

DISPATCHES

MILITARY
WRITERS
SOCIETY OF
AMERICA

rescuing History One Story at a Time

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Spring 2014

Award-winning MWSA Author Sells Second Novel



**2014 Conference
Phoenix**

*Kathleen M. Rodgers with Agent Jeanie Loiacono
USS Forrestal - Pat McGrath Avery
Berlin 1961 - Donald Farinacci*

*Vienna 1653 - Jihad Turning Point - C. Wayne Dawson
Alphadictionary.com - Kathy Rowe
The Infamous Coal Torpedo - Steve Hathcock*

FROM THE EDITOR

If you've ever doubted the importance of your historical research, you'll rejoice in the important role that Sue Eakin's work played in bringing the Solomon Northrup story to production as the award-winning movie, *12 Years a Slave*.

Sue grew up in Louisiana near the places that Solomon wrote about in his autobiography. When Sue was twelve years old, she discovered his book in a nearby plantation home. Published in 1853, *Twelve Years a Slave* relates the horrors of a free man who was captured and sold into slavery.

Captivated by Solomon's story, Sue found another copy in an Ohio bookstore in 1936. The owner discouraged her from buying it, telling her it was all fiction.

Sue spent much of her life trying to bring Solomon's story to the public's attention. She created an enhanced version of his book and established the Northrup Trail.

Three years after her death in 2011, the movie telling his story won multiple awards. When Steve McQueen accepted the Academy Award for Best Picture, he thanked Sue for her years of research and dedication to Solomon's book.

While we may never hear ourselves mentioned in an Academy Award acceptance speech, we can each understand, and take pride in, the valuable work we are doing to preserve history.

Sue's story should energize us and reaffirm our commitment. So, fellow MWSA members, keep on researching and writing.

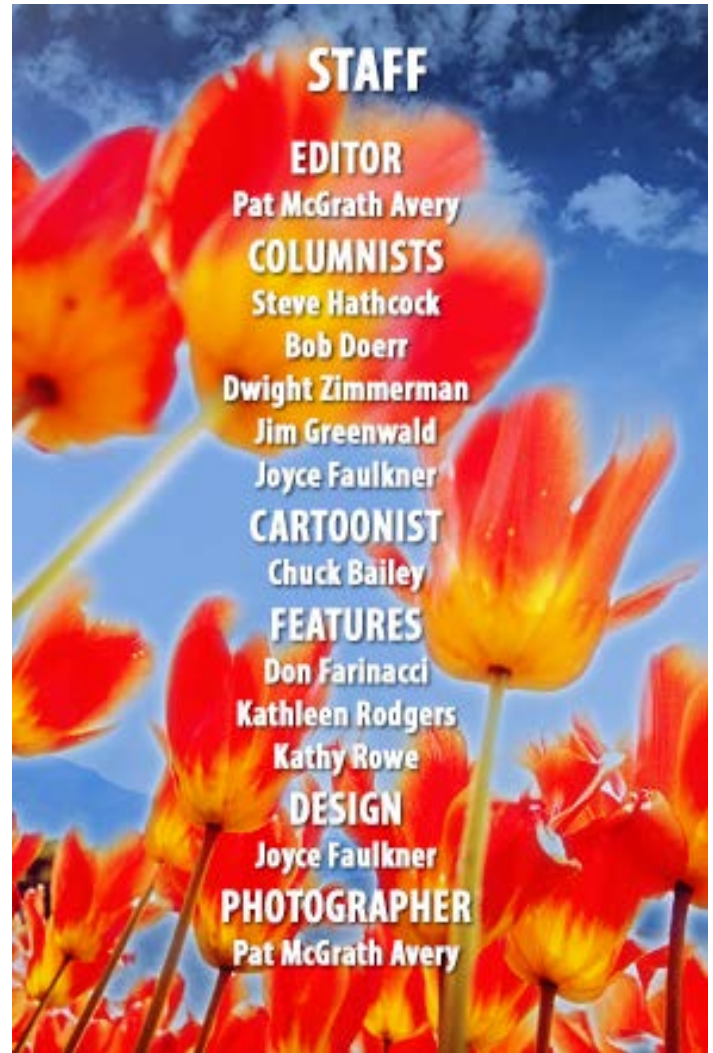
This issue reflects the research of several of our members. Wayne Dawson takes us back to the 17th century in his article on the 1683 siege of Vienna. Donald Farinacci writes about the research behind his book, *1961: Sliding Toward Armageddon*. Steve Hathcock reveals the history of the Confederate Coal Torpedoes in the latter days of the Civil War.

Former crewmembers of the USS Forrestal arrived in Brownsville Texas, as the ship arrived for dismantling. The thousands of people who followed its progress and watched it pass through into the Brownsville Shipping Channel warmed my heart. Several of them related their excitement to see a part of our military history.

Kathy Rowe and Joyce Faulkner offer tips to writers. As writers, we always appreciate discovering information, websites and apps that offer fact-checking advice and effective author tools.

I hope many of you plan to attend the 2014 conference in Phoenix. Jim Greenwald, our fearless conference planner and lead reviewer, dedicates an enormous amount of time and energy to give us well-organized, educational and fun events. Thanks, Jim!

I know you're all ready for spring this year, so enjoy every flower, new leaf and even the opportunity to mow the grass!



CONTENTS

<i>President's Comments</i> - Zimmerman	- 2
<i>Vienna - 1683</i> - Dawson	- 4
<i>Books & Authors of the Months</i>	- 7
<i>Berlin 1961</i> - Farinacci	- 8
<i>USS Forrestal</i> - McGrath-Avery	- 10
<i>The Infamous Coal Torpedo</i> - Hathcock	- 12
<i>Tips & Tricks</i> - Faulkner	- 14
<i>Lead Reviewer Notes</i> - greenwald	- 16
<i>Phoenix Police Department</i>	- 18
<i>Winter Reading List</i> - Doerr	- 19
<i>Henry Schaefer</i> - Schaefer	- 20
<i>Alphadictionary.com</i> - Rowe	- 22
<i>Kathleen M. Rodgers</i>	- 24
<i>After a Year of Loss and Rejection</i> - Rodgers	- 25
<i>Soldiers and Sailors</i> - Faulkner	- 26
<i>Remembering Billy</i> - Faulkner	- 27
<i>Author, Author</i> - Quinn-Smith	- 29
<i>In the Ranks</i> - Bailey - Throughout	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, everyone, and welcome to another issue of Dispatches!

As I write this, March Madness is about to begin. I filled out my bracket and though I'm happy to see my home state North Dakota State University in the dance, I don't have the Bisons going far, winning two games before falling to Arizona. My Final Four are: Florida, Michigan State, Louisville, and Creighton, with Michigan State and Louisville in the title game and Michigan State taking the championship.

Let the Madness begin!

In this issue you'll get the latest news about our upcoming conference in Phoenix. Our Lead Reviewer Jim Greenwald has been working hard to make it a rewarding experience for everyone, and I want to take this opportunity to thank him for all his effort.

If you haven't yet made plans to attend the Phoenix conference, I urge you to do so. By registering now you get to take advantage of the early registration discount, and also have the comfort of not having to make last-minute rush decisions.

I'm happy to see how our members are using our website and Facebook site to post notices and news. I've found Facebook particularly useful for passing on time sensitive industry news. If you haven't become a MWSA Facebook Friend, please do so—it became for me a daily must-visit site shortly after I signed on.

Finally, I offer a heartfelt salute. On Tuesday, March 18, 2014, in an historic ceremony our nation corrects an injustice caused by ethnic and religious prejudice and awards 24 heroes their overdue Medals of Honor. I look forward to watching the event.



Comes A Soldier's Whisper

A COLLECTION OF WARTIME LETTERS WITH
REFLECTION AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

by Jenny Tharp La Sala



IN LOVING MEMORY OF DAVID CLINTON THARP, who served in the 101st Airborne Paratroopers Screaming Eagles, 5-0-Deuce and was awarded two Purple Hearts and four Bronze Stars for the battles of D-Day, Carentan (Purple Heart Lane), Operation Market Garden (Holland) and The Battle of the Bulge.

The author is proud to present and share *Comes A Soldier's Whisper* as a legacy to her family and a gift to all readers. Visit facebook.com/ComesASoldiersWhisper and comesasoldierswhisper.com for shared stories, videos, and interviews.

Coming soon to Amazon & Barnes and Noble: *Comes A Soldier's Whisper: Vietnam and Beyond*, the sequel by Jenny La Sala and Jim Markson.

"Thank you for sharing *Comes A Soldier's Whisper*. It will have a prominent place in my WWII library."
— Tom Brokaw, NBC News correspondent & author of *The Greatest Generation*

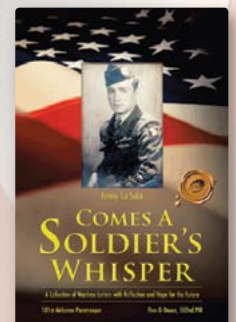
"You have every reason to be very proud of your father. He was truly in the thick of battle during the war and he served his country with distinction — showing a natural human response to the destruction and loss of life." — Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of President Dwight D. Eisenhower

"It is a must-read for every American, and especially for veterans of war." — Palmetto Review

A TRAFFORD PUBLICATION — AVAILABLE NOW AT

Amazon.com | BarnesandNoble.com

Visit www.comesasoldierswhisper.com



God Bless Our Troops

Thank You For Your Service

VIENNA 1683: TURNING POINT FOR JIHAD

by *C. Wayne Dawson*

In July of 1683, the people of Vienna shuddered as 138,000 Muslim Turks encircled their city, marching to booming drums and shrill horns. The only thing that stood between the city's 100,000 inhabitants and slaughter was a skeletal force of 11,000 soldiers. If they failed to hold the enemy, what remained of Europe would face the threat of jihad.

