD.)

At the present time, the number of suicides from troops who have served in Afghanistan or Iraq continues to climb dramatically. For this reason Dan Stepel, a 47-year-old U.S. Marine veteran, will begin the PTSD Walk Across America this September 11th. The purpose of the walk is to raise awareness of and funds for PTSD help for active-duty military personnel and veterans.

The walk is under the 501(c)3 umbrella of the organization PatriotOutreach.org, which itself is doing amazing work to help with PTSD, and you can make donations to the walk through this organization.

If you would like to learn about the symptoms of PTSD, see the information available at www.FilmsThatSupportOurTroops.com. You can also read some of the positive reaction to this walk at the walk's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PTSDWalk. Please join this Facebook page and support the walk.

Phyllis Zimble Miller (@ZimbleMiller on Twitter) is the author of the novel www.mrsLieutenant.com and her social media marketing company www.MillerMosaicPowerMarketing.com is doing the social media campaign for the PTSD Walk Across America.



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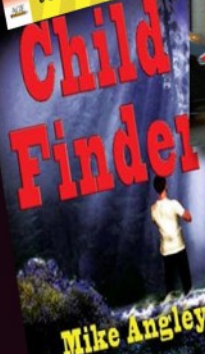
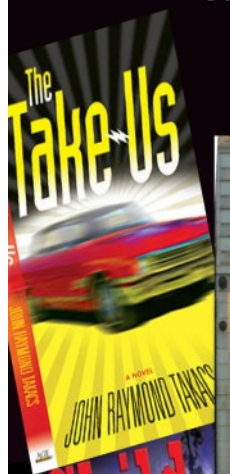
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Writing Our Way Through Trauma

Presented by author Leila Levinson

October 2, 2010

MWSA Conference, Pittsburgh, PA

More and more research confirms what we writers have long intuited and experienced: that writing about traumatic experiences enables us to process and integrate the terror that can keep us hostage to trauma. This workshop will have a two fold focus:

1) sharing my personal experience of writing about my trauma and my father's from WWII and how that process brought me healing that therapy alone could not;

2) facilitating the healing of veterans suffering PTSD through the use of writing. How to talk about writing and trauma with veterans; how to facilitate their writing; how to create safe "communities" within which they can write.

To arrange for your books to be carried at Joseph Beth Bookseller, contact Chris Rickert at crickert@josephbeth.com

Include in your e-mail to Chris:

- MWSA in the subject line
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- Book title
- ISBN
- Are you able to provide copies of your book for Joseph Beth to sell?
- If the above is "no," please provide your publisher's contact information
- Cover price of book
- Discount off cover price offered to stores

August Notes **By jim greenwald**

The Conference is drawing closer, still much remains to be done, but, it will all get there and it will be great—better than last year, no doubt. Thanks to all who have stepped forward and volunteered their time to review members books. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Without you, we could not grow as we wish to as an organization. In fact, we still need reviewers and volunteers for a number of things. Check with Joyce Faulkner if you want to help out with the conference or with me if you wish to review books.

Donations for this year's auction are now closed. A big thank you to all who donated items/services to what will surely be another great auction. If you did not get around to donating, no problem. We are now accepting donations for the 2011 auction. A complete list of items being auctioned off will be printed in the September Dispatches as well as a copy provided in your registration package. For folks unable to attend, you may place bids on line by contacting me.

For general information, we review members' books and provide marketing reviews, not critiques. Our goal with this type of review is to aid you in marketing your work. A number of our reviewers voluntarily post the reviews they do on sites like Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Amazon has made it a touch more difficult to do so as they require you to be a recent purchaser on their site, so reviewers may not be able to post them.

In the future, we are working on two more author services — manuscript critiques and private author/editor discussions about published books which are struggling to find audiences. Both of these critiques will focus on the current state of manuscripts or books—and will pinpoint problem areas to help the author improve. More about this will be available after the conference.

For reasons I am unsure of, books do not always arrive at a reviewers—and often they take a very long time. Reviewers are now required to notify me when books arrive or in seven days if they do not, so as to eliminate this problem. Authors have a re-

sponsibility as well. When notified that your book has been assigned to a reviewer, make sure that person has your book in hand within a week. If for any reason a book cannot be shipped immediately, notify me of the reason. I

may at that time set the review aside until the issue is resolved and reassign it to another reviewer at a later time. This will make more efficient use of available reviewers and aid in reducing average review times.

