

DISPATCHES

Monthly Magazine

MILITARY
WRITERS
SOCIETY
OF AMERICA

November/December 2011



MWSA Book Award Winners for 2011



Award –winning authors at the MWSA Award Banquet, October 1, 2011

Happy Holidays!



**YOU'VE EARNED YOUR STRIPES.
NOW GET THE BADGE.**

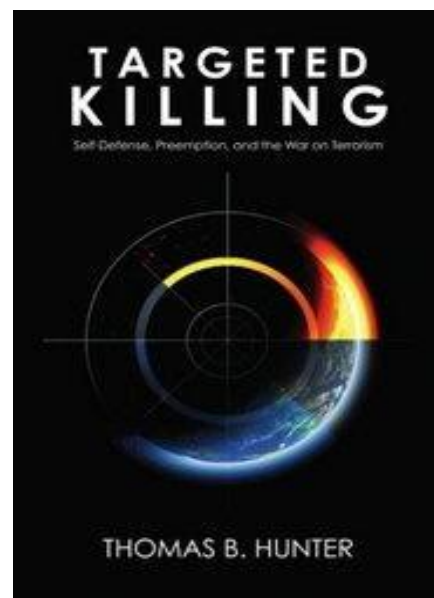
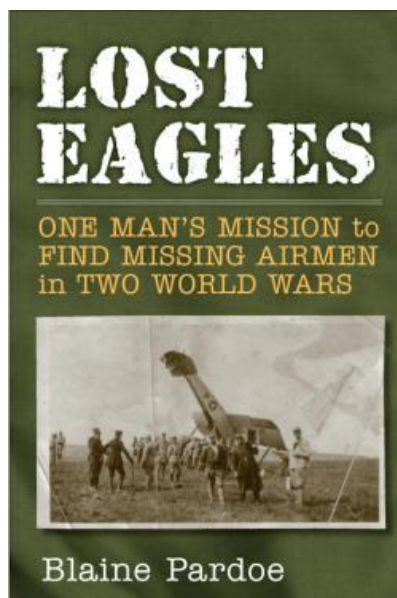
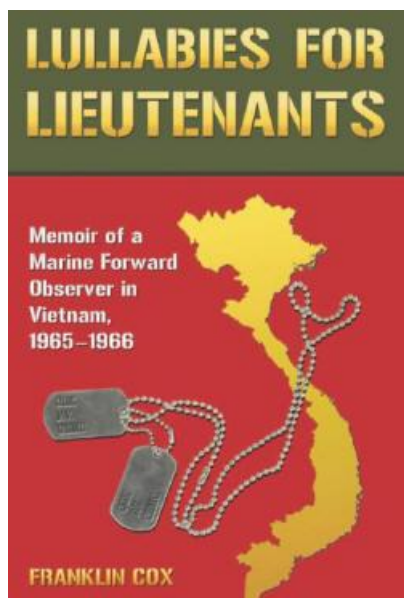
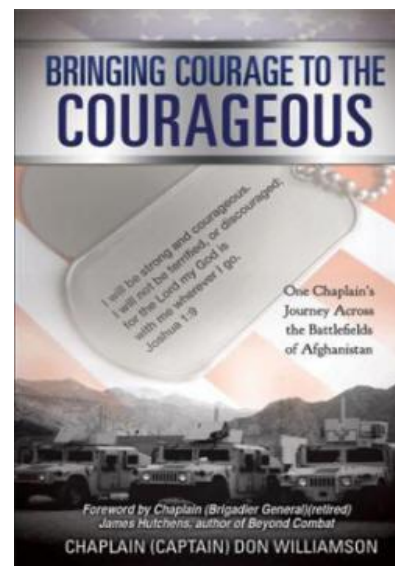
70% of Americans prefer to purchase from a veteran-owned business vs. one not owned by a veteran, so simply letting consumers know you're a military veteran can help your small business grow.

The Veteran Owned Business "Badge" tells consumers that you're part of this elite group. Join your fellow 3 million veterans who own a small business. Get registered.

Get your badge at www.BuyVeteran.com
Membership costs only \$3.99 per month. MWVA members receive a 25% discount. Use promo code: MWVA.

"Buy Veteran" and the "Veteran-Owned Business" Badge are part of a nationwide awareness campaign run by NAOBA, the National Veteran Owned Business Association. Survey conducted by a third party for NAOBA in December 2009 of over 500 American consumers of diversified backgrounds.

BUY VETERAN
BuyVeteran.com



From the Editor...

Hi everyone,

Thanks to everyone for your kind notes, emails, phone calls, and texts. I'm feeling much better now and slowly getting back to work on MWSA tasks. Congratulations to all winners of the MWSA 2011 Awards Program. And also, congratulations to all winners of the Branson Stars and Flags Award Program listed on Page 36. Several of you have asked me to clarify the relationship between MWSA and Branson Stars and Flags. Branson Stars and Flags is an independent company owned by Nancy Smith who is a member of MWSA. As a courtesy to MWSA, she offers members a discount to submit their books to the BS&F annual book award contest. Please note that BS&F has different categories and uses different criteria and different judges in selecting winners.

As many of you know, we have been operating without a webmaster for the last few months and our book postings and reviews are behind. We are building a new site which we will be launching in phases starting on January 1, 2012. We hope to have all completed reviews posted at that time. Our new site will be managed by volunteers who will have separate responsibilities. I hope that this will make it easier for us to keep the site up to date.

Dispatches will be managed differently too. So please be patient as we move forward to create an operating environment which will better serve your needs.

May all of you have a wonderful holiday season.

Joyce Faulkner, President of MWSA
MWSAPresident@gmail.com
@MWSAPresident
@JoyceFaulkner

Dispatches Staff

Joyce Faulkner — Editor
Mike Mullins — Columnist
Charles Bailey—Cartoonist
Joyce Gilmour—Columnist
Marcia Sargent—Columnist
Dwight Jon Zimmerman—Columnist
Jim Greenwald—Columnist
Bob Doerr—Columnist
Jack Woodville London—Columnist
Nancy Yockey Bonar—Copy Editor/Contributor

Contents

<i>Fighter Pilot Lessons for Life, Marcia Sargent</i>	4
<i>MWSA 2011 Award Winners</i>	5
<i>Jack Woodville London—Author of the Year</i>	10
<i>Remembering Eleven Eleven, Jack Woodville London</i>	12
<i>In the Ranks, Charles Bailey</i>	14
<i>Moon's Mutterings, Mike Mullins</i>	16
<i>The Founder's Award</i>	18
<i>The President's Award</i>	20
<i>Women Veterans' Business Center, Marilyn Harris</i>	22
<i>Tips & Tricks for Writers, Joyce Faulkner</i>	25
<i>Reviewer Ethical Guidelines</i>	28
<i>70th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Nancy Yockey Bonar</i>	30
<i>70th Anniversary of Clark Field Bombing, Joyce Faulkner</i>	32
<i>MWSA Autumn Reading List, Bob Doerr</i>	33
<i>Author of the Month</i>	34
<i>Book of the Month</i>	35
<i>Branson Stars and Flags Award Winners</i>	36
<i>November/December Notes, jim greewald</i>	38
<i>Poetry Corner</i>	41
<i>Conference Press Conference</i>	44
<i>Stop the Presses, Nancy Yockey Bonar</i>	46
<i>Industry News, Dwight Zimmerman</i>	54

Cover Photo by Nancy Smith:

Front Row (L-R): Donna Mull, Maria Edwards, Fran McGraw, Leila Levinson, Darlene Iskra

Second Row (L-R): Katherine Taylor, Kathy Rowe, Robyn Roche-Paull, Nancy Rial, Marcia Sargent, Betsy Beard, Carolyn Poling Schreiber

Third Row (L-R): Franklin Cox, Robert Doerr, Jack Flynn, Don Farinacci, Jack Woodville London, Jack Manick, Joe Sanchez, Shannon Maxwell

Fourth Row (L-R): Mike Mullins, jim greenwald, Charles Boyle

Fighter Pilot Lessons For Life



There is No "Fair" in Command

The CO—the Commanding Officer—was the boss. He made command decisions, ruled the roost, and if he thought it important—it was important. Number one mantra for a squadron aviator: Don't make your CO look bad.

The XO—the Executive Officer—was the paper-pushing, attention-to-details, pain-in-the-ass who made sure the big vision of the CO was turned into reality. He did a lot of the admin work and in any court-martial, he was in charge of the details.

Snatch and I had a running discussion for years on who was the CO and who was the XO of our family. I maintained he was the XO since he paid the bills and did the worry-work over the administration details; and I was the CO, making command decisions on the big picture like how many children we would have, what the rules were for the children, and where we would retire. He always snorted and shook his head after I reminded him of the qualifications, but he didn't really argue because he knew I was always right. Proof I was the CO.

I like making important decisions, but I discuss them with my husband first. Sometimes, he makes a major decision without me—like taking the car in for an oil change and coming back with a new car. A new car we never discussed as a possibility. A new car with a stick-shift transmission. We had three teenaged girl drivers, none of whom knew how to drive a stick.

Aha! I hear spouses out there saying, "Clever man to get a car he doesn't have to share." I recognize that, but my car became the designated share car. Not fair.