Kara Mustafa, the Muslim commander, boasted he would "stable his horses in St. Peters." But first, he would capture Vienna, because afterward "all the Christians would obey them."

If Mustafa's goals were carried out, Rome would find itself in mortal danger. The Pope would have to flee abroad or face imprisonment. As in other Christian cities before it, Rome's ancient churches would be converted into mosques.

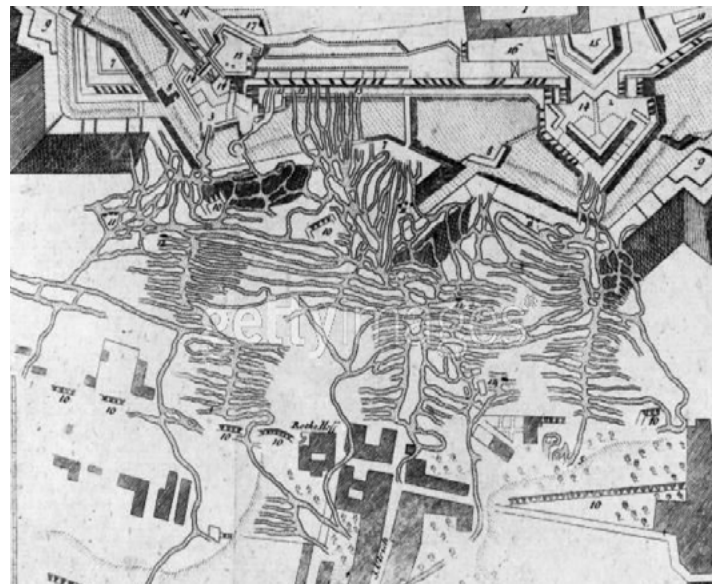
Based on Mustafa's past behavior, Vienna's defenders were under no illusion what awaited them should they fail. Before arriving at Vienna, Mustafa's army stormed the city of Hainburg and massacred 8,000. Several weeks later, the Muslims approached the town of Perchtoldsdorf, promising clemency to any who surrendered. After the population complied, 4,000 were slaughtered. In just two months, Mustafa's rampage would depopulate eastern Austria, resulting in the disappearance of 100,000 people. Those escaping death were dragged off into slavery.

Political Missteps Leads To Military Action.

The Turkish invasion of Austria in 1683 caught Emperor Leopold I woefully unprepared. His army had conducted a campaign against them in 1664, which concluded with the Peace of Vasvár. The treaty spurred resentment amongst the Emperor's Hungarian subjects, however, who rebelled against him because it surrendered parts of their territory to the Turks.

Leopold believed that his concessions to the Turks would satisfy them and leave his Eastern frontier secure. This would enable him to concentrate on what he considered to be the greater threat from France on his Western border. But Mustafa, grand vizier and second in command of the Ottoman Turks, used a combination of bribery and false evidence to convince the Sultan, the Muslim sovereign, that jihad was justified against Leopold.

As the Turks marshaled an invasion force, Vienna staggered from the after effects of a plague that had recently wiped out 50,000 of her inhabitants. Distracted, she was dimly aware of



Drawing of Turk's trenches leading to gates of Vienna

www.gettyimages.com/.../56461191/Hulton-Archive

the dagger aimed at her heart. How could her defenders hold out against a horde over ten times their number?

The Opposing Leaders: Mustafa and Starhemberg

Kara, or "Black" Mustafa rose through the Ottoman ranks by family connections and enterprise. He married the Sultan's daughter and became his hunting companion. Indeed, the Sultan pursued game with greater passion than leading his own military.

The origin of the nickname "Black" has been explained by some as referring to the vizier's swarthy complexion, possibly the result of a fire. Others attribute it to Mustafa's evil character blackened by deception, drinking and an explosive temper triggered by the weakest opposition. Whichever is the more accurate explanation, Kara Mustafa had a reputation for going over to the dark side. He once ordered the surviving inhabitants of the Crimean city of Human flayed alive like wild game after conquering it in 1674. Their hides were subsequently stuffed and presented to the Sultan as trophies.

Whatever else may be said about the grand vizier, he possessed a sense of style. When he undertook the siege of Vienna, he raised his silken green tent, studded with golden buttons, behind the protective walls of a ruin. The inside housed the sacred flag of the Prophet, female companions, and luxurious wallpaper. Nor did Mustafa neglect his outside environment, which boasted bathhouses, a zoo of exotic animals, and wells.

Continued from Page 5

His headquarters would be appraised in the millions using today's standards!

Mustafa's opponent, Field Marshal Rudiger von Starhemberg, had a long, aquiline nose and deep piercing eyes. Many were offended by his bluntness and accused him of being "more heat than head." Few doubted his bravery, however, which he displayed by exposing himself to enemy fire and suffering injury on multiple occasions.



Von Starhemberg

Starhemberg oversaw the military defense of Vienna in 1683 with a stern hand. He erected gallows in a public area—warning that they would be the destination for any traitor—and made good his threat by hanging several. He ramrodded construction crews into finishing fortifications and gun emplacements on the city walls just as the Turks arrived on July 14.

Finally, Starhemberg commanded the wooden roofs of all homes be pulled down to minimize fire hazard—and set the example by hauling his own down.

How the undermanned defenders of Vienna prevailed over the Muslim's superior numbers will be explained in the next issue, and my novel, Vienna's Last Jihad, is available at:

www.amazon.com/Viennas-Last-Jihad-Wayne-Dawson/dp/1490426345.

See my website at:

www.cwaynedawson.com.

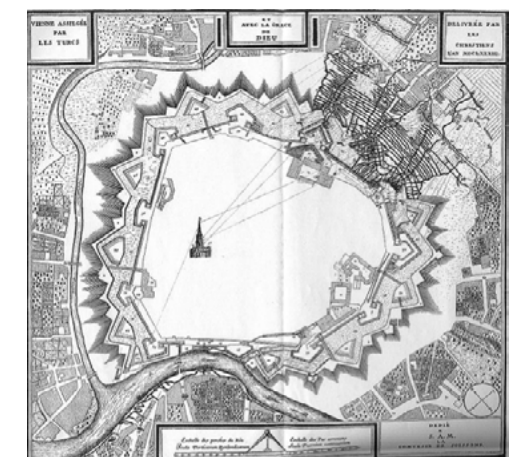


About C. Wayne Dawson

C. Wayne Dawson writes for The Williamson County Sun, and has written for History Magazine, Focus On Georgetown, The Georgetown Advocate, and SAFVIC Law Enforcement Newsletter. In 2012, he founded Central Texas Authors, an author's trade group.

He was an Adjunct Professor of History for ten years at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, California, where he taught American and World History.

In October of 2013, C. Wayne Dawson published Vienna's Last Jihad, available at <http://www.amazon.com/Viennas-Last-Jihad-Wayne-Dawson/dp/1490426345>. It was ranked #1 in Military and War, #3 in Action and Suspense on Kindle's 2014 January's 3rd week KDP free distribution promotion.



Battle of Vienna

2014 MWSA ANTHOLOGY: CALL FOR ENTRIES

The MWSA is pleased to begin work on our 5th annual anthology. Each year the board selects a theme, the membership selects cover art, and we publish a book of articles, short stories, essays, illustrations, and photographs to showcase the amazing members of the Military Writers Society of America. In addition to member essays, the book contains the MWSA review and jacket design of each book nominated for an award in the current award cycle.

Each MWSA member is encouraged to send original work, not to exceed 1500 words (or the equivalent number of anthology pages in the case of poetry, illustrations, and photographs). The theme this year is ALL GAVE SOME and entries should reflect that theme. This is your opportunity to be heard and to further the MWSA's three part mission of writing for healing, preservation of history, or education of others. Share something about yourself, be published, and earn buckaroo bucks. The anthology is open to all who are members, so if you have been thinking about joining MWSA, now is the time to do it. Each participant will be awarded 1,000 buckaroo bucks to spend at the Buckaroo Auction during the MWSA annual conference in September.

The MWSA anthology is a wonderful keepsake and is included in the registration fees for all members who attend the annual conference. Use it as a yearbook and get the signatures of your fellow MWSA members during the conference. Those who are not able to attend the conference can purchase the book after publication.

DEADLINE for submissions is June 15, 2014. Please send a high resolution jpeg head shot photograph and brief biography (250 words) to accompany your entry. Submissions are to be emailed to Betsy Beard at eabeard@nc.rr.com. Don't wait until the last minute. Start writing now!



2014 Phoenix, AZ Conference Time to make those plans to attend!

Request your Conference Application Form from LeansToFar@aol.com.

Information about the conference is posted on the MWSA web site. Check it out (to find the information – Log on to the web site, top of the page, highlight Conference, click on 2014 Conference, next window, click on 2014 conference, and scroll down to where it says “When you arrive at” and click on it).

VA book donations, auction donations and registration desk volunteers, check out the one-on-one offer, time is an issue; you need to set that up ASAP.

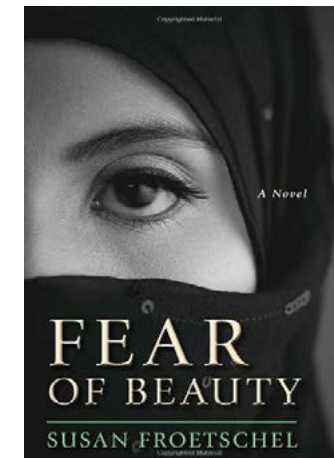
Very few openings remain for seminars. if you wish to present, contact Jim Greenwald at the above email address with a title and description.