All authors wanting a review must fill out a "review request." Books cannot be sent to reviewers until the form is complete and the Lead Reviewer makes an assignment. For anyone that always wanted to know but never asked, once the query is in my hands, it is placed in order received and then assigned as reviewers come available. That time frame can be 6-8 weeks or more—or as little as a few days. The review itself can take two weeks or six months, depending on the length of the book, its complexity, the reviewer's available time and the speed that they read. Once the review is complete, it is sent by the reviewer to the Lead Reviewer for auditing and then sent to the webmaster for posting. The time it takes to post is dependent on the webmaster's available time, organizational work load and many of us also have jobs. So patience is in order. We will review your book and post it as soon as possible.

You can help by providing a web address giving the webmaster access to your cover art or better yet send the webmaster a jpeg or pdf of your cover art. Remember, dues must be current.

One practice being eliminated is sending a reviewer more than one book at a time. This is not



(Continued from page 42) *greendwald*

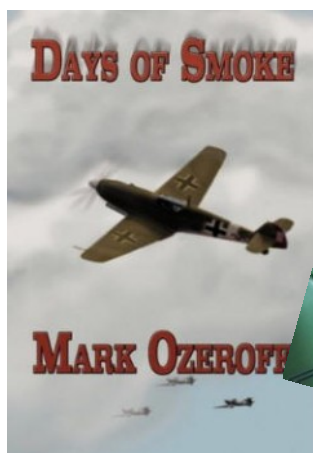
because of anything the reviewer is or is not doing, but there have been times where I actually have no books to assign while waiting on reviews from one reviewer for two books. Having reviewers email me when they are close to finishing a review should eliminate that issue while not interrupt those who not only love to read but do so quickly. It should also aid in shrinking the review time average.

One addition to the review process is that I will send the review to the author at the time I send it to the webmaster. That should save a number of emails while providing the authors with a heads up. Postings may at times be delayed but at least they will have their review for other purposes.

2010 Winners Up Close

Introducing MWSA member & 2010 Gold Medalist, Mark Ozeroff

Mark Ozeroff holds a near-religious fervor for aeronautical history. A lifelong pilot, he lives on an eclectic airport with aircraft ranging from Sopwith to Learjet. It wasn't unusual during the creation of *Days of Smoke* for engine song from a P-51 Mustang to nourish a burgeoning dog-fight scene. Though he holds an MBA, it took until age forty-two for Mark to realize that he wanted to be a writer when he grew up. When not working on his next novel, Mark can often be found in the bicycle saddle.



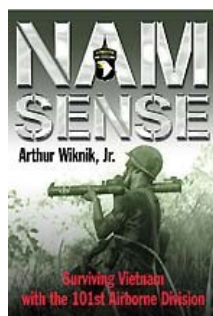
2010 Winners Up Close

Meet Arthur Wiknik, recipient of 2010 MWSA Honorable Mention Medal

Arthur Wiknik, Jr., was drafted into the US Army in 1968 at the age of 19 and served with the 101st Airborne Division in the Vietnam War. During the famous battle for Hamburger Hill, he was the first in his unit to safely reach the top during the final assault. Proud of his military service, Arthur gives talks at schools, colleges and civic organizations about his experiences. A dedicated community volunteer, Arthur is a founding member of the Haddam, Connecticut Veteran's Museum and a 15-year member of the Haddam Memorial Day Parade Committee.



Arthur is the author of *Nam Sense*, the memoir of his Vietnam War experiences. His writing credits include stories in four different *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books. He has also had articles in *Army*, *Soldier of Fortune*, *Players*, *North American Whitetail*, *Rural New England* and *Heading Out* magazines.



Anna Marie Gire — wip@fastmail.fm — www.womensindependentpress.com



SELL YOURSELF AND YOUR BOOK

The boxes of your books have arrived. Authors are excited to share their story, but many don't know where to begin. From contacting local newspapers and magazine publications to scheduling a book signing, it's about promoting yourself and your book.

Autumn Edmiston, Principal of Rev-Up Marketing, has over 20 years of marketing and branding experience. She will discuss steps to help authors create the necessary publicity campaign to help them sell books.