In my head I hear my daughters whining about



Marcia Sargent
Award-winning
Author of "Wing
Wife: How To Be Mar-
ried To A Marine
Fighter Pilot,"
Chair of MWSA Blog,
MWSAMember-
talk.blogspot.com

something—anything—many things—not being fair. I hear my own voice saying, "Life's not fair. Who ever promised you fair?" As CO, Commanding Officer-in-Charge-of-the-Family, and I wish of-the-Whole-World, I want the world to be fair for me.

Fair isn't important to worry about. Doing the right thing, not making your squadron/life mates look bad or feel bad—a mantra we can all try to live up to.

Are you the XO or the CO?

<http://www.marciajsargent.com>



2011 MWSA Award Winning Authors
Darlene Iskra, Marcia Sargent, &
Robyn Roche-Paull at conference in Pittsburgh

MWSA 2011 BOOK AWARD WINNERS

Historical Fiction - Event

Look Long Into the Abyss by A.R. Homer—2nd Runner Up
The Corydon Snow by Richard Whitten Barnes—1st Runner UP
Beyond Those Hills by M.H.A.—Honorable Mention
Once a Knight By Walt Shiel—Bronze
David & the Mighty Eight by Marjorie Hodgson Parker—Silver
Victory Road by Mark Bowlin—Gold

Historical Fiction Chronicle

Shall Never See So Much by Gerald Gillis—Gold

Historical Fiction Protagonist

For Love of Country by William C. Hammond—Gold

Fiction/Mystery

I Know Why the Dogwoods Blush by Bill Cain—Bronze
Loose Ends Kill by Bob Doerr—Silver
Laos File by Dale A. Dye—Gold

Fiction/Thriller

Project Dragonslayers by Kathy Rowe —2nd Runner Up
Pirates & Cartels by Lee & Vista Boyland —Silver
The Mullahs Storm by Thomas W. Young—Gold

Literary Fiction

The Book in the Wall by John F. Simpson—Silver
War Remains by Jeffrey Miller—Gold

Non-Fiction/History

Targeted Killing by Thomas B. Hunter—2nd Runner UP
Eisenhower & Montgomery by William Weidner —1st Runner Up
T-41 Mescalero:The Military Cessna172 by Walt Shiel—Honorable Mention
American Guerilla by Mike Guardia—Bronze
Lost Eagles Blaine L. Pardue —Silver
Keeping the Promise Donna Elliott—Gold

Non-fiction/Memoir

Earning My Wings by Shirley Dobbins Forgan—2nd Runner Up
Life Interrupted by War Thomas van Hees—1st Runner Up
We Came to Fight a War by Jack Flynn & Alvin E. Kotler—Honorable Mention

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5) MWSA 2011 Award Winners

Wing Wife by Marcia J. Sargent—Bronze
Lullabies for Lieutenants by Franklin Cox—Silver
DAI Uy Hoch by David R. Hoch—Gold

Non-fiction/Reference

Aerial Aces of the Universal Newsreel by Philip W. Stewart—Gold

Non-fiction/Biography

True Blue: A Tale of the Enemy Within by Joe Sanchez & MoDhanian—Honorable Mention
Beyond All Price by Carolyn Poling Schriber—Bronze
Grey Eminence by Edward Cox —Silver
Women in the U.S. Armed Forces by Darlene M. Iskra—Gold

Non-fiction/How To/Business

Breastfeeding in Combat Boots by Robyn Roche-Paul—Silver
Disability Compensation by Thomas Van Hees—Gold

Non-fiction/Creative Non-fiction

Inside the President's Helicopter by G.T. Boyd & J. Boor —Silver
Incoming by Jack Manick—Gold

Non-fiction/Spiritual/Religious

God + Military Spouse by Lori Kathleen Cline—Honorable Mention
Bringing Courage to the Courageous by Don Williamson—Bronze
I Want to be the Fat Pretty One by Lori Kathleen Cline—Silver
A Prayer Journey Through Deployment by Donna Mull —Gold

Artistic/Pictorial

SAF Interceptors by Mary Isham & D. McLaren—Silver

Artistic/Graphical

Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion, HC by Billy Tucci —Gold

Book of Poetry

Through the Years by James Jellerson—Bronze
Blooming Red by C. Howard-Johnson & M. Ball—Silver
Kings of the Green Jelly Moon by King, Greenwald, Jellerson, Mullins—Gold

Children's Book Under 12

The Adventures of Briskey Bear by Steve Bolt —1st Runner Up
Eddie & Bingo by Katherine & Kathleen L. Taylor—Honorable Mention
The Sandpiper's Game by Charles Boyle —Bronze

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6) MWSA 2011 Award Winners

Our Daddy is Invincible by Shannon Maxwell -Silver
Klinger by Betsy Beard - Gold

Military/Air Force

Belle of the Brawl by Gary A. Best—Honorable Mention
The Men Who Killed the Luftwaffe by Jay A. Stout—Bronze
Safe Landings by Fran McGraw —Silver
Two Gold Coins and a Prayer by James H. Keefe III —Gold

Military/Army

The Sentinel & the Shooter by Douglas W. Bonnot —Bronze
Still Standing by Jim Kosmo—Silver
Alan's Letters by Nancy E. Rial—Gold

Military/Marines

Obediently Yours, Orson Welles by Ulman Bray—Gold

Military/Navy

Listening to Ghosts by Robert (Bob) Stockton —Bronze
The Untold Experiences by C. Gilbert Lowery —Silver
The Seventh Angel by Jeff Edwards —Gold

Military/Coast Guard

The Coast Guard by Tom Beard —Gold

Top Honors:

Founder's Award 2011—Out of the Mist: Memories of War by Mike "Moon" Mullins
President's Award 2011—Gated Grief by Leila Levinson
Author of the Year 2011—Jack Woodville London for French Letters: Engaged in War