Look over the seminars offered. Do not miss this year's conference!

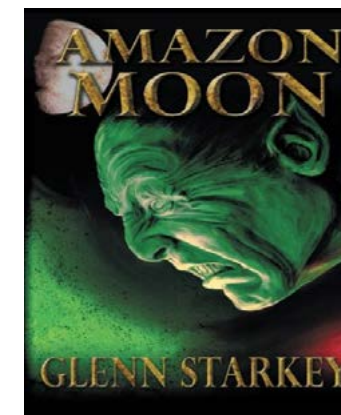
BOOKS AND AUTHORS OF THE MONTH

Author of the Month

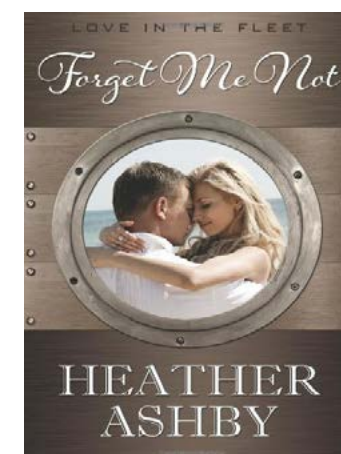
February



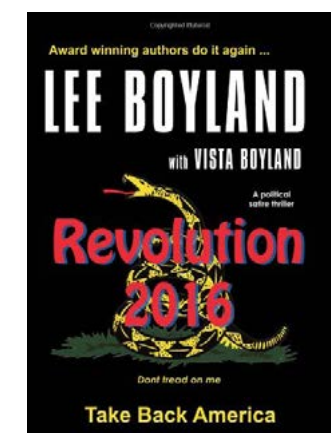
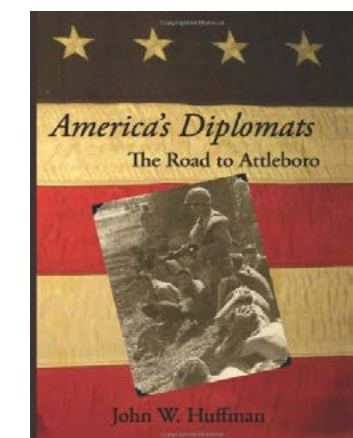
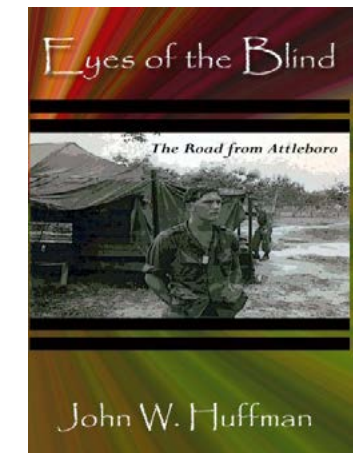
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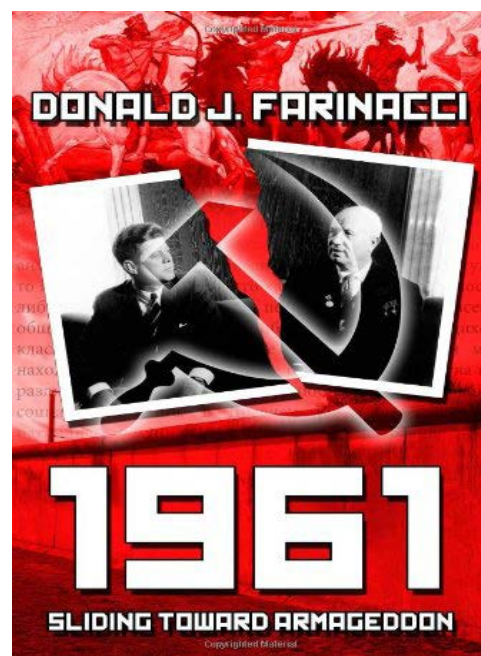
Book of the Month



BERLIN, 1961 : A CITY IN GRAVE CRISIS

by *Donald J. Farinacci*

My book, *1961, Sliding Towards Armageddon*, is the prequel to the *Allemagne Deception* and ideally the two should be read together as a set. However, each is a self-contained and fully integrated novel in its own right and loses nothing if read separately.



From the first glimmering light of 1961 to its last flickering flame, the fulcrum upon which all the tumult of the Cold War seemed to rotate was Berlin. My historical novel gave me the opportunity to travel back in time to that city of intrigue, the Berlin of 1961, which to the free peoples of the world symbolized an island of freedom in a sea of tyranny. A year before the Cuban Missile Crisis began, President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev viewed Berlin as the major battleground of the Cold War — their Gettysburg, Stalingrad and Waterloo all wrapped into one. They clashed decisively over freedom for Berlin at the June 1961 summit conference, and by the end of August, Khrushchev had erected the infamous Berlin Wall.

To appreciate just how super-charged and dangerous the atmosphere was, the Bay of Pigs fiasco preceded the Vienna Summit Conference by only seven weeks; and the death of U.N. Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjöld, under suspicious circumstances — preceded the armed standoff between the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union at Checkpoint Charlie at the Berlin Wall by only about eight weeks.



Berlin Wall

The citizens of the beleaguered city of Berlin saw it as an idea — as much as a place — one that signified many things: a symbol of triumph and tragedy — of final victory by the allies over Hitler's Germany in WWII, the destruction of Hitler's evil regime, and the spiritual capital of the German homeland.

Almost everyone of a certain age recalls the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 vividly. More recent generations have been introduced to it in books, movies and television specials. But how many remember that in the autumn of 1961, U.S. Patton tanks pointed their big guns a short distance across the border at Russian T64 tanks, in a standoff of crisis proportions. As it did a year later during the Missile Crisis, the Soviet Union was the first to back down. This incident has become almost a lost fact in history.

MWSA's distinguished author, Jeffrey Miller, winner of multiple awards for *War Remains*, wrote in his review of "1961", the following:

"One of the most terrifying moments of the Cold War occurred in October 1962 when the United States and former Soviet Union nearly came to blows during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Much has been written about the crisis, which has been the subject of countless books and a couple of movies.

Now, in a riveting new book, *1961, Sliding Towards Armageddon*, author Donald J. Farinacci looks at events leading up to the crisis To be sure, I was particularly impressed how Fari-

Continued on Page 9



Berlin Wall

Continued from Page 8

nacci weaved history with fiction. Without question, that is one of the book's strengths."

"Farinacci excels with his ability to fictionalize the events leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis while offering plenty of history along the way to remind readers of just how close the world came to Armageddon."

I could have written *1961, Sliding Towards Armageddon* as non-fiction, as I did with *Truman and MacArthur* and my latest, *A House Divided, the Story of Ike and McCarthy*, but, after much soul-searching, I settled on historical fiction as the most suitable medium for capturing the drama and emotion of the armed confrontation between the United States and Soviet Union in 1961, which brought us to the brink of World War III and was a precursor to the Cuban Missile Crisis, one year later.

Finally, in the year of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, I wished to pay homage to him — without expressly saying so — for the critical role he played in saving the world from nuclear Armageddon in 1961 and 1962. As the Olympics enter their final week, it is nothing short of miraculous that they could be held on Russian soil with a U.S. team in the competition. Let not that fact, however, instill in us a false sense of security, as the world is still a very dangerous place.

My website, www.donaldjfarinacci.com, provides additional information on the crises that shaped our times.

IN THE RANKS...

UNDER
WEIGH...

IS THE
ONLY WAY



c bailey

"COAST GUARD"

USS FORRESTAL

by *Pat McGrath Avery*

Like several thousand others including many former crewmembers, I spent the damp, foggy day waiting for a glimpse of the USS Forrestal when the tug pulled her through Brazos Santiago Pass (at the south end of South Padre Island) to the Brownsville Ship Channel. The heavy fog postponed the entry from early morning to mid-afternoon.

The ship's journey from Philadelphia to the south Texas dismantling facility caught the attention of residents and winter visitors as we followed it on Facebook and various websites.

Not only was it the largest ship to ever maneuver through the pass, it also carried a long and famous history of service. Dubbed the world's first "super carrier," the Forrestal launched as an attack aircraft carrier in 1954. It was re-designated as a multi-purpose aircraft carrier in 1975.

Senator John McCain, probably the most famous naval aviator to fly off her decks, issued a statement when her final voyage began in February. In part, he said:

"Forrestal represented American ingenuity and shipbuilding excellence, integrating operational needs and engineering insight that created the first steam catapult, angled flight deck, and use of optical landing systems."

In 1956, she served in the eastern Atlantic during the Suez Canal crisis and in the Lebanon crisis of 1958. She deployed to the Mediterranean 21 times and traveled to many ports worldwide.

The Forrestal gained fame in 1963 when a C-130 Hercules made 21 full-stop landings and takeoffs aboard the ship, setting a record for the largest and heaviest airplane landing on a Navy aircraft carrier.

Unfortunately, she again made the news in 1967 suffering the single worst loss of life on a Navy vessel since WWII. For four days in the Gulf of Tonkin, her decks saw the launch of 150 missions against targets in North Vietnam. On July 29, a rocket installed on an F-4 Phantom misfired, hitting an armed A-4 Skyhawk (LCDR John McCain's plane), rupturing its fuel tank. A massive fire burned for hours, killing 134, injuring 161 and destroying 21 aircraft. McCain stated: "I will never forget when that Zuni rocket hit my A-4 Skyhawk after it was accidentally fired from across the flight deck, rupturing the fuel tank and setting that horrific, costly fire."