Attendees will learn:

- Ø How to create a bio that tells others about you
- Ø The importance of having a professional photo headshot
 - Ø Defining the target audience
 - Ø Setting goals for distribution
- Ø Identifying publication sources to contact to pitch your story and how to create buzz for a story
- Ø Creating a basic webpage and/or blog for on-line exposure
- Ø Places in the community to host a book signing
- Ø Opportunities to sell your book outside of a book signing
- Ø Philanthropic avenues for additional exposure
- Ø Add on products such as a bookmark, tee shirt, etc. that will provide additional revenue

Gain insight into how an effective publicity campaign can work for you.

MWSA Conference,
Pittsburgh, PA
Sept. 30 - Oct. 3, 2010



Sign up for Joyce Gilmour's
Workshop at the MWSA
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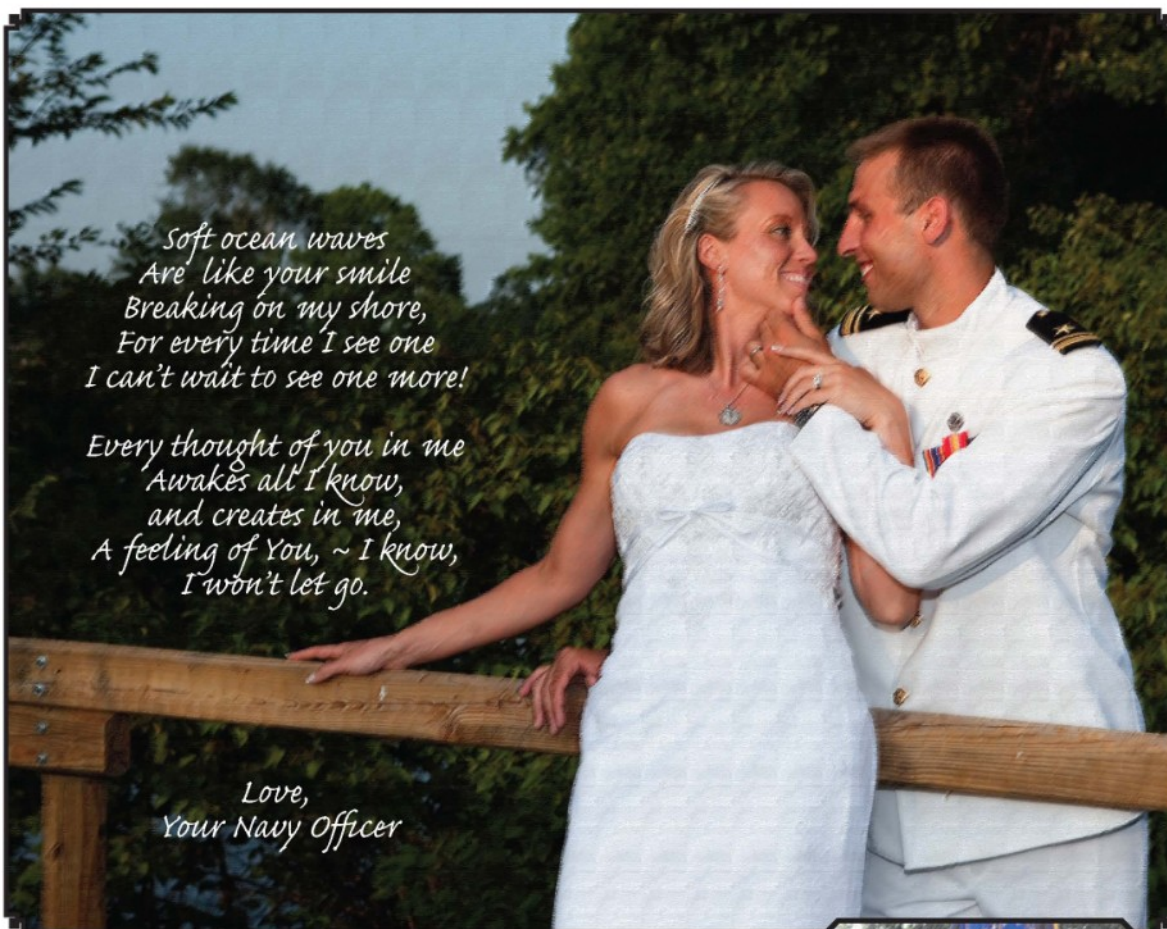
What should you look for in a copyeditor?

What will a copyeditor do for your manuscript?

Just what is a Technical Literary Critique?

Think about this: If you publish your first book without professional editing, people may purchase it.
But ask yourself this: Will they buy your second?