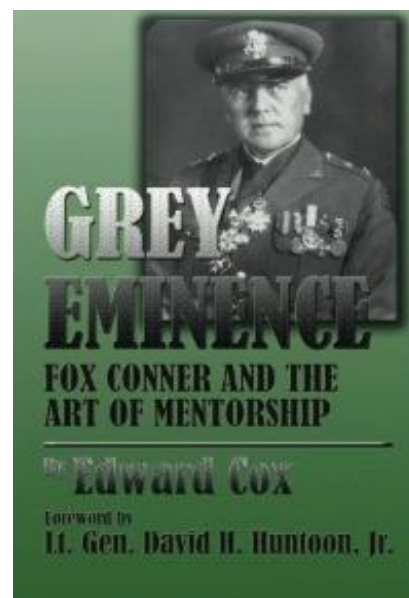
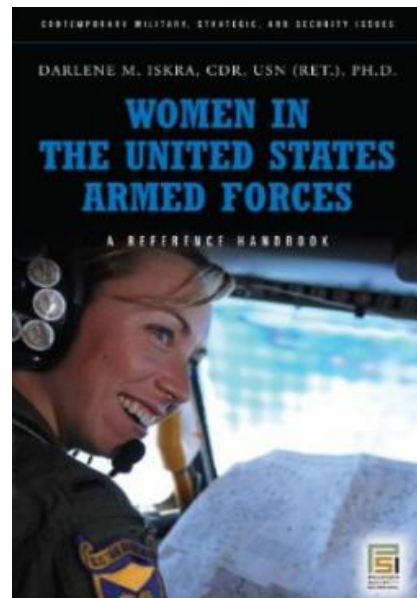
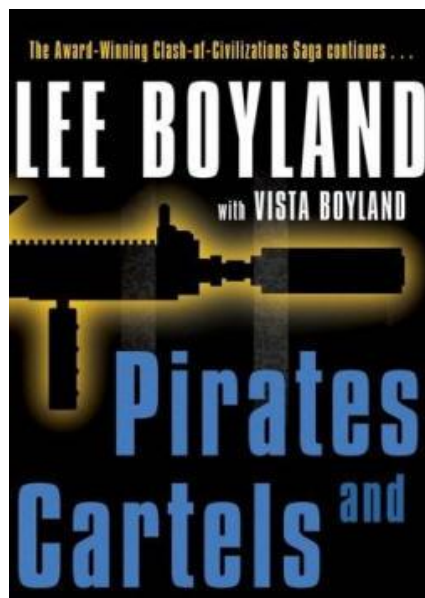
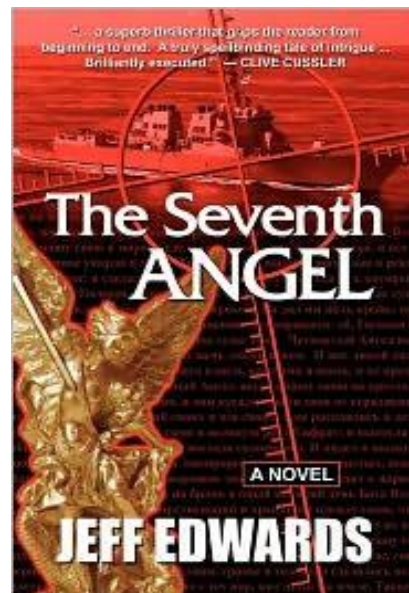
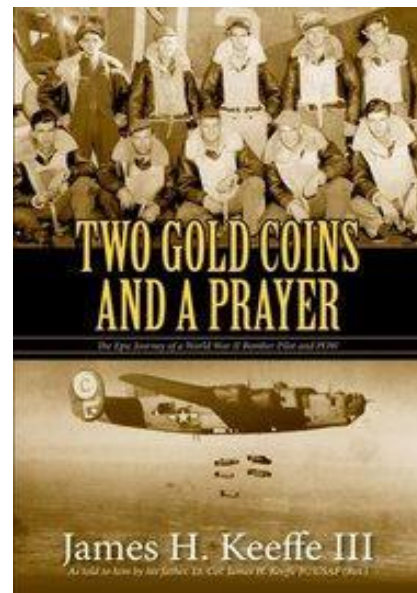
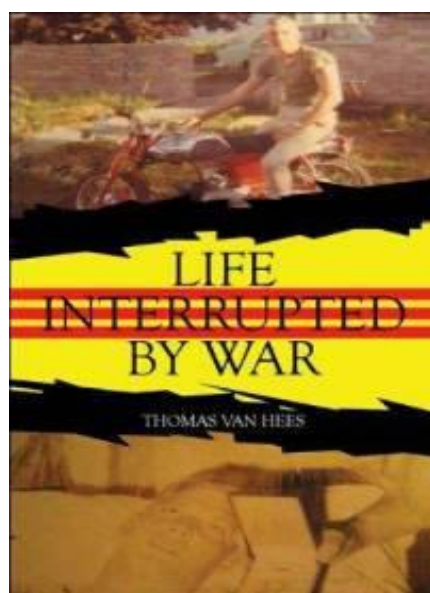
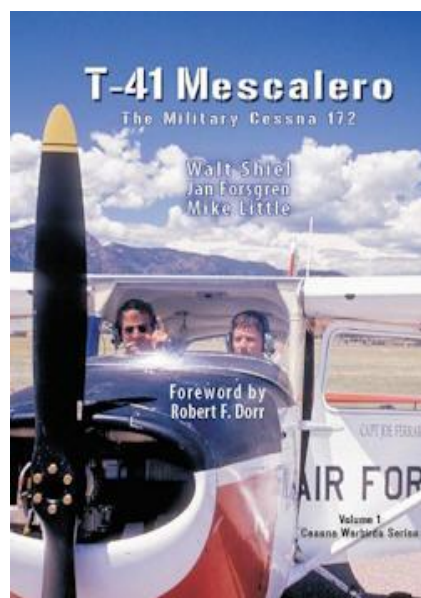
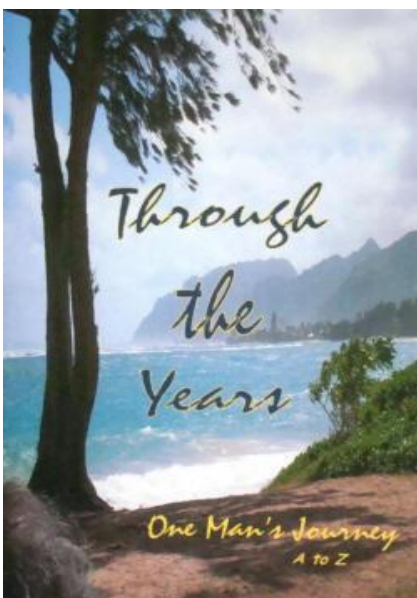
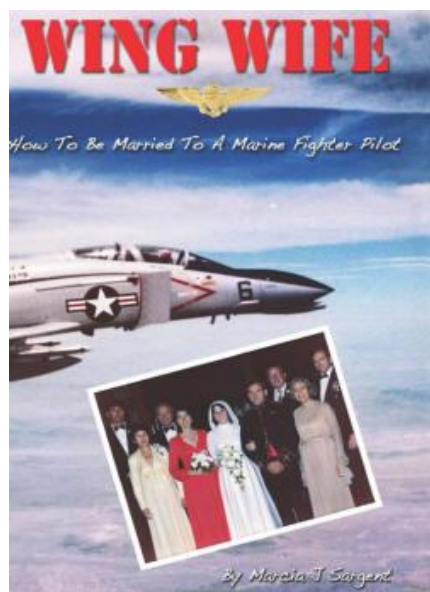
Korean War Book Award Winners:

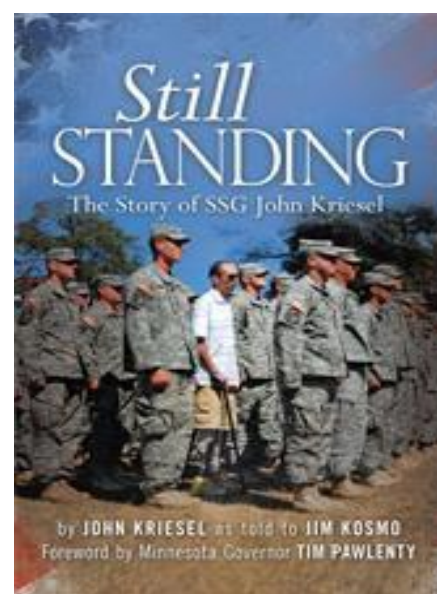
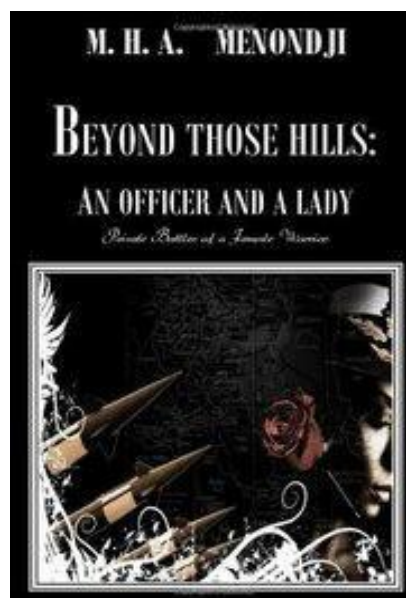
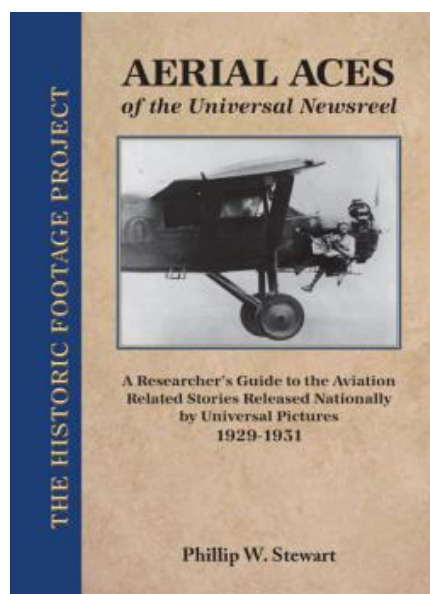
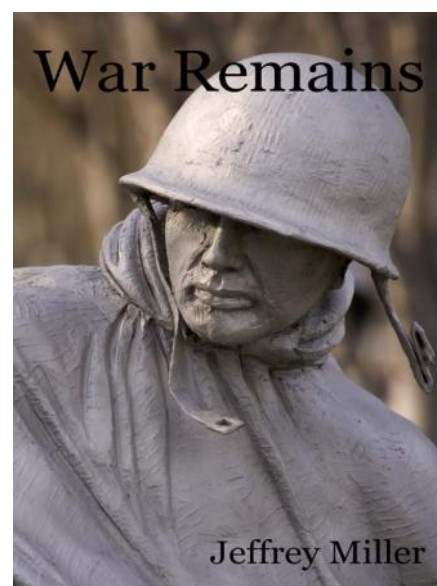
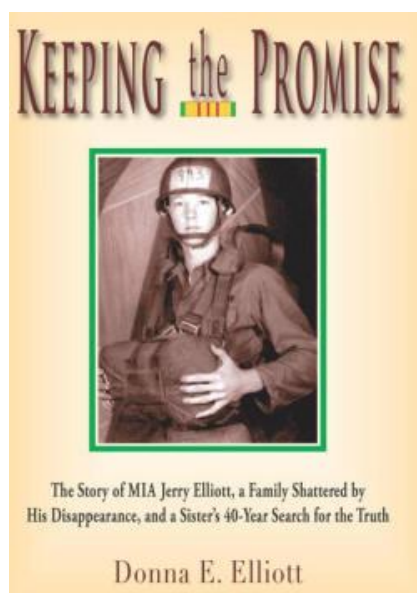
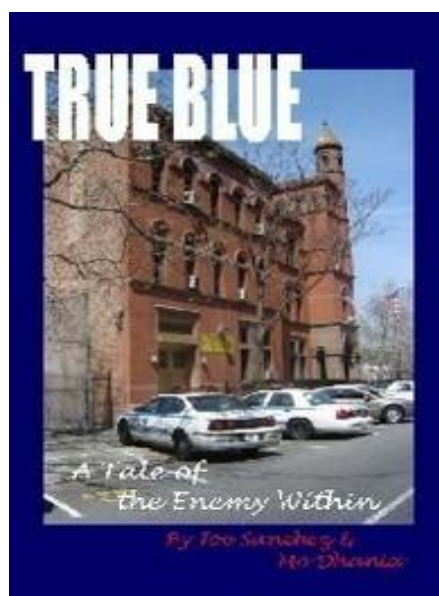
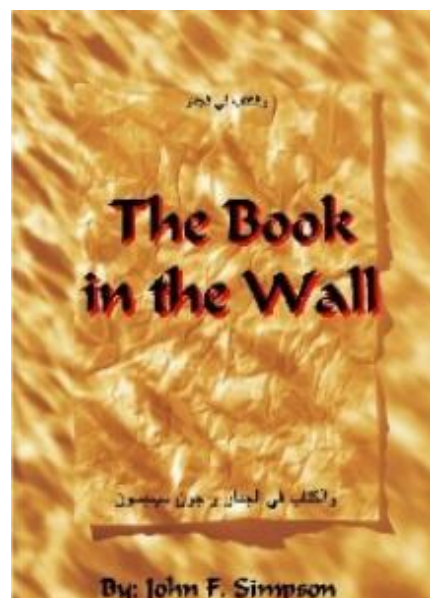
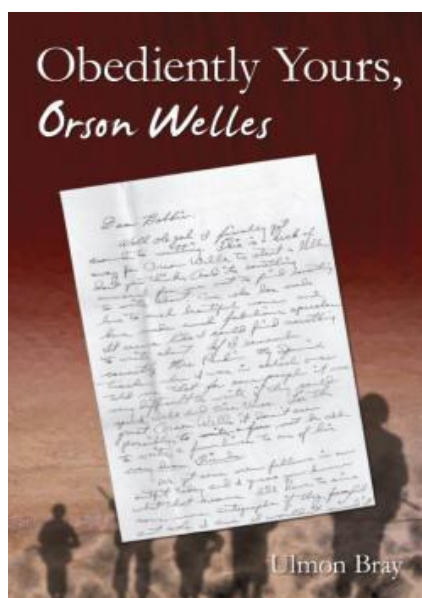
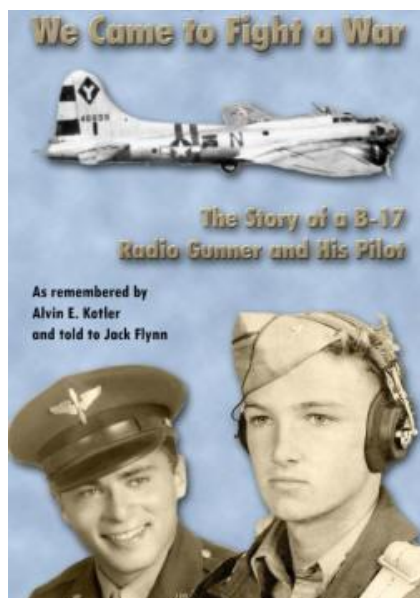
Chitose Road by Bob Ruehrdanz —1st Runner UP
Eddie & Bingo by Katherine and Kathleen Taylor—Honorable Mention
The Untold Experiences by C. Gilbert Lowery—Bronze
War Remains by Jeffrey Miller—Silver
Truman and MacArthur by Don Farinacci—Gold