After seven months in repair, the Forrestal served another 26 years. In 1972, she again suffered major fire damage and in 1978, a minor fire. Through it all, she proudly carried her

Continue on Page 11



USS Forrestal
10

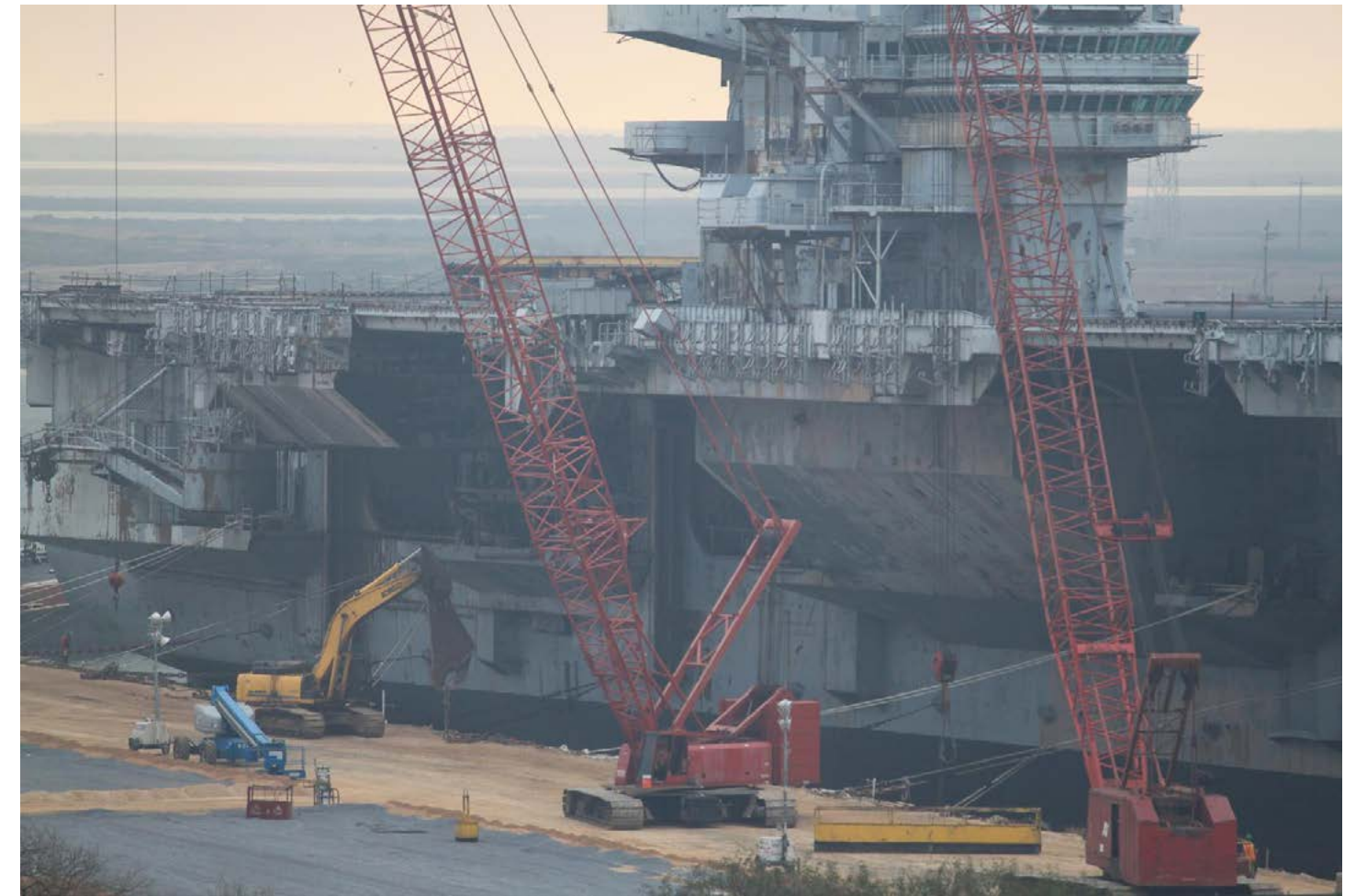
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sailors to their duties. She carried them to the 30th D-Day anniversary celebration and took part in NATO exercises.

The Forrestal was decommissioned in 1993 in Philadelphia and stripped of her name and equipment. Although former crewmembers tried to raise the money to save her, the US government finally sold her for one penny to All Star Metals.

I watched the last leg of her final journey to be scrapped at the Port of Brownsville. Like others around me, I felt her proud history.

Captain Noe Lopez, from Port Isabel, took former crewmembers on his weekly Port of Brownsville tour to view the Forrestal in its final dock. "I just handed the microphone to them. They knew so much more than I did and their stories of the fire were heartrending."



USS Forrestal



THE INFAMOUS COAL TORPEDO

by *Steve Hathcock*

The Confederate Torpedo Bureau caused more damage in the last twelve months of the war than had been done in the previous three years.

On the afternoon of Friday, April 15, 1864, the newly commissioned side-wheeler USS Chenango sailed out of the Navy Yard at New York. She was scheduled to rendezvous the next morning with the USS Onondaga, a double turreted monitor near Sandy Hook. The ironclad warship would escort her south to her destination at Hampton Roads, Virginia.

She never made it.

A tremendous explosion tore apart her port boiler as the Chenango splashed her way past Fort Richmond in New York Harbor. Two men died instantly and thirty others received severe burns. Rescue boats carried the survivors ashore where they were loaded into ambulances and taken to the United States Marine Hospital. The New York Times reported the following: "Many of the poor fellows were literally flayed alive, some of them being quite blind from the effects of the steam. Their

shrieks and groans were painful beyond expression; great, stalwart men implored the surgeons to give them something to ease their pain. It was evident that several of them were beyond human aid and would find in death a speedy ease of their suffering."

In fact, many of them suffered horribly before dying of their wounds. An investigation conducted by the Navy Department within a short time of the explosion, found negligence on the part of second assistant engineer, S. Wilkins Cragg. The court of inquiry assumed he had been derelict in his duties as inspection officer of the boiler, which had exploded. The court determined that the boiler had been constructed defectively and as a result the buildup of pressure caused the explosion in the weakened structure.

They were wrong but would only discover their error when a batch of letters was found after the war had ended.

In a letter dated May 21, 1864, inventor Thomas E. Courtenay wrote: "My work is beginning to tell on the Yankees. A short time ago, the U.S. Gun boat, Chenango, was blown up at Brooklyn by one of my coal torpedoes (as the Yankees call them) and I am now preparing to start for Canada & England to send parties from there to all parts of the West & North. You will soon hear of my success." (Courtenay's coal torpedo was an explosive device camouflaged as a lump of coal. Agents of the Confederate Secret Service hid the torpedo amongst ordinary pieces of coal. The fake coal exploded upon exposure to the fires in the huge boilers of the steam ship). This new information was not a startling revelation to the Navy Department though, as the Union had recently become aware of the Confederate Navy's increasingly desperate attempts to develop weapons capable of breaking the chokehold of the Union blockade of the Southern ports.



Steve Hathcock



Thomas E. Courtenay

Continued from Page 12

In March 1864, the Union gunboat Signal, of the Mississippi Squadron, captured a Confederate mail carrier with a batch of letters detailing activities of the Confederate Torpedo Bureau. In response to the threat of this horrible new weapon, Rear-Admiral David Dixon Porter, commanding the Mississippi Squadron, issued General Order number 184 which read in part; "The enemy have adopted new inventions to destroy human life and vessels in the shape of torpedoes, and an article resembling coal, which is to be placed in our coal piles for the purpose of blowing the vessels up, or injuring them."

The Union placed guards on all coal scows with orders to "shoot to kill." They subjected captured wheeled vehicles to an intensive search for letters and cut open the linings of seats. Those caught carrying messages were sent to Cairo as prisoners of war.

In order to protect his family should his activities become known to the Union, Courtenay obtained permission from Jefferson Davis to take his family to Europe, "where they would not be subject to Yankee malice and outrage." Safe at last in England, Courtenay kept busy filling a large contract for clothing for Alabama troops while attempting to sell his invention to the British Government for \$150,000. By 1873, Courtenay was back in New York, where he represented the London Assurance Corporation. His return to the now re-united States was short lived. Captain Thomas E. Courtenay died September 3, 1875 near Winchester, Virginia.

Historians will probably never know how much actual damage his coal torpedo caused. But officially, the Courtenay Torpedo was credited with sinking no less than sixty Union vessels along the Mississippi River killing thousands of Union soldiers and sailors and destroying millions of dollars worth of property.



Continued on Page 13

WINTER 2014

IN THE RANKS...

Never tell the
Platoon Sergeant
you have nothing
to do...



c.bailey

"MARINES"

IN THE RANKS...

"We have met
the enemy and
they are
ours..."



c.bailey

"NAVY"

TIPS AND TRICKS

by Joyce Faulkner

Stepping into someone else's shoes

Character development for a novelist is crucial regardless of genre. Readers must believe the people who populate your stories are real and react to them as they might a person in their family or place of business. They need to relate to the villains as much as they do the heroes. Each player in your drama must be recognizable immediately — from her behavior and the way she expresses herself.

“Fine,” you say. “But how the heck do you do that?”

Of course we all do it differently. I know many writers who develop their players as they write their stories. It sort of bubbles out they say. My process is more tortured and circuitous than that. However, in the long run, we are all doing the same thing. In that spirit, here are a few techniques that I use to try and step into my character's skin.