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Commissioned Pieces

While Dunn typically uses her own photography for her work, she will accept commissions using your own treasured family photographs or photograph a subject of your choosing. Also available are originally designed Invitations, Holiday Cards, Announcements, etc all personalized with your images.



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Special Flag Retirement Ceremony for MWSA

By John Kovach

I'm nailing down final details for a special flag retirement ceremony we're planning for 11:00 am, Thursday, September 30, for the Military Writers Society of America (MWSA) and Allegheny Council. The event will kick off the MWSA fall conference in Pittsburgh.



Shown is the 2006 dedication in Allegheny County's South Park of By the Dawn's Early Light Flag Retirement Plaza and before construction was completed. Flags on nine poles represent the USA, its six military branches, Allegheny County and the state of Pennsylvania. The first formal flag retirement ceremony was on Flag Day, 2007.

"We're planning" means me, MWSA President Joyce Faulkner and Allegheny County Councilman, Vince Gastgeb. The event is special because it will be our second formal ceremony this year, the first having been around Flag Day. When Joyce suggested this exclusive ceremony, Vince and I jumped at the opportunity to showcase the Flag Retirement Plaza and this ceremony to members of MWSA, the military, and veterans' and civic organizations. We're also inviting school districts to send honor students to see "live" the proper way to treat worn, faded, or tattered American flags. We're encouraging students to go beyond textbooks for a better understanding of what the flag represents to Americans, that it isn't just a piece of cloth.

Briefing About four years ago, Vince presented my concept and design for the flag retirement plaza to County Council. It unanimously endorsed the plan, donated land in its South Park and the county public works department—and its contractors—began construction of the about \$100,000 plaza in 2006. That same year we dedicated the partially completed facility, which got its full name, *By the Dawn's Early Light Flag Retirement Plaza* from the winner of an essay contest for high school students. It was on Flag Day 2007 that Allegheny County conducted its first official/formal flag retirement ceremony to recognize our nation's

flags, veterans and active duty military. Since then, we've had annual public ceremonies, veterans' organizations, and scout troops hold their flag retirements on the plaza.

Joan Cleary, county council member from the area of South Park, says, "Flag retirements are very, very moving events. We hope others around the country will hear of the ceremony and mirror it." (Allegheny County "mirrored" the South Park site with its 2009 dedication of a similar flag retirement plaza in its North Park.)

What we do at the annual ceremony around Flag Day is destroy, with dignity, worn American flags. In the retirement ceremonies, the flags are either local ones, deposited by people over the year in the plaza's lock-box, or special honor flags that we've collected. Then, on a treed knoll overlooking the plaza, and with respect, the ashes are placed in one of two red or blue steel chambers buried 15-feet under ground.

In the third and white chamber, on the knoll's highest point, are placed honor flag ashes. These include one from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and from historical sites such as presidential birth places/homes/gravesites, The Alamo, Little Bighorn Battlefield, and Mount Rushmore. This chamber also contains honor flags from the destroyer, USS The Sullivans, and the ballistic missile submarine, USS Kentucky. (My submariner son served aboard this boat.)

September Ceremony For the about 45-minute ceremony, I hope to have enough honor flags so

(Continued on page 47)

(Continued from page 46) **Kovach**

each MWSA member and county official can hold one that's to be retired and read where it was flown. The most solemn segment is the lighting of "The Candle of Liberty" which will be on a platform above the to-be-retired flags. It's from this candle that flames will be carried to the receptacle/pyre. (See above for inurnment of these ashes in the white chamber).

These flags will be from states' historic sites, military bases, and public buildings. Just the other day, I received a flag from USS Nautilus, our first nuclear-powered submarine and the first vessel to complete a submerged transit across the North Pole—and another from the WWII submarine, USS Ling. Both submarines are now public museums—the Nautilus in Groton, CT, the Ling, in Hackensack, NJ. The ceremony will also include a Color Guard and musical tributes.

Vince, the council member who was so instrumental in bringing the plaza to fruition, believes, "The Flag Retirement Ceremony is a one-of-a-kind event to honor our veterans and to demonstrate to the public the deep meaning of retiring flags properly."