NOTE: The Center for Korean War Studies has underwritten a cash award to Don Farinacci for \$250

WILLIAM E. MAYER AWARD FOR LITERARY OR ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

Gold: Bonnie Bartel Latino for Christmas Whistles
Silver: Jim Greenwald for False Honor





Jack Woodville London

MWSA 2011 Author of the Year

Congratulations to Jack Woodville London, recipient of MWSA's first Author of the Year Award for his book, *French Letters: Engaged in War*. This recognition goes to the MWSA member whose work epitomizes excellence in writing. Throughout the coming year, Jack will make appearances as the face of MWSA, participating in the development of our soon-to-be launched MWSA Writing Academy. He will also post a weekly Writing Tip on his blog, <http://jwlbooks.com/category/blog/>, which will be promoted on MWSA's Facebook Group and on Twitter through @MWSAPresident.

Jack is a trial attorney, an award-winning author and World War II historian. His publishing credits date back to 1970 when he became managing editor of the University of Texas International Law Journal. Since then he has authored technical articles and papers on evidence, trial and courtroom procedure, aviation law, and product liability law. He has spoken at legal programs throughout the United States and in England, Scotland, Mexico and Canada.



Jack Woodville London receives the first MWSA Author of the Year Award from Jim Greenwald, Lead Reviewer, and Joyce Faulkner, President of MWSA—Photo by Nancy Smith

Jack delayed his career as a novelist until the summer of 2003 when he put aside legal writing to enroll in the prestigious writing school of St. Céré, France. He graduated in the class that included acclaimed Canadian playwright, Leeann Minogue, and Germaine Stafford, winner of the Debut Dagger Award.

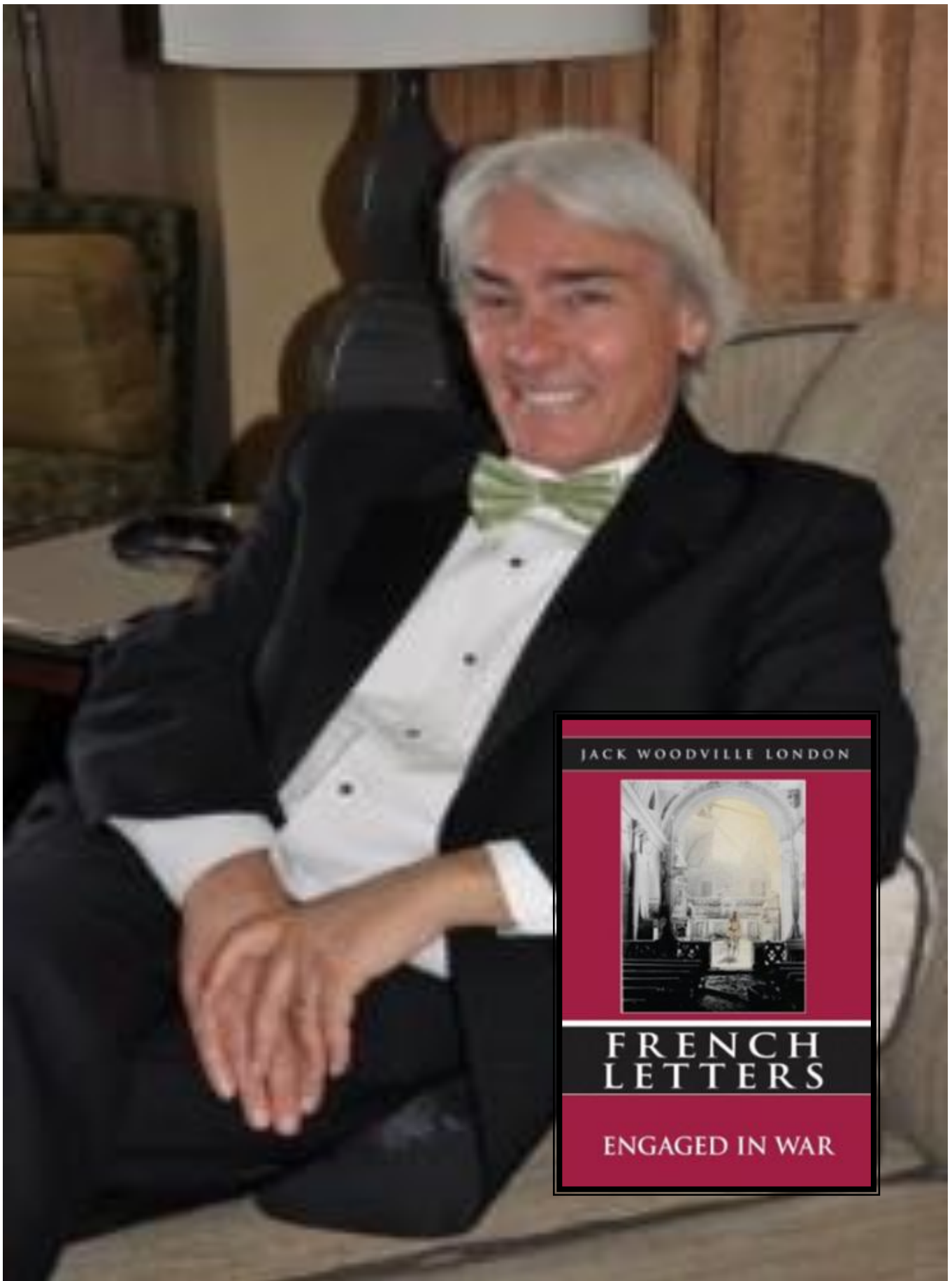
His *French Letters* series of novels are praised for their meticulous historical research and ability to capture the language, attitudes, and moral culture of their setting in prose described by reviewers as ‘beautiful, but not pretentious.’

French Letters: Virginia's War, the first of three novels in the series, was released to critical acclaim in 2009. It was a finalist for “Best Novel of the South,” an award given by the Anderson Foundation in honor of Willie Morris, the author and teacher who was John Grisham's mentor. It was also a finalist for the Military Writers Society of America award for Best Historical Novel of the Year.

The second novel in the series, *French Letters: Engaged in War*, released September 14, 2010, won Jack the Author of the Year Award.

From his days as a US Army quartermaster officer to the lectures he now gives, London has pursued his deep interest in World War II and its effects on the home front—particularly small towns. From this research, Jack created *The Letter Project*, a nationwide effort to collect, dust off and showcase letters to and from veterans of all wars.