- **Decide when the character was born and when he died.** This information allows you to track his age at the time your story takes place. Is he young and inexperienced? Or wisened and filled with advice for others? It gives you a window into his personal passages in life.
- **Decide your character's specific birthdate.** This allows you to know his horoscope. Whether you believe in such things or not, it's a rich source of ideas about personality.
- **Determine your character's nationality.** Whether you tell your audience this or not, this kind of background might give you a picture of what his family history might be. Does he speak with an accent? Do his parents? Does he have cultural biases that you can use to paint his portrait? Does he have memories of his father working in a coal mine? Or of his mother's Polish sausage?
- **What is your character's level of education?** This would give you some idea of what he has read and what philosophies he embraces. Does he read the classics or cowboy novels? Does he prefer to memorize things or figure them out? Does he get his perspectives from reading or from watching TV?
- **What is your character's world view?** Is he conservative or liberal or somewhere in the middle? Do these opinions impact how he talks and how he reacts to people and events?
- **What's his spiritual perspective?** Is he religious or not? Is he Jewish or Muslim or Christian? Does he soothe himself with meditation or does he say the Rosary? Does he have a unique moral basis that would impact his decisions?

- **Does he have a physical flaw?** Does he walk with a limp or speak with a lisp? Is his nose too big? Does he have a big belly or small feet? Is he hairy or bald? Does he have migraines? Is he an epileptic? A diabetic? Could any of those things be a reason why he would behave in a certain way?
- **Does he have a physical advantage within his social circle?** Can he run faster than anyone else? Lift heavy weights? Is he handsome? Can he carry a dead body out of a burning building?
- **Does he have an emotional or moral characteristic that might support your plot?** Is he a sociopath? A narcissist? Insecure? Hostile? Oversexed? Is he perceptive? Creative? Does he take drugs? If so, which ones? What would their effects be on him?
- **Does he have a troubled past?** Is he an undocumented immigrant? Is he a disbarred lawyer? Does he have a dishonorable discharge from the Marines? How do those things impact his behavior?

There are many more things you can know about your guy. You can share this information with your readers or not. You can let the man reveal himself through his own words and deeds. You can have other characters describe him or challenge him. Women can find him funny and cute much to his dismay. His brothers might see him as the baby and treat him accordingly. His father might criticize him.

All those things of your plan... are part and parcel and that plan came about by stepping inside your character's shoes, as Atticus told Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and walking around in them.



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Rich Shogren

US Navy 1957-1962

Rich served aboard the USS Proteus, a submarine repair ship. Holy Loch, Scotland, was the home base during his years of service.



LEAD REVIEWER NOTES:

Make certain you check the MWSA web site to stay up to date on our “2014 Conference” plans.

We have almost completed the list of seminars, with only a few slots open. If you want to present a seminar please contact me, provide an outline and title, along with day and time you expect to arrive at the conference and I will see if I can get it in the schedule (email LeansToFar@aol.com).

The Hotel is accepting room reservations now, so do not hesitate to reserve yours. You can also get your flight tickets now as literally all airlines schedule that far in advance and generally fares are cheaper if booked way in advance. The shuttle service to and from the Sky Harbor Airport is free.

Donations for the auction are coming in and will, I imagine, be filled soon. Only 40 items maximum in this year’s auction, 13 more and the auction will be set for 2014. A few changes to the auction and procedure. Check it out on the web site under conferences. If you plan on attending and wish to donate something please do so soon.

VA Book Donation – Members need to contact me with their donations now! Check out the web site under conferences for in depth information. Pay careful attention to the process and timing for the actual mailing of the books. We are hoping to at least match the donation we made in Dayton and can only do that with the generous support of all our members [65 received - our goal 500].

Some comments on book submissions and Awards:

1) When you submit a book you will know if it has been received within five days as it will be listed on the “Pending” list on the MWSA web site.

2) Don’t just check off you have read the criteria; you need to read it so you are familiar with the process. You should read all the information on the web site. This is your organization.

3) We are still getting books shipped to the P.O. Box; any that are received will simply be placed in a box to be donated to the VA. The criteria clearly explain that you are not to mail books to the P.O. Box. Follow the instructions. It will save you money. The instructions clearly state that including notes, comments, and reviews with your book is not permitted. Doing so may result in the book’s disqualification without notification.

4) The process for requesting a review and entry into the awards contest are fully explained on the web site. Never send or ask where to send a book for review. The process is; fill out the form and wait until the Lead Reviewer emails you telling you where to send a copy.

5) If you won an award you will know within 48 hours after the conference ends, as it will be posted on the MWSA web

site. Please do not send multiple emails and or ask about it on Facebook. Have patience.

6) When your review is completed it will be published to the web site, and within five days you will notice that your title no longer shows up on the “Pending” list.

If you have questions concerning book submissions, awards, reviews etc. and for some reason were unable to find the information on the web site contact LeansToFar@aol.com. Facebook is not the method required or desired to gain that information. All questions regarding review issues and submissions come to the Lead Reviewer. When you email your question include exactly how you tried to find the information on the web site so I can help you find it.

Many of the email questions I receive are already answered on the web site. Before sending off an email, check the site for answers to your questions. Become familiar with your web site. Many folks worked hours to put all that information at your fingertips.

If you know you are attending, now is the time to request a conference application. It is also time to volunteer for the registration desk.

W.E.M. Contest – Information is on the web site, just type WEM into the search window and check out the rules. Two deadlines left; May 10 and August 5, winners will be published in the Anthology and of course win buckaroos as well as being recognized and receive medals at the banquet.



MWSA 2014 CONFERENCE IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

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PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION FOR THE MILITARY WRITERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA - SEPTEMBER, 2014

Evolution of the Phoenix Police Department's Cold Case Homicide Squad:

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

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

MURDER FOR HIRE:

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

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

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

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

"Arson, it's no accident"

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

Steve has investigated over 1000 fire incidents. He has 100's of hours of documented court room testimony concerning arson related cases. In his 5 years as an arson investigator, Steve has made 43 arson arrests that have led to 43 convictions. Steve has solved arson related cases that have involved serial arsons, arsons for hire and revenge motivated arsons including gang related crimes. Two Phoenix street gangs were completely dissolved because of Steve's arrests of their gang leaders. Captain Steve Franklin will discuss the intricacies of the Arson Investigation from the fire to the courtroom.



2013 AUTHOR OF THE YEAR BOB DOERR'S

MWSA RECOMMENDED READING LIST



SPRING 2014

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

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

After Action: The True Story of a Cobra Pilot's Journey by Dan Sheehan

Charlie Chasers - History of USAF AC-119 "Shadow" Chasers in the Vietnam War by Larry Elton Fletcher

ROE: Rules of Engagement by Bill Rambow

Fear of Beauty by Susan Froetschel

Infantry Lieutenant by Gid B. Adkisson III

We Were Beautiful Once Chapters from a Cold War by Joe Carvallo

Eyes of the Blind by John Huffman

America's Diplomats: The Road to Attleboro by John Huffman

Tiger Woman by John Huffman

Home of the Brave: Somewhere in the Sand by Jeffrey Hess Anthology

Mixed Company by Andy Horne

Amazon Moon by Glenn Starkey

Well the calendar says it's supposed to be spring, even if it's still snowing. March Madness is about to start. I'm not sure if that term only applies to the College Basketball playoffs anymore. Things have gotten pretty hectic around my house these days. The weeds have gotten a jump start on my lawn, and my chore list has grown. Oh well, I can hide out a few more days. If you're like me, then a good pre-summer chore list stress reliever is a good book. You need look no further than the list above. Yes, settle back with your Kindle, Nook, iPad, or just an old fashioned book. Take your mind off the weeds mocking you in your yard and select a book to read. More info about the books and the authors can be found at www.mwsadispatches.com

HENRY (HEINZ) SCHAEFER GREW UP IN HITLER'S GERMANY

Born in 1933, two days after Hitler came to power in Germany, Henry shared his story at a celebration in south Texas to honor veterans. At 78, he still vividly remembers the terror that was part of his life in Nazi Germany.

"Trust me, those images can never be erased," Henry said.

Henry recalled that his early life under Hitler wasn't bad. His only complaint was the number of steps he had to climb to his family's fourth floor apartment. That all changed with the beginning of World War II in 1939. In the first few years of leadership, Hitler improved the economy, drove unemployment down and re-armed the German armed forces. Many Germans loved Hitler during these years.

However, Henry's family did not. His parents opposed the Nazis and were appalled that Hitler came to power. On November 9-10, 1938, Kristallnacht changed life for his family. His father hated Hitler's attitude toward the Jews and the destruction they rained down upon Jewish homes and neighborhoods. He witnessed the shootings, ransacking, and fires on his way home from work. Henry recalled the tears in his dad's eyes as he related the destruction he saw. Almost six years old, Henry swore that someday he would leave his homeland.

"About ninety-one Jews were killed, and more than 30,000 Jewish men were taken to concentration camps. They were tortured for many months and more than 1,000 of them died," Henry said.

At the age of eight, Henry was required to join the Hitler Youth. In 1942, his father died and in 1943, the Nazis visited his uncle's house. They told his aunt they were taking his uncle, who suffered from Parkinson's disease, to a clinic. Two weeks later they reported his death.

Bombing raids became a constant source of fear. After nights of bombings, Henry was out there helping put out fires. "I don't think there was anyone who wasn't scared with the ground shaking and homes crumbling on top of you."

Their neighborhood was totally bombed out in August 1943. The family and their neighbors lost everything but the clothes on their backs. They moved to Eichenbuehl, his mother's hometown, and lived in one little room until the war ended.

On Easter Sunday, 1945, they waited for the Americans to come. Henry remembered putting veggies in the window for them but they didn't come until the next day.



"We had to be careful even when the Americans came. The German Army opened fire on our town. We stayed in our homes."