More than one million soldiers have sacrificed their lives in defense of the American flag and what it stands for. So, of course, I have more visions for the Flag Retirement Plaza. A near-term goal is obtaining flags from WWII cemeteries, Vietnam and Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan, and our military ships, both active vessels and retired ones. If future donations allow, I visualize a 7-foot, to-scale Statue of Liberty mounted above the white honor chamber and illuminated 24/7 so she can be seen from the highway. And, on the plaza's plain back wall, I envision a mosaic tile mural. One side would honor all of America's people with tiles for the Statue of Liberty, Emma Lazarus's poem, "The New Colossus," and 911 tributes. The mural's other side would feature the Iwo Jima flag-raising and the military code of conduct.

Finally, I'm honored to have been asked to present the flag retirement ceremony for MWSA members and county officials. I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, Shown is the 2006 dedication in Al-



The American flag is folded by members of the Air Force after it was taken down at the conclusion of the 2006 site dedication of By the Dawn's Early Light Flag Retirement Plaza.

legheny County's South Park of the site of The Dawn's Early Light Flag Retirement Plaza and before construction was completed, Flags on nine poles represent the USA, its six military branches, Allegheny County and the state of Pennsylvania. The first formal flag retirement ceremony was on Flag Day, 2007.



In 2008, Ambassador Charles Ray lights the pyre with the help of General David Papak, USMC.



Old Glory being respectfully retired in Allegheny County's South Park Flag Retirement Plaza, about 10 miles from downtown Pittsburgh. The plaza's co-creators, John Kovach and County Councilman, Vince Gastgeb, will hold a special flag retirement ceremony for MWSA members and county officials on Thursday, September 30.



MWSA Board member Eddie Beesley with John Kovach at the Flag Retirement Ceremony in June, 2008

Who is John Kovach?

By Nancy Yockey Bonar

(a) Visionary (b) architect/engineer (c) flag lover (d) Betsy Ross descendent (e) writer/speaker (f) Marine Corps/Army National Guard veteran (g) American Legion, MWSA member (h) elementary school head custodian/hero.

John is all of the above except for having descended from Betsy Ross who, it appears, may not have designed our first flag but, rather, Congressman Francis Hopkinson.

And I suspect John doesn't care who created our initial flag or today's Stars and Stripes. What I've learned about him long distance is that he fervently cares about our nation's emblem and that it is retired with respect and dignity

Back to John's vision, determination, architectural concept, and construction oversight which resulted in *The Dawn's Early Light Flag Memorial Plaza* in Allegheny County's South Park. Talk about a go-to guy! It wasn't long after John made a presentation to Vince Gastgeb, his councilman, that the council unanimous endorsed the one-of-a-kind facility.

South Park's Flag Retirement Plaza was dedicated in June 2006, and a year later the first official flag retirement ceremony was held around Flag Day. Attendees included veterans, scouts, state and local dignitaries and throngs of area residents. At least once a year a community flag retirement ceremony is conducted to honor veterans and to demonstrate to the public the importance of retiring flags properly. John is instrumental in the ceremonies, including as a writer and speaker.

Also in 2006, County Council honored John for his life-long achievement in public service. In council's proclamation presentation to John, it was noted that he is one of those community leaders who loves this country. (For the Flag Retirement Plaza) "He was the architect, engineer, speech writer, and more. Our debt of service to you, John, for being a great American."

(Continued on page 49)

(Continued from page 48) **Bonar**

The Design The plaza is hexagonal to represent the six branches of the Armed Forces and there's a flag and pole for each. There are three other poles. One flies the American flag and, beneath it, the POW/MIA flag. The two others fly the Allegheny County and state of Pennsylvania flags.

John also designed the flag retirement receptacle as a hexagon. During retirements, flags are lowered into the pyre and, then, the ashes are carefully placed in inurnment chambers.

Interestingly, the US Flag Code notes that flags should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. However, the code doesn't explain what to do with the ashes. John has led the way in respectfully sealing flag ashes and putting them to rest and is encouraging an update of the flag code.

Andy Baechele, director, Allegheny County Parks, which maintains the Flag Retirement Plaza, says of John, "He pursues honoring the American flag with the same fervor he did as a Marine. And I believe he cares more about the American flag than himself."

John's Goals "I love my flag and all it represents. If we don't respect our flag we don't respect our nation," John says. And his goal isn't only to have American flags from all 50 states and the District of Columbia and their ashes forever resting in sealed, marked containers in the plaza's inurnment area. He's seeking flags from, for example, historical sites, Navy ships, military bases here and abroad and WW II cemeteries. Among the many flags he's recently acquired are those from The Alamo, Mount Rushmore, Little Bighorn battlefield, and presidential gravesites.