Joyce Faulkner,
President, MWSA



Remembering Eleven Eleven

By Jack Woodville London

Once, in the days before corporate sponsor naming rights, we named our sports fields 'Memorial Stadium.' When the National Anthem was played, it was in honor of those Americans in whose memory the stadium had been built. And, in that time, the national day of recognition that honored them was a day to honor peace, not war, nor even warriors.



At eleven in the morning, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the guns that had destroyed Europe fell silent. For four years, trenches had crossed France and Belgium from Italy to the English Channel. The flower of the world's youth killed each other in lines that moved little from the first day of war to the last. In the Great War, considered by all but the highest commanders and politicians as a mad folly, the foot soldiers marched to battle singing 'We're all here 'cause we're not all there.' Until the very end, each of them assumed that they would die going over the top. Vast numbers of them did.

A few days before the end, however, and in the uncanny way of armies everywhere, troops in the line knew sooner than their officers that something was up. For example, on November 9, 1918, air crewman Alex Dickie of Breckenridge, Texas wrote his parents cryptically that 'I am seeing and learning some interesting dope up here' and 'you will know all about it long before you get this letter.' Other letters from other soldiers, British, American, even German, had the same hints that peace was coming.

When two days later the war to end all wars did end, America began to count her losses. Our farms, factories, cities, towns, and universities—our families—had suffered 117,000 deaths and over 200,000 severely wounded. America also counted her gains—while our entry in the war

may have been the straw that broke the German camel's back, we believed our boys had been decisive, and said so. President Wilson was a celebrity at the Versailles peace negotiations, his Fourteen Points calling boldly for a League of Nations to insure peace

forever. That was what the armistice meant: war had failed, peace had won. America stood for peace.

One year to the day after the guns fell silent, President Wilson proclaimed an Armistice Day for November 11, 1919. "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

The armistice may have been celebrated but entangling America in the councils of nations was not. Just eight days later, on November 18, the Senate rejected the League of Nations treaty. For the next two decades, America stood at a remove from the world's only diplomatic body that might have effected peace.

The Senate may have said humbug to Wilson's sentiments but the country did not. Throughout the 1920's stadiums named 'Memorial' were built in every state. Public universities honored their lost graduates and cities their martyred sons in new stadia on whose walls were inscribed the names of Americans who had died for peace in obscure places such as St. Mihiel and Belleau Wood. Rhode Island erected a one-hundred and

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12) **London**

fifteen-foot-high fluted column designed by an architect who had fought in France. In 1931, President Herbert Hoover spoke of peace to dedicate the national temple of Armistice Day that our nation erected in a quiet grove near the Lincoln Memorial. And, each year, the sitting president re-proclaimed November 11 as a day of remembrance. Poppies were worn in button holes. Names were read. Graves were visited.

America was at peace with peace, but not with itself. After a decade of Coolidge and Hoover austerity, the burdens of the Great Depression and high unemployment fell on the shoulders of the men who had survived the war to end all wars. Having been promised by Congress that they would get a pay bonus for their military service, the soldiers were never paid. In 1932 the unemployed, hungry, and homeless veterans came to Washington DC to lobby for their promised pay—and were turned away. On July 28, Hoover ordered that they clear out of Washington. General Douglas MacArthur interpreted the order to mean he should wipe out the camps the old veterans had set up across the Potomac, and he attacked the men he had led in battle 14 years earlier, routing their tent and cardboard box city with cavalry, tanks, and machine guns. The assault played heavily on voters who turned Hoover out in the election. His successor exiled MacArthur to the Philippines.

In 1938, the Congress that wanted nothing more to do with European wars made the 11th of November a legal holiday, “a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as ‘Armistice Day’.” For the first time, the United States honored formally the end of a war rather than the day a war had begun, such as the battles of Lexington and Concord, the firing on Fort Sumter in 1861, the sinking of the Maine.

Peace then was urgent; even we isolated Americans knew that the Axis had used Spain as a military test tube and that Neville Chamberlain had cowered before Hitler while claiming that he had bought ‘peace in our time.’ On November 11 we attended services, taught our children that while

we had not asked to be dragged into World War I we had ended it, and believed that our future was safe within our shores. It was not to be. In 1940 Hitler marched the French chief of staff back into the very rail car in which Germany had signed the Armistice in 1918, then forced him to sign France’s capitulation.

We honored Armistice Day in 1940 anyway, and again in 1941, a month before Pearl Harbor. For the next four years we still celebrated Armistice Day, even while the world heaved under bombs, guns, and battleships. The date didn’t change but America did: by the end of World War II we had proved our might by refusal to accept anything less than the unconditional surrender of every Axis power. Peace was no longer a matter of walking away from war; in our eyes, it was the result of American arms.

Then, along came Korea.

After Korea, the average American no longer thought ‘armistice’ meant peace. It now meant ‘a miserable line drawn between northern and southern Korea that marked the place where in July 1953 poorly trained, equipped, and led Chinese and Korean communists had forced American soldiers into a stalemate.’ Armistice now meant humiliation, and its holiday was at an end. Without saying so, a campaign was commenced to stop honoring Armistice Day and to begin to honor our warriors. Within weeks of the Korean armistice, a Kansas shoe repairman lobbied his Congressman to change Armistice Day. In 1954 Congress changed the name to Veterans Day. Without debate or protest, thirty-five years of nominally celebrating the laying down of arms passed into history.

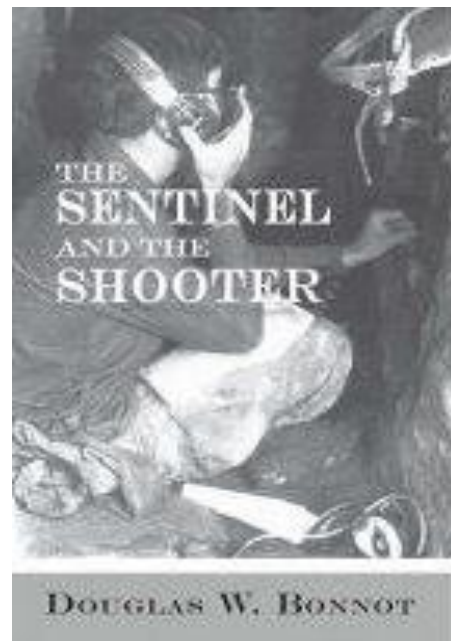
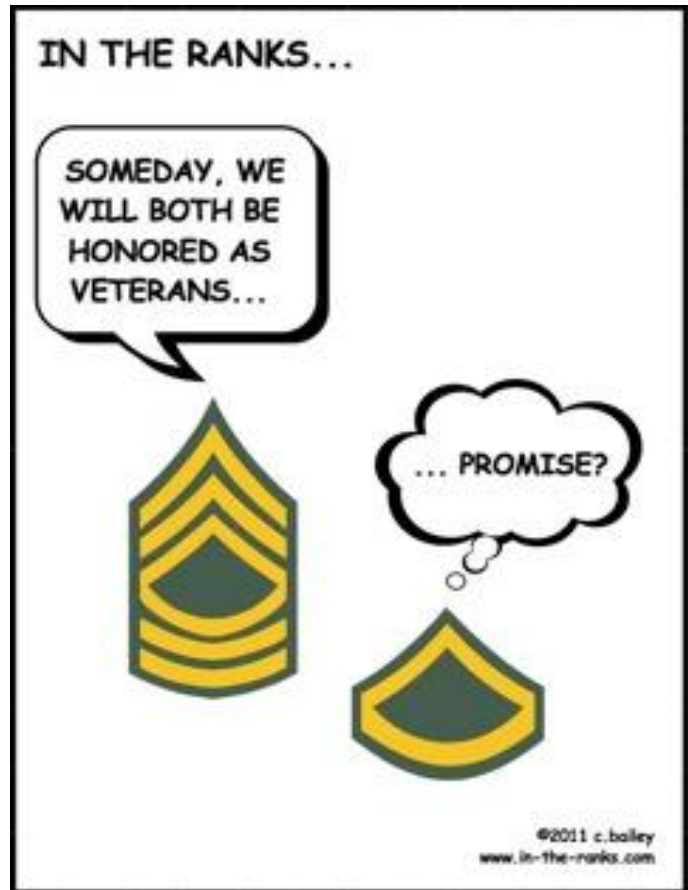
Until 1971 America still closed for the day. Then, in the division over the Viet Nam war, Congress dismissed even the semblance of November 11 as a day to give peace a chance; the holiday moved to the fourth Monday of October to assure a three day weekend. In 1978, Congress restored the date but not the occasion or even the honor, continuing under the name Veterans Day. Since then the only certain celebrants are federal

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13) *London*

employees and banks and the relentless advertisers of holiday sales for tires and televisions. Almost one century after the peace that gave birth to Veterans Day, the end of the war to end all wars is a mote in the dustbin of history. Our collective memory of the guns going silent around the world at the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, has failed us. The Armistice Memorial in Washington is thoroughly decayed and rarely visited. There are, to be sure, parades, flags, salutes. Marchers march. Bands play. Politicians bleat. Children wave. A grateful nation does honor the men and women who have left civilian life to serve us. But the speeches, the opinion articles and talk shows, the notion of what it is that we are honoring on eleven eleven now carry the unmistakable message that our pride no longer comes from a continual search for peace but from our military might. Regrettably, too many of us hurry through the parades and speeches, or skip them altogether, to use this free day to shop for the tires and televisions advertised at special prices on this special day.