When the war ended, they moved back to Offenbach where Henry finished elementary school. Because he was a frail child, his mother apprenticed him to become a tailor. In 1952, he immigrated to the United States. His great-uncle, who lived in the U.S., sponsored him.

He immediately registered for the draft. Two weeks later, the draft board called. He served in the Army, 101st Airborne Division, in Korea from 1953-1957. In 1954, he became a US citizen. After Korea, he went back to Germany, this time in an American uniform. After his discharge from the Army in 1962, he worked for the Department of Defense and retired as a Division Chief.

"The war was the deadliest conflict in human history resulting in an estimated 50 million — 70 million deaths," Henry explained why he tells his story to this day.



STORIES OF THE LOST
by
Jenifer Holik
Release date is May 8, 2014.
Available in paperback and
E-book at:
<http://jenniferholik.com>
for \$21.95.

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

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

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

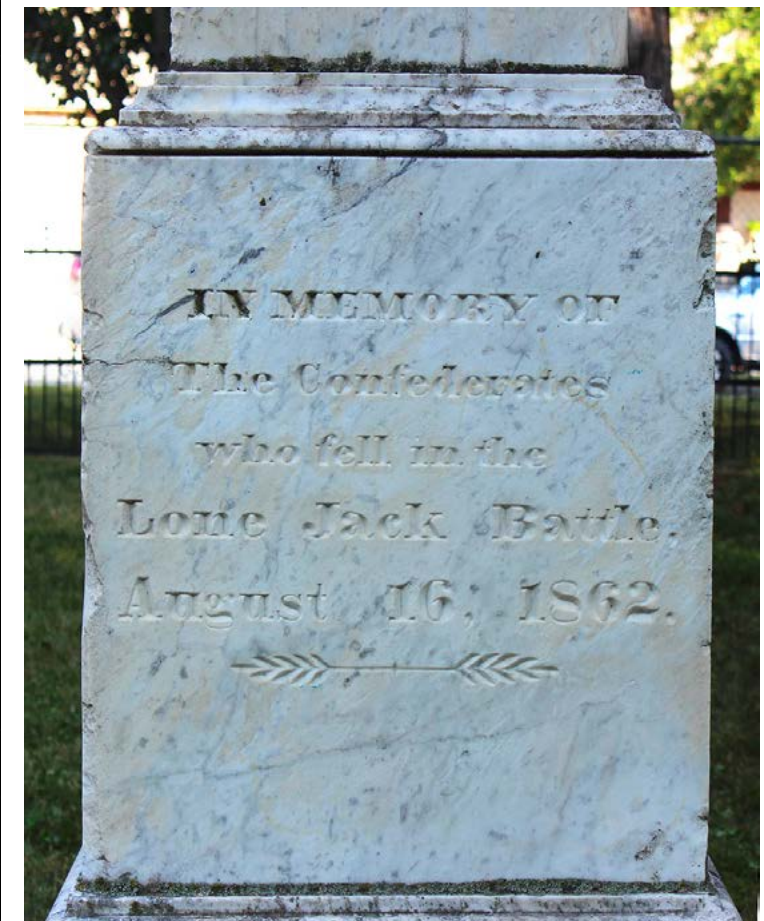
IN THE RANKS...

The secret of
all victory lies in
the organization
of the non-
obvious.

OBVIOUSLY!

c.bailey

"AIR FORCE"



Reprinted with permission from Indies Unlimited (www.indiesunlimited.com)

You wouldn't use the word "head honcho" in a 1940s era novel; the term didn't come about until the 1970s. You might still hear "be-bop," that's been around since the 40s. Shaun McLaughlin did an excellent IU guest post about Google Books Ngram Viewer.

Since I'm researching the WW II era for a historic romance novel, I needed to be savvy on some of the lingo that was used back then. So I did an internet search and typed in "American slang from the 1930s and 1940s." I got a lot of junk on my return search, but one site caught my eye.



Alphadictionary.com came up with lists of slang words by era. You can type in a word, set your search parameters, and if you want a “clean” listing or not. The “full” listing will include any vulgar slang as well.

I searched “dance” and this is what I got:



The only downfall of the site is you have to use full decades. So if you want to search something very specific, you can't

exactly do it. But, for the majority of us, just having the correct decade is okay. If you need a list of words commonly used in that era, just leave the word/meaning field empty. You will get a lengthy list.

Alphadictionary also has the unique feature of having a Specialty Glossary. Oh, this is fun! They have glossaries of things like beer, wine, medical, golf, astronomy, cattle, law enforcement, you name it! These are great if you are writing a piece with a specific audience or genre in mind. Once you click on a subject, you will be taken to a page that has various glossaries in which to find just the right word.

Agriculture	Anthropology	Archaeology
Architecture	Art	Astronomy
Automobiles	Aviation	Baseball
Beer	Beauty	Beverages
Biology	Biology	Boxing
Botany	Carpentry	Callie
Chemistry	Children	Chocolate
Clocks	Clothing	Coffee
Collecting	Computing	Construction
Cooking	Crafts	Criminology
Crosswords	Dance	Dentistry
Dialects	Dinocourt	Drinks
e-Commerce	Economics	Education
Elections	Electronics	Energy
Engineering	Entomology	Environment
Etymology	Film	Finance
Fish	Food	Football
Geography	Furniture	Gardening
Games	Genealogy	Geography
Geology	Golf	Grammar/Style
History	Horology	Homes
Humor	Hunting	Idioms
Insurance	Internet	Investment
Jewelry	Labor Relations	Law
Law Enforcement	Leather	Liquor
Library	Linguistics	Literature
Magic	Management	Marketing
Mathematics	Measures	Media
Medicine	Metalurgy	Military
Mining	Multimedia	Music
Mythology	Names	Nationalism
TV & Com	Palmistry	Paper

Here's the one on beer:



And if you get bored and just want to have some fun, they have a Fun & Games tab. Somewhere on the site I managed to find a Yankee vs. Rebel quiz. It led to a few chuckles.



The site also offers foreign language dictionaries. You just click on the language and are sent to a page like the Specialty Glossary. There are several hundred languages and dialects you can search

[illegible]

Overall, the site is pretty easy to navigate, and there are so many resources you can't possibly use all of them in a lifetime. They boast that you can search 1065 online dictionaries at once. The site does offer "paid" services, but for the most part I think authors can get what they need on the free side.

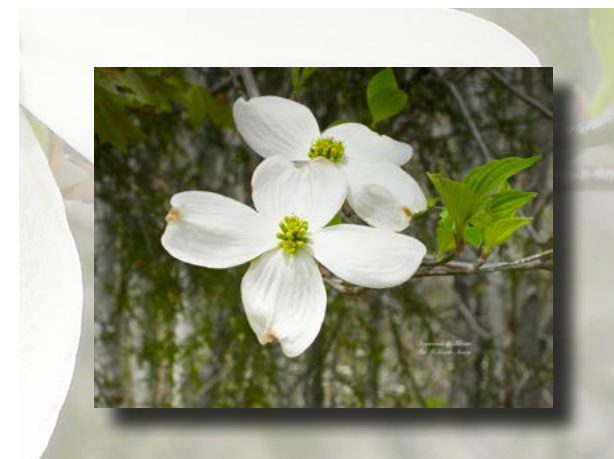
So if you are struggling with getting the right words for the right era, give Alphadictionary a try.

A black smartphone frame is shown, containing a white rectangular area. Inside this white area, the text "ADVERTISE IN DISPATCHES MILITARY WRITERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA QUARTERLY MAGAZINE" is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font, centered and arranged in seven lines. Below this, the rates are listed in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font, also centered: "Back page \$400", "Full page \$200", "1/2 page \$125", "1/4 page \$75", and "Business card size \$50.". At the bottom of the white area, the contact information "CONTACT PAT AVERY" and "PATAVERY@GMAIL.COM" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered in two lines. The smartphone frame has a small white notch at the top center and a black home button at the bottom center.

**ADVERTISE
IN
DISPATCHES
MILITARY WRITERS
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
QUARTERLY
MAGAZINE**

**Back page \$400
Full page \$200
1/2 page \$125
1/4 page \$75
Business card size \$50.**

**CONTACT PAT AVERY
PATAVERY@GMAIL.COM**



KATHLEEN M. RODGERS



Kathy and Jeanie with husbands, Tom and Robert, on Main Street in historic Grapevine, TX.

Kathleen Rodgers' list of magazine article credits could fill a book. She has been writing since high school and will have her second novel, *Johnnie Come Lately*, released from Coffeetown Press in February 2015.

With her usual enthusiasm for life, writing and MWSA, she shared her journey with us. Kathy grew up on Cannon Air Force Base, married a fighter pilot and is the proud mother of two sons. She showcases her knowledge of the ups and downs of military family life in her many articles.

When Jeanie Loiacono of Loiacono Literary Agency offered to represent Kathy, she not only found an agent, but also a kindred spirit. Jeanie is an Army veteran and the daughter of a career Air Force veteran.