I'm looking forward to meeting John at the Thursday, September 30, ceremony on the Flag Retirement Plaza that he's planning especially for MWSA members. In the interim, and from what I now know about him, I suspect he'll want his ashes to lie in the *By the Dawn's Early Light Flag Retirement Plaza*. Surely his epitaph should read, "He left America a little better than he found her."

Note: Remember the (h) in the introduction quiz? John is the head custodian for a Bethel Park elementary school. Recently, he performed the Heimlich maneuver on a 9-year-old who was choking in the school cafeteria. John was recognized for his life-saving act by the school district, and county and state elected officials.



Flag Retirement Ceremony 2008

A Writer Must Be Flexible! — Dwight J. Zimmerman



Y'know, it's a good thing that I'm flexible in what I write about in my monthly columns, because just as I was (typically) starting at the last minute to write this piece, something new and completely unexpected was brought to my attention that

trumped my original idea and caused me to change subjects entirely.

But, before I get into that part of the column, I need to give a heartfelt thank you to the MWSA awards committee. Just having my *The Vietnam War: A Graphic History* and *Tecumseh: Shooting Star of the Shawnee* receive nominations this year was an honor. To cap that with the Artistic: Graphic Category Gold Medal and the Young Adult Category Bronze Medal, respectively, was an experience as humbling as it was thrilling. I also want to give all the other winners my congratulations. Since my own *The Book of Weapons* didn't even make the cut in the reference category this year underscores to me that there's some really excellent books being written by our membership. I look forward to meeting everyone who can attend this year's conference in Pittsburgh.

Now, I was originally intending to write about some behind-the-scenes anecdotes that occurred during the writing of *Uncommon Valor*, the book I wrote with John D. Gresham about the six posthumous Medal of Honor recipients from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. It also includes the first-ever complete history of the Medal of Honor itself. It will be released the middle of September by St. Martin's Press. Sometimes just writing a book can be a challenge, but when my co-author suffered a massive heart attack and was under a medically induced coma for ten days—well, things got just a bit stressful.

Anyway, as I was starting to keyboard the first anecdote, I got a phone call from my friend Mark L.

Donald. Mark's a retired Navy lieutenant SEAL and *his* is an incredible career. We talked about a number of things, and one thing he mentioned is the fact that he is going to be speaking at an upcoming event that I thought all of you would want to know about. The event is called Out of the Rubble Gala. Here's some press release information I obtained from its facebook site.

Since 9/11, the citizens of the United States have not come together as a group to say "Thank You" to our Servicemen and Women, Police, Fire Fighters and Paramedics. These incredible individuals lay their lives on the line for us every day, on both foreign and domestic soil.

On October 9, 2010, at Cornell University located in Ithaca, New York, the nation's largest "Thank You" event will take place. This prestigious event titled the "Out of the Rubble Gala" will be attended by 3,500 people as well as military dignitaries and celebrities. This event will serve as a national hug (per se) to those who have laid their lives on the line and especially those who have been wounded in battle, either overseas or on U.S. soil.

We are doing this event to both thank these real American Heroes and to raise money in order to give them a place to relax and leave the dust of war behind.

The event is being sponsored by Liberty Lodge Outfitters, a non-profit organization. Additional details on the celebrities and dignitaries who will be attending, and the events can be found on their facebook site. Just type: Out of the Rubble Gala in the facebook search box and you'll be taken right there.

I was very impressed with what I read about this event and I want to thank Mark for alerting me. I also would like to ask for your help in spreading the word about Out of the Rubble Gala. Even though this event is the weekend right after the MWSA conference, I'm starting to make plans to attend.





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ASAP: (?) Sell Your Books SubVets Upcoming Convention

MWSA's Nancy Bonar, USSVI (national SubVets) life/associate member, has registered for the submarine veterans' convention from Monday, August 30 – Sunday, September 5 in the Cincinnati area. The event is for all submarine vets, including those from WW II. If there's enough authors interested in providing books, Nancy can sign on as a vendor – about \$70 – without MWSA having to pay the convention registration fee. We're thinking of setting up a table and MWSA banner in the vendors' mall from Thursday afternoon, September 2 – Sunday morning, September 5. Members interested in providing books to sell and/or staff our table **must respond** by this **Thursday, August 12. Please contact Joyce.**

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