But there are no new Memorial Stadiums, built in honor of the peace that followed the war to end all wars, on whose walls where once were the plaques of names of our soldiers who fought for that world peace. We don't even call them stadiums any more, but arenas, as if they were the sites of gladiators. And we no longer name them for heroes, or even ideas, but for our colossuses of commerce, airlines, phone companies, and others, none of whom paid as much for naming rights as our real heroes paid for peace. *Pax vobiscum.*

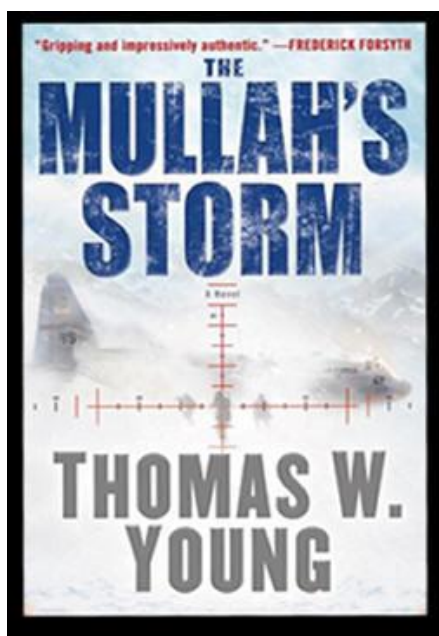




*Award-winning author
Carolyn Poling Schreiber & Husband
Photo by Nancy Smith*



*Joyce and Rosie Faulkner
Photo by Nancy Smith*



MOON'S MUTTERINGS

Restless Ghosts

It came to mind, and not in peace,
That there are ghosts which never know ease.
They never rest; they never allow a mind to know
That the past is passed and that long ago is gone.
Those ghosts haunt both the timid and the bold.
They don't care if they harm young or old.
The tortured being may be a warrior or not.
The ghosts search for a home in a tormented spot.
It is said that for the pain we cause here on earth
We should atone face to face to regain our worth.
At times we left a wound behind unwittingly.
How do we mend that heart before eternity?

Wars change a warrior but not the warrior alone.
They wound those in his life often for years beyond.
The scars may surround a soul, turning heart to stone.
A ghost may hide in distant clouds 'til the child is grown.
It may stand between man and wife, be there for life.
The ghost may thicken like a fog of anger and strife.
It may be the memory that hides all joy of youth lost.
The ghost may disguise the truth of what it really cost.

There is a ghost story for many that feel hopeless.
The words won't uncoil; I can't bring them in focus.
Images flash in my mind from all I've heard and read.
Can I be the prism for a moment for the beleaguered?
Can I step out of me and into you?
I have seen the ghost once or twice...it is true.
I dance with the devil and this ghost is his.
But I must...I must...I must do this.

"Daddy, daddy, why can't you hold my hand?
Why do you look at me with sad eyes that don't see me?"
Said the little girl with the curly blonde hair and blue eyes.
She looked up at daddy and saw a tear fell from the sky.
"Mommy, mommy, why can't you tuck me in at night?
Why do you yell at me and tell me to leave you alone?"
Asked the little boy clutching his stuffed puppy in fear.
But mommy stared out the kitchen window and didn't hear.

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16) Mullins

A year away, the third of the child's five on earth, echoed
In the mind and heart of a parent not yet home.
The anger flared in the other parent who could not understand,
Questioning why there was no love, no outstretched hand.
A ghost grew in all hearts with each unanswered question.
The seed that was planted had sprouts of anger and depression.
When would the fruit spring forth and how would it reach for the sun?
When would it make a heart cold and some sort of evil come?

Soldiers on the battlefield see, taste, hear, and feel the horrors of war.
It is true that they carry them forevermore.
The flames of hell burned from the soles all the way into the soul.
Not all battles were the same, just as life's experiences unfold
At a different pace and a different time, and in different ways.
Certain memories lingered while others faded.
Some have a safe haven; others cannot find that peace of mind.
The search is unending and fruitless for healing of any kind.
What works for one fails for another,
But hope must be kept alive; we must keep moving forward.
I read and hear about those who draw a final conclusion.
They leave behind the wrong memories, pain, and a life of confusion.

The question has been asked for hundreds of years.
The name has changed but it springs from the same ghost...the same tears.
PTSD...shell shock...survivor's guilt...soldier's heart...staring eyes...
All the questions...a thousand answers...years of asking why...
Not all are afflicted.
Not all are caused by war.
An event, a remnant, a trauma, a wound that bleeds inside,
But changes everything on the outside.
Yes, soldiers are the focus and all those they touch.
I am thankful that we are doing more, for there has not been enough.
Many want it cut and dried; throw a pill at it; I am Uncle Sam I am.
For public consumption make it "look" that they tried; for some it has been a sham.

Veterans, the children of veterans, the wives and husbands of veterans
Are more in the game now...and making more demands.
They are finding things that work and taking matters in their own hands.
I am proud of them and laud them for saying, "You won't, but I can."
"I love you, come back to me. I don't want you to leave. We can do this."
"Stay beside me. I will hold you and you will walk with me again."
There have been good ones in our systems, good folks who did care.
I thank God for them and all the work they do with hearts that share.
The ghost that can seem to find no peace, that never rests is real.
It exists for each of us and with it we must deal.
The harder you fight it the more power you give it, or so it seems to me.
Acknowledge it, let it fight itself, turn it over to God, and set yourself free.

Mike Mullins

Founder's Award

People wonder why I select certain books for "The MWSA Founder's Award" each year—there seems to be so little in common with the selections at first glance. But it is not just the book that I select—but also the character of the authors themselves. Their tales go beyond the self and express universal themes—and in some way, give inspiration and HOPE to the readers.

This year's award-winning book took the author out of his personal comfort zone a little—beyond simple prose and humor—as he introduced readers to a line-up of heroes from American wars—some had actual medals to show for that effort—some just had their lives and survived. However, all were truly heroic and the author found ways to share that humanity with an inner glimpse of these real people.

The author also followed my personal writer's rule Number One—*"Always end the book, or movie, by giving the reader/viewer HOPE!"* There is nothing worse than reading a book full of sad stories and leaving a reader depressed after reading it. This writer heeded my advice and was successful in that effort.

The book, ***Out of the Mist: Memories of War***, is not a tale of just one man and one memoir—but a collection of souls—each with their own story to tell. Each vignette reflects personally on that man's experiences but most lead us to those universal questions for all mankind at large. The bigger questions of life and its meaning—why we are here and why we survived and others did not? How do we put back our lives after war? How do we honor our own memories and those of our fallen friends?

MWSA member and author Michael Mullins



*Mike Mullins receiving the
Founder's Award for 2011 from
Maria Edwards*

wrote a book that is more about the inner voyage of the heart and spirit than so much on wartime events. There is plenty of the war stuff—but Mullins connects it all together with his own emotional energy; thus, he elevates the individual stories to another level. It is like they are all truly connected at the highest

universal level of mankind. It is like all the experiences exploded from one soul source and one mind and yet are so very different in nature—as day is to darkness. Yet—there is also a dark side to these tales as well—and the author wanders through that valley with you so you do not get lost.

It is my honor to give this year's MWSA Founder's Award to Michael Mullins—I wish I had been there to give this to him in person. But know that my heart was truly there with all of you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill McDonald".

Bill McDonald
MWSA Founder



Leila Levinson, 2011 President's Award

Leila Levinson and her book, *Gated Grief*, had a huge impact on me—both as a baby boomer and as the President of MWSA. *Gated Grief* is Leila's very personal story about her family—specifically her parents, her childhood—and the Holocaust. As the child of a concentration camp liberator struggling to deal with horrific memories and an emotionally fragile mother, Leila grew up in a household damaged by war. In this well-written and carefully thought-out book, she catalogs her journey to understand her parents' emotional issues—and why she reacted as she did to their troubled lives. As a result of this work, Leila posits that trauma impacts whole families across generations. PTSD isn't just a problem for a veteran but for his/her parents, spouses, and children. To that end, Leila has become interested in how writing can help people deal with the fallout from war.

Taking it a step forward, Leila set up and moderated a panel discussion on this topic at the MWSA 2011 Conference in Pittsburgh. The event had a profound effect on many of the attendees. One of Leila's panel participants, Dr. Deborah Conway, works with PTSD patients and has been hired by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center to train other therapists. In her comments, Dr. Conway discussed the physical reasons that writing (and other forms of artistic creativity) helps people suffering from trauma related stress.

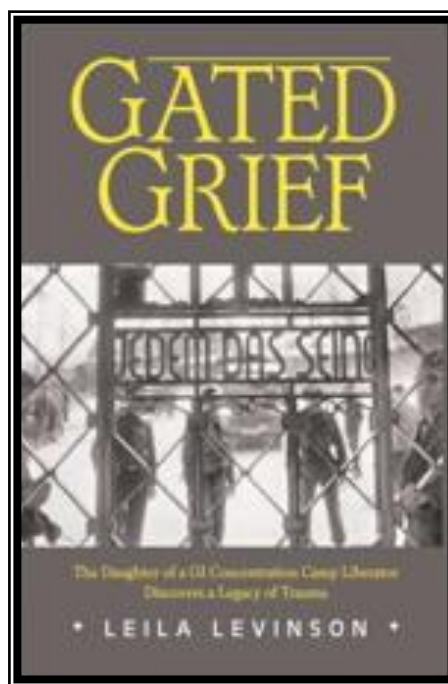
Leila has also suggested that MWSA develop activities to further encourage veterans and their families to work together to resolve issues related to trauma, including PTSD.