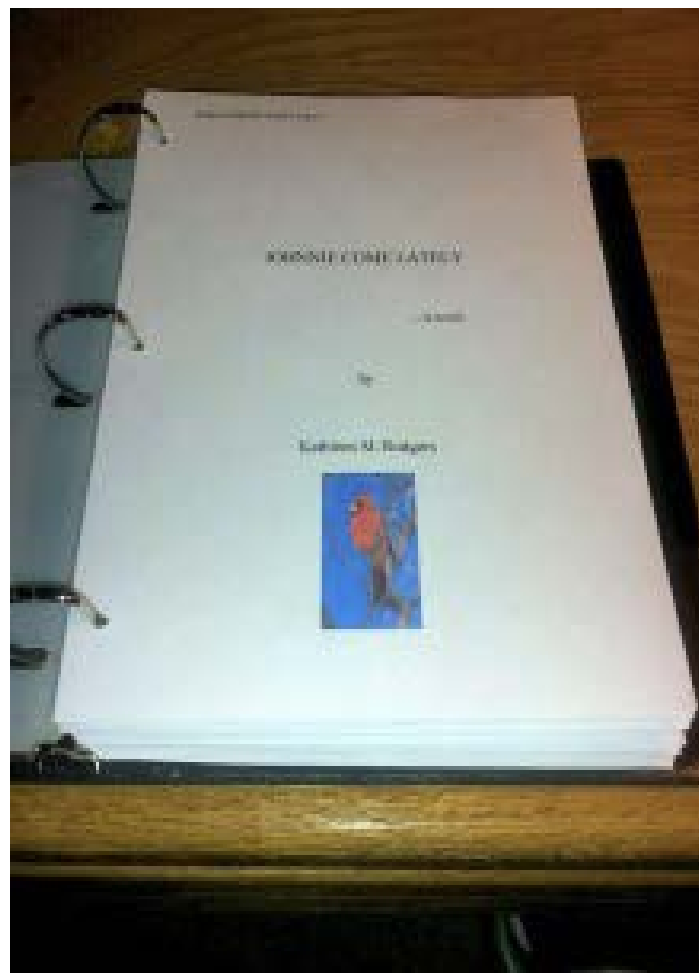
Kathy's first novel, *The Final Salute*, took sixteen years from concept to publication. It became Amazon's #1 Top Rated War Fiction of 2012, and the #2 Best-selling Military Aviation in 2010. **Breaking News: *The Final Salute* has been acquired by Front Porch Publishing.**

Johnnie Come Lately only took six years to write, four months to find an agent and less than three months to sign a publishing contract.

Along the way, she continued her freelance career. The University of Nebraska Press/Potomac Books will publish her Air Force Time's essay, "Remembering Forgotten Fliers, Their Survivors," in an anthology, *Red, White and True*, due this August.

Kathy is starting her third novel, a sequel to *Johnnie Come Lately*. She is an inspiration to new writers to tackle their

dreams and never give up. She set a goal and has followed it despite the roadblocks she's encountered along the way. To Kathy, life is about moving forward.



AFTER A YEAR OF LOSS AND REJECTION, I FIND SUCCESS

by Kathleen M. Rodgers

2013 was a year of deep painful losses for my family, but it was also a year of huge achievements for me as a writer. Pardon the cliché, but when one door slammed shut, several swung open.

In late March, days after my husband retired from the airlines, I finished my second novel and sent it to my copyeditor in Wisconsin. Over the next few weeks, Joyce Gilmour and I went over the manuscript several times, making sure it was polished before I began the arduous task of finding an agent.

On May 14, without any warning, our beloved Chocolate Lab, Bubba, died and left us in a state of shock. Meanwhile, my father was on his deathbed in New Mexico, and my husband and I were waiting for the phone call. With time pressing in on me, I placed my left hand on the box containing Bubba's ashes, draped his red collar around my neck, and sent out my first query letter to an agent I'd been following for three years. Dad died a few hours after I hit the "send" button. The following day – a Sunday – as my husband and I made plans to head to New Mexico for Dad's funeral, I received a personal confirmation from Jeanie Loiacono, President of Loiacono Literary Agency. Her e-mail said she would look at my work, but it might take a few months...she had several writers ahead of me. Despite my grief, I had hope for my new novel, which stars a Chocolate Lab named Brother Dog. Then I got to work writing my dad's obit.

A week after we returned from Dad's funeral, and still numb from two deaths back to back, I busied myself by sending out batches of queries to agents all across the country. Despite my thirty-five plus years in the business, I don't handle rejection with grace. Usually I get angry, maybe even curse a bit, and then I sit down and fire off more queries. One night, after a handful of rejections, I stood in the kitchen and yelled, "My dog died. My dad died. And I can't get a *#*@*ing agent." I'm glad my husband was the only one there to witness my outrage. Gulping down a glass of ice water, I marched back in the office and fired off another round of queries.



Kathy's father, Richard "Dick" Doran

As the rejections continued to trickle in, along with several agents requesting a full or partial, I pressed on with faith that my new novel would find a good home. I believed in my story about a woman named Johnnie Kitchen, a character who came to me years ago while I was working on my first novel. Looking back over my long writing career, I reminded myself that each acceptance came with a slew of rejection. While I prayed, kept my fingers crossed and continued to send out queries, our oldest son's precious cat went missing and never returned home. A week later, Thomas' longtime girlfriend lost her brother very tragically. In the midst of our own grief, Tom and I rallied around Brittany and Thomas and offered to help take care of their dog, Wilbur. Where Bubba's food and water dishes had been went Wilbur's dishes, along with his bed.

During the worst week of Brittany's life, I found joy in caring for Wilbur. Having a dog in my home again helped fill in the empty spaces left behind after Bubba's death. Each day I continued to send out queries and to have faith in my new book. Hope came when an agent with excellent credentials made an offer to represent me, but something told me to hold out for the first agent I'd queried. After all, I'd followed Jeanie Loiacono's career for three years, and she'd promised to give my work serious consideration. A writer friend, who's also one of Jeanie's clients, reassured me that Jeanie and I would be a good fit.

In mid September, four months after I sent that first query, I received an offer of representation from Jeanie Loiacono. After our initial meeting, she went to work pitching *Johnnie Come Lately* to numerous editors at various publishing houses. We are hoping to share good news sometime after the New Year.

PS: We rescued Denton the Wonder Dog from Denton, TX in October. He has big paws to fill, but he's learning quickly that the yellow chair next to Mom's writing desk is the best seat in the house.



Denton the Wonder Dog

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

By Joyce Faulkner

They asked me to speak to veterans about writing. At the appointed time, I sat in the front row. Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania isn't huge — but it seems to be. The podium sat on a stage backed by an enormous wall inscribed with the Gettysburg Address.

The chaplain of a National Guard unit headed for Iraq gave the opening prayer. He told us it was bad form to wish a chaplain 'good luck' so we wished him 'God speed' instead. A younger chaplain with a sadder face had just returned from Iraq. He talked about being in a war zone for eighteen months. He talked about yesterday's joy and tomorrow's adjustments. In the name of other soldiers, he asked for our patience — and understanding.

After he left the stage, he reached out to me. "Thank you for what you are doing, Joyce," he said as he grasped my hand. Me? I swallowed and searched for the right words. Somehow, 'thank you' didn't seem enough so, in the end, I wished him 'God speed' too.

Another man, not much more than a boy, spoke next. He talked about coming home — and about wounds that forced him to retire. He gripped the podium as he described the transition — from a military world of enforced black and white to a civilian one of blurry gradations. After the riotous homecoming parties — after the welcoming hugs and approving back claps, everyone returned to their busy everyday lives — and he faced a sudden vacuum. "Who am I now," he wondered after years of being sure. In the Army, his choices were limited. What to wear, where to go, how to act — were mandated. Now, the endless array of options freezes him like Lot's wife — his old life is gone and the

new one hasn't yet begun. I smiled at him but he focused on his toes as he left the stage.

One more soldier stepped forward. His limp was slight — his face scarred. An elasticized glove covered his left hand. Behind me, the families of other veterans sucked in air through clenched teeth. I was close enough to see pain in his eyes — and I shivered. He told us about driving down the road — moving supplies. He talked about the garbage that littered the throughway. Was there a bomb in that paper bag? Were those children playing ball just kids — or were they pawns in someone else's war? He remembered coming around a curve and seeing a parked police car suddenly come alive and head toward him. A suicide bomber intent on ramming his vehicle! He described the crash and the heat on his face as the fireball engulfed the Hummer. He knew he had to save himself. We watched in our minds' eyes as he struggled to get out of the burning truck — and as he lay in the dust waiting for his comrades to rescue him. We cheered him on in our hearts when he talked about the damage — and his determined recovery. A smiling Vietnam veteran met him as he left the stage with an offer of a gym membership to help the young soldier regain his strength. The older man wasn't the only one who wanted to help.

When it was my turn, I laid my prepared remarks on the seat beside me and climbed the steps to the stage. The podium was too tall for me. I stood on tiptoe — and looked out into a sea of expectant faces. "We must save them." It was a hoarse whisper. I licked my lips. "We must save them by writing about them." At first the audience was quiet. Then I felt it — a chorus of beating hearts thumping out the same message — "Yessssssssss."

REMEMBERING BILLY

By Joyce Faulkner

Billy Templeton launched *Manila Bay Sunset* in Branson during the 2006 Veterans Week. He was growing frail at the time, but his eyes sparkled with the joy of being with friends and family to celebrate the miracle of his life. He'd finally put together all of his World War II memories in one place — the good ones and the bad — for his children, for the world — and to please his beloved wife Lou.

In his book, Billy described what it felt like to be a radio operator on a B-17. He talked about leaving San Francisco in the fall of 1941 on a historic flight of twenty-six aircraft headed to some mysterious destination in the Pacific. He remembered his pride in the shiny new planes — and the excitement of his first big adventure."

He remembered the strange food, the ever-changing landscapes and weather-patterns — and the friendly faces he met on that trip. Sometimes the crew, cooped up for hours in the noisy plane, talked about their families and their girls and baseball and the Army. Sometimes, they stared out the windows and dreamed about what might be on the other side of the dusky blue horizon. On November 3, 1941, they reached their destination — Clark Field in the Philippines."