MWSA's original mission was to give veterans a platform for their work. In the early years, our founder, Bill McDonald, and Maria Edwards as executive Vice President, created opportunities for veterans to tell their stories their way as a way of releasing frustration and remembering

friends lost on the battlefield. As we move forward, Leila has been instrumental in the notion that MWSA can play a more significant role by enhancing the original platform, by encouraging journaling, by helping those struggling to write and publish their stories, by recognizing their efforts, and by creating an environment where veterans and their families can share their feelings about their difficult military-related experiences.

The President's Award represents the vitality and the future of MWSA. Reviewers and judges alike placed *Gated Grief* at the top of the MWSA scale. On top of that, the power of Leila's work, her ideas, and her passion for veterans and their families—and for writing—has refocused elevated MWSA goals on writing as therapy. Congratulations, Leila—and thank you.

Joyce Faulkner,
MWSA President





Organization Celebrates Women Veteran-Owned Businesses

The Women Veterans Business Center (WVBC) celebrated its 1st Anniversary on Saturday, November 19, 2011, at The Palm Center in Houston. The WVBC, a non-profit organization, was founded in 2010 by Army Veteran, businesswoman, MWSA member and award-winning author Marylyn Harris to educate and empower women veterans and military families to start and grow veteran-owned businesses.

The anniversary fundraiser, included training for business owners, a youth entrepreneur challenge, an expo, a keynote speaker, and the recognition of local woman veteran-owned businesses.

The anniversary fundraiser, included training for business owners, a youth entrepreneur challenge, an expo, a keynote speaker, and the recognition of local woman veteran-owned businesses.

The Women Veterans Business Center presented the 2011 Woman Veteran Business of the Year Award to Ms. Linda Dailey. Ms Dailey, an Air Force Veteran, is the owner of Health Initiatives Learning Center (HILC) and the Founder of Restoration Ministries in Galveston. HILC is a school that trains entry-level Healthcare and Technology professionals and Restoration Ministries is a shelter for homeless woman. "Ms Dailey embodies the resilient spirit of Women Veterans," said Marylyn Harris. "Her strong faith and commitment to employing women and improving communities is contagious."

The 2011 Veteran-Friendly Company of the Year Award was presented to Dignity Memorial Funeral Services. Donese Greene, Sales Manager, accepted for Dignity. "Dignity believes that every Veteran should have a dignified burial," she said. Air Force Veteran and business owner, Jean Craig, was the event's keynote speaker. Mrs Craig, a Nurse during the Korean War, wowed the audience with her military stories and useful "lessons learned" from her successful Mesquite Wood business. Event attendees received 'top notch' training from Houston SBA Deputy Director, Mark Winchester, Houston SCORE President, Beth Shapiro and a Bankers/Lenders panel that included representatives from Chase Bank,



Peoplefund, Houston Business Development, Inc and 4P Enterprises, a veteran-owned firm. Representatives from the Houston VA Hospital, Office of Acquisitions were onsite, along with representatives from the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC), Harris County Veterans Services, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Depelchin

Veterans Program and Riverside General Hospital PTSD Program for Veterans.

The anniversary event provided entrepreneurship training for the entire military family. In the Boardroom, the WVBC's Military Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge took place. Military youth (with Youth Coaches from Windsor Village Church Christian Millionaires in the Making Ministry), competed in teams and presented strategies to grow a local business.

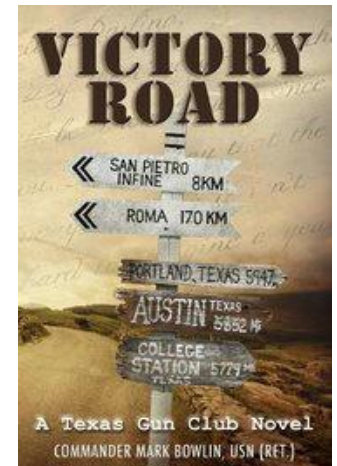
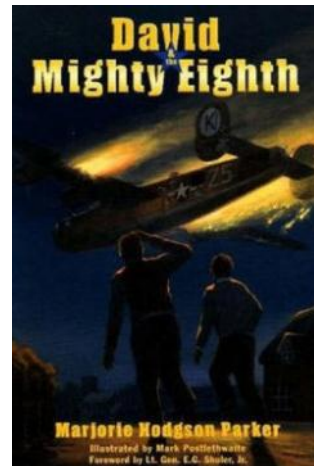
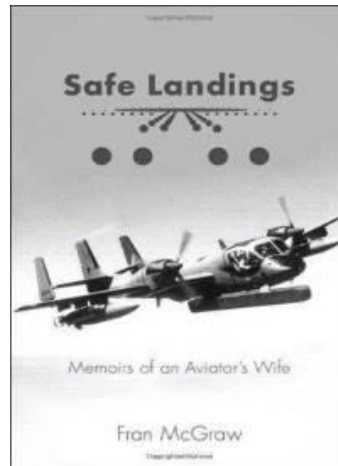
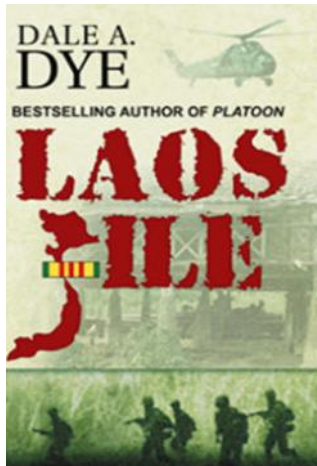
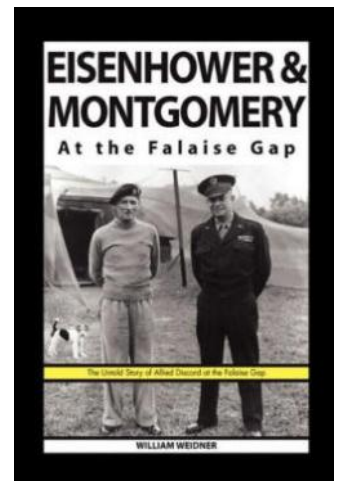
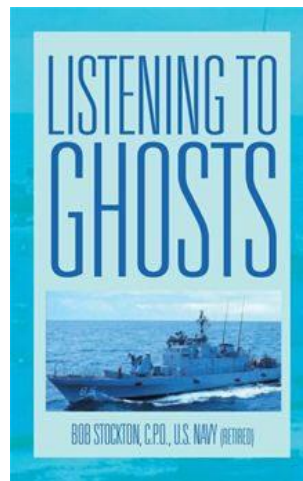
Women Veterans Business Center 5330 Griggs Rd A113 Houston, TX 77021 P: 713-230-8926
www.WomenVeteransBusinessCenter.org



2011 Woman Veteran Business of the Year, Linda Dailey (L), Marylyn Harris, WVBC Founder, Bess Williams-Gamble, and Vince (last name unknown)



*Alice London and Phyllis Mullins
Photo by Nancy Smith*



Everybody has a story to tell

--Let me help you get it told--

I can help you "jump-start" your ideas.



E. Franklin Evans
Author of
*Stand To...A Journey
to Manhood*



- **Memoir, Combat Experience, Historical Fiction or Nonfiction, Mystery, Romance**
- **Want to publish it? Traditional or POD?**
- **Want to share it with others? Just for family or friends?**

email: Journeyman47@yahoo.com or phone: 706-324-1898

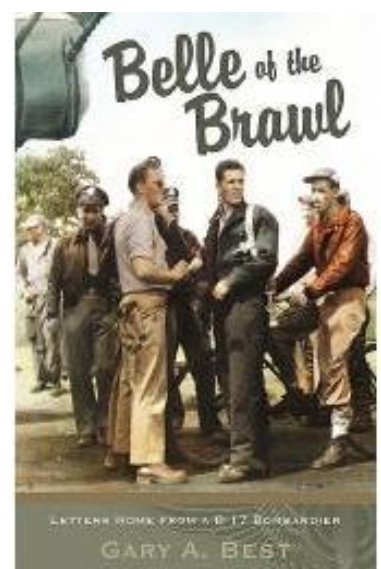
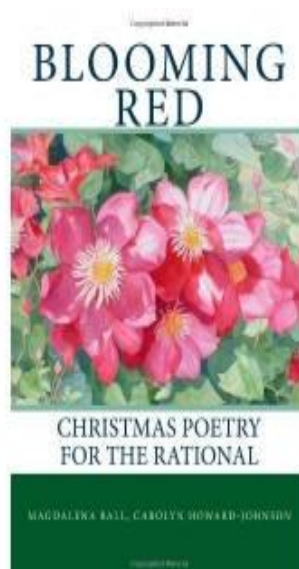
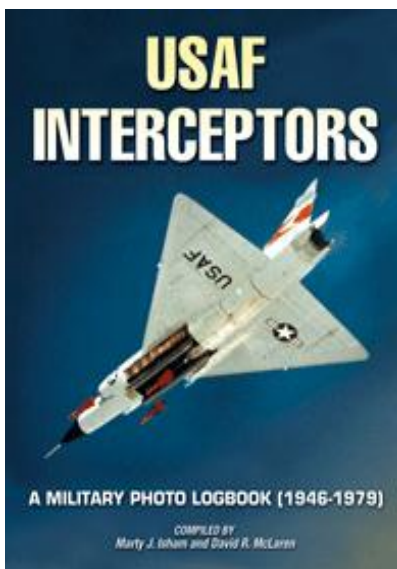
Sponsored by Franklin Morrison Publishing, LLC



*Award-winning author Carmen Stenholm
Photo by Nancy Smith*



*Alyssa and Kiera Evans,
Jim Greenwald's grand daughters,
worked registration for
the 2011 MWSA Conference
Photo by Nancy Smith*





MWSA Review & Award Criteria

By

Joyce Faulkner

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

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

The process is designed so that volunteers from the membership evaluate submitted books, write reviews, and score them. The Lead Reviewer processes the scores and presents a spreadsheet of results with supporting data to the President of MWSA. The bylaws of MWSA require that the President monitor the process and after any outstanding issues have been resolved, confirm the winners.