On December 8, hours after World War II began, Japanese bombers destroyed all those beautiful planes on the ground. In a few horrific minutes, Billy's exotic new paradise became a flaming nightmare.

By Christmas, 1941, Billy was beginning to know hunger as he retreated with MacArthur's Army into the Bataan Peninsula. He worked with the Signal Corps until the Japanese invaders captured him in April 1942. They herded him together with other American and Philippine defenders on the infamous Bataan Death March. He survived Camp O'Donnell — and

Cabanatuan. With a host of skinny POWs, he sweltered and then shivered in the hold of the *Tottori Maru*, a Japanese "Hell" ship that took him from tropical Luzon to frosty Korea."

Far away from home and surrounded by enemies, he worked three years as a slave laborer in Mukden, Manchuria. Then, with freedom fresh in his nostrils, the ship carrying him home after liberation hit a mine. It was an incredible, amazing, terrifying story of loss and courage, enmity and friendship, horror and hope.

However, in 2006, Billy laughed merrily when Branson entertainer Sharon Robinson surprised him with a tender rendition of *I Don't Want to Set The World on Fire*, a special song that he'd only heard once before — back in the Bataan jungle before he'd seen beheadings and endured beatings. He smiled broadly when young Soldiers and Marines crowded around to shake his hand, thank him for his sacrifices, and pose for a picture with him. At a banquet for POWs, he trembled and wiped away tears as he remembered buddies killed when bombs turned the parked B-17s into burning debris.

On Veterans' Day, he grinned with delight as he climbed into a World War II jeep for the Parade, explaining that he'd never seen a jeep in World War II. He'd been a prisoner long before they appeared on the battlefields. He waved to the cheering crowd, bundled up against the chilly Missouri wind, as the convoy of Ducks and trucks and marching bands wound through Branson."

I always remember him that way — cheeks ruddy, enjoying the ride, the love of his countrymen — and freedom.

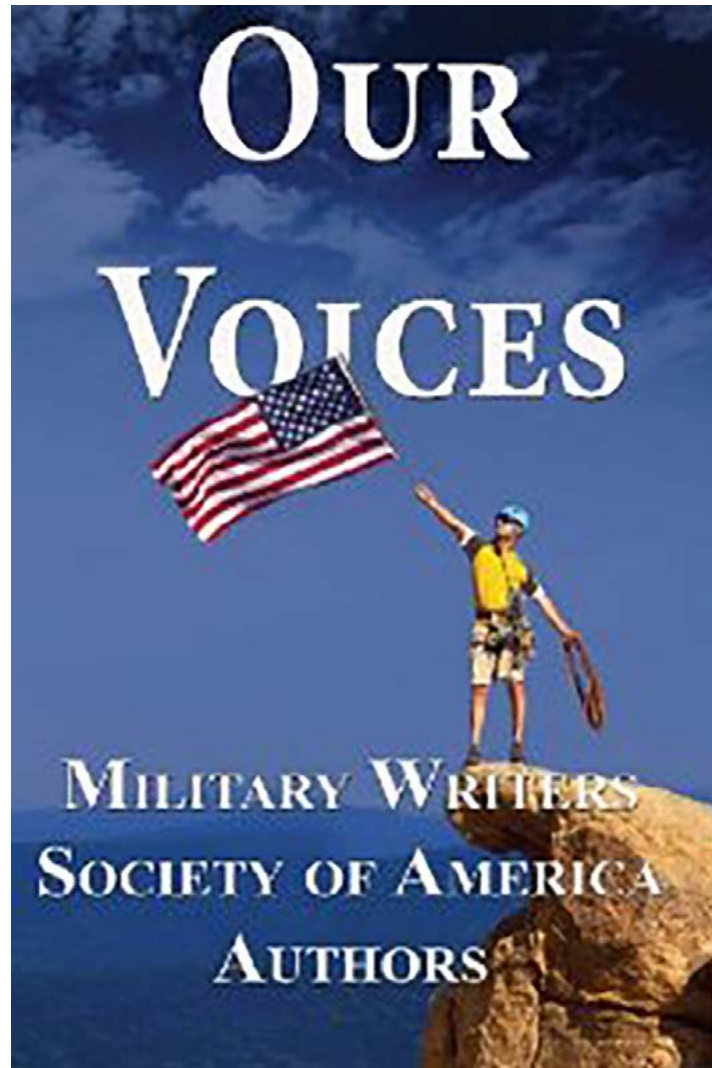
Billy Templeton passed away on December 22, 2009.



2013 MWSA ANTHOLOGY

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

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



AUTHOR, AUTHOR SHINE OUT LOUD

The book is published, web site is up, author page done, free copies are given away, congrats from friends but the media is not knocking down your door to interview you.

So you write press releases, media alerts, make phone calls and WAIT. "I wrote a book, maybe it's not CNN, ABC, NBC or CBS but someone should be paying attention!" So you send more, call more and still no bites for even five minute interviews.

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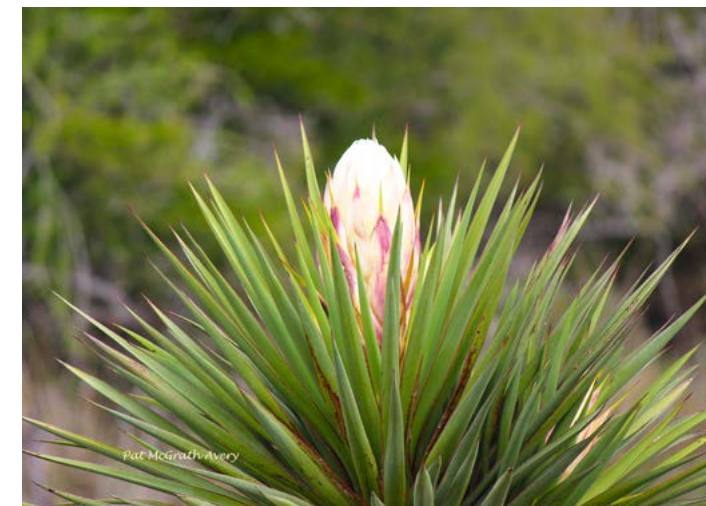
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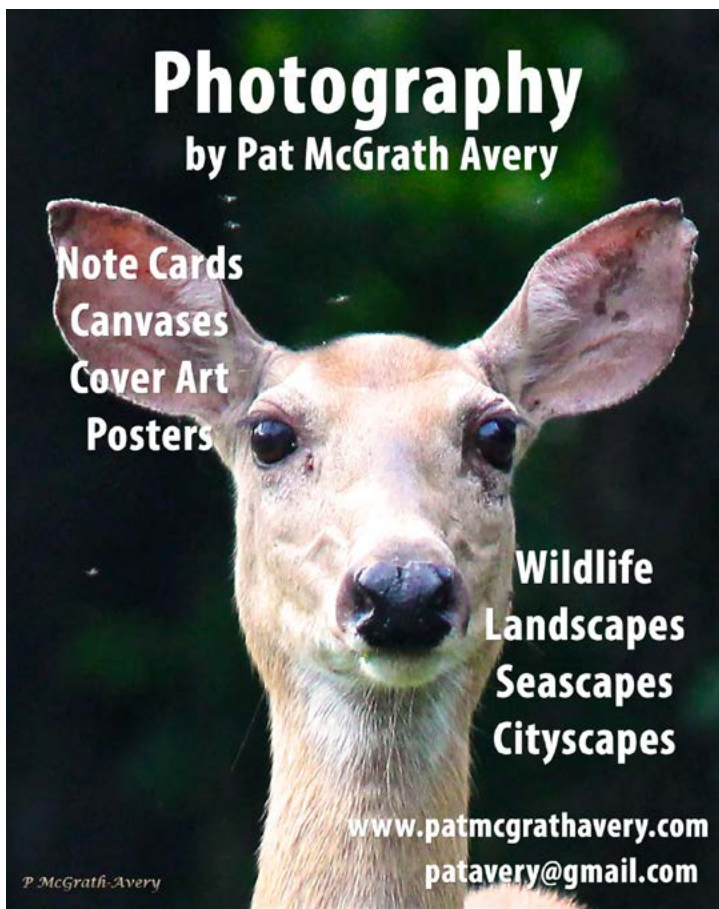
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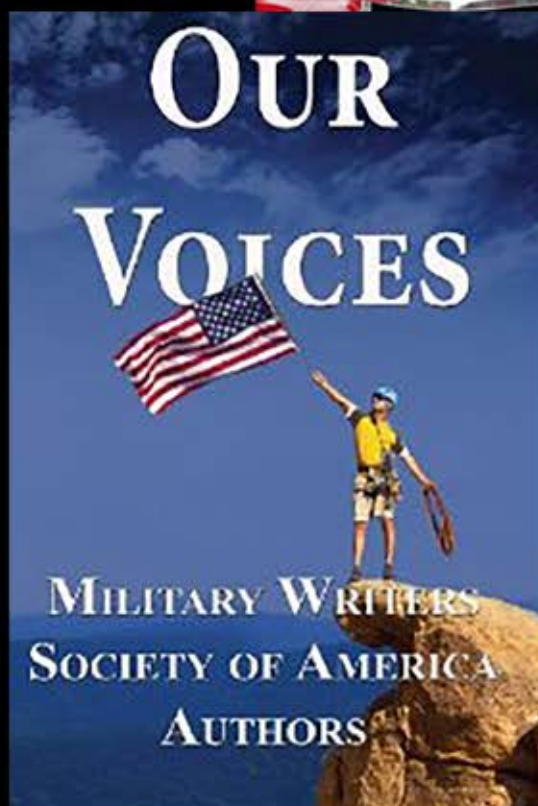


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