Reviewers may comment on technique or approach as they see fit, but generally, they reserve more detailed analysis of the book for the scoring spreadsheet. The document asks specific questions about the content, style, visual, and technical aspects of your book.

⇒ Content: These criteria evaluate plot, characterization, message or theme, believability, in-

tent of book, storytelling, and construction.

- ⇒ Style: These criteria evaluate readability, book structure, language, % dialogue to narration, % description to action, % passive to active voice.
- ⇒ Visual: These criteria evaluate cover design, cover art, book block layout, font size, font serif, use of illustration.
- ⇒ Technical: These criteria evaluate redundancies, spelling, grammar, word usage, sentence structure, adverb and verb tense usage.
- ⇒ Comments: This is an opened-ended area where reviewers are encouraged to provide details about their decisions. They are also encouraged to tell us why they believe a book should win an award or why it should NOT receive an award.
- ⇒ The relative weights are: Content - 5, Technique - 4, Style - 3, & Visual - 2.

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

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

(Continued on page 26)



(Continued from page 25) *Faulkner*

At the end of the reviewing season, reviewer scores are ranked within their individual categories and the top six books are nominated for awards. At that point, a committee assigns books to judges. Neither the President nor any of the officers know who judges which book ahead of time. The nominees are asked to provide two additional books for awards judging. Judges are provided with spreadsheets that mirror the spreadsheets used by the reviewers but the questions are designed to confirm specific criteria required for awards.

When judges complete their inspection of the books and submit their spreadsheets, those numbers are compiled. At that point, four different people have examined each nominated book and assessed its quality based on the criteria defined above—content, style, visual, & technique. The final score consists of 25% for each judge plus 50% for reviewer. To be recognized, a book must have a minimum technical score of 14 for Honorable Mention, 15 for Bronze, 16 for Silver, and 18 for Gold. Minimum total scores for recognition must be 40 for Honorable Mention, 45 for Bronze, 50 for Silver, and 60 for Gold. Those books with scores that qualify for awards are then ranked. The winner in each category has the top score. If two books have the exact same score, that category will be called a tie and both will receive the same award.

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

MWSA encourages reviewers and judges to measure against a standard rather than a more general, "I like this book better than that one." In fact, judges aren't asked to make a choice be-

tween one author or another. We only want to know how well they think a given book fits the criteria. That way, authors know the criteria they will be judged against and can work to improve their writing before they submit a book for review.

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

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

The Founder's Award. Founder Bill McDonald selects the book that most represents the values of the organization—it must be well-written, inspiring, and end on a hopeful note. It must meet all of the other criteria for quality and then some. Note Bill McDonald's reason for selecting Mike Mullin's book, *Out of the Mist: Memories of War* on page 18.

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

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

(Continued on page 27)

(Continued from page 26) **Faulkner**

throughout the year of the award and beyond. The work may be honored for historical relevance and/or new thinking as well.

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

I hope this helps everyone understand the process. Our goal is to make sure that the process produces recognition for those books that represent our view of quality.

We want to insure that we judge every book on the same criteria and that judges are scoring the same issues the same way. The process is now part of our bylaws and once the President confirms an award, there is no appeal.

Over the next few months, we will be discussing the various criteria in detail in this column, in Author of the Year, Jack Woodville London's Tips of the Week, and in our upcoming MWSA Writing Academy once our new website is launched.

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

Double Book Signing in Ritzville, WA

The Ritzville Carnegie Library in Ritzville, WA, will be hosting a book signing on Thursday December 1st from 11 am to 2 pm. The featured books are the award-winning "*The Burntwater Cook's Kitchen Guide*" by Dave Michaelson of Harrington and M. M. Athey's fast-paced new historical fiction book about Ritzville in 1882 "*Crab Creek Chronicles: The Beginning*."

Athey's book is the first of three about the settling of the Washington Territory and focuses on Ritzville's cowboys, railroad expansion, enterprising business men and women, immigrant farmers, range wars, Indians, gangsters and intense love, often forbidden.

David Michaelson will also have two of his other recently published books available, "*Rapscallion Summer*" and "*The Centauri Intervention*." The first is about David's adventurous twelfth summer in 1955. The second book is pure science fiction about the dangers, trials and tribulations of deep space travel to Alpha Centauri.

Author readings will be followed by questions from 12:15 to 1:15. Cookies and such will be provided from David's cookbook recipes. This is your chance to get autographed books by local authors as special gifts for Christmas!



Award-winning author Betsy Beard, first MWSA member to receive a perfect score!
Photo by Nancy Smith

MWSA Reviewer/Author Ethical Guidelines

These guidelines are to insure that MWSA reviews are standard, consistent, fair, and professional.

1. There are standard criteria for reviewing a book which have been defined and published on the MWSA web site, Twitter, Facebook, and on any marketing or other MWSA brochures, etc. Reviewers must review and score books based on these criteria ONLY.
2. Books may not be accepted for review until the author's membership has been confirmed by the Lead Reviewer.
3. All authors will receive the same consideration regardless of method of publication and all will be held to the same standards.
4. Reviewers must recuse themselves if they are assigned a book written by a friend, family member, or close associate—or if they have submitted a book in the same Genre/Sub-Category.
5. If a reviewer plans on submitting his own book for review and award, he/she cannot serve as a Judge in that Genre.
6. Officers/Board members may not serve as Judges. NOTE: Beginning October 2012, Officers and Board members may not submit books for the awards process while they are in office. Officers/Board members can submit books for review and those reviews will appear on MWSA site. However, these reviews will not include a score and the books will not be considered for awards.
7. Final scores are determined by the combination of the reviewers score and the two judge's scores. The Vice President and/or Lead Reviewer will then make a determination as to awards. Awards determinations are then provided to the President for final evaluation, confirmation and announcement.
8. If an author contacts a reviewer or judge directly during the review process, a reviewer must report the incident to the Lead Reviewer. Authors who contact reviewers or judges about their books (by message, phone, Text, Twitter, Facebook, email or any other method of communication) during the review process will be disqualified for an award.
9. Award categories can only be changed with the approval of the Board by a majority vote.
10. Officers, Board Members, Lead Reviewer and Reviewers may not offer awards to authors, publishers or any other agent or organization in exchange for joining MWSA or in exchange for money or other favors.
11. Reviewers may not negotiate with authors, publicists, or publishers about reviews or scores.
12. Authors/publishers may appeal a review one time by query to Lead Reviewer who will assign another reviewer. The second review will be published and scores will be averaged.
13. Vice President and Lead Reviewer may not notify or otherwise provide information about winners or scores to anyone other than President of MWSA who will confirm winners, make announcements and plan the award ceremony.
14. The Lead Reviewer is responsible for reviewer assignments. If a reviewer has a book eligible for award, the Lead Reviewer must ensure that the reviewer is not assigned competing books. NOTE: The Lead Reviewer is responsible for maintaining the fairness of the review and scoring process, and is subject to removal by the board if conflicts of interest in the reviewing process arise.
15. A book will go through the review/evaluation for award process once and only once, regardless of year published or format (hard cover, soft cover, ebook). Subsequent editions will not be reviewed again (though new cover art may be submitted for display on the website). NOTE: The only exception is when a book changes genre that will significantly impact the judging criteria —such as audio book or teleplay or screenplay.

2011 Update



***Mark Yablonka, Author of
Distant War
Photo by Nancy Smtih***



***Jack Woodville London. Author of
French Letters: Engaged in War
Photo by Nancy Smith***



***Charles Boyle, Author of
The Sandpiper's Song
Photo by Nancy Smith***



***Fr. Ron Camarda, Author of
A Tear in the Dessert
Photo by Nancy Smith***

**“December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy.” –
President Franklin Delano Roosevelt
70th Anniversary, Pearl Harbor**

by Nancy Yockey Bonar

New York World-Telegram

Local Forecast: Light rain tonight, somewhat higher temperatures than last night; tomorrow cloudy followed by clearing, cooler than today.

VOL. 74—NO. 131—IN TWO SECTIONS—SECTION ONE NEW YORK, MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1941. PRICE THREE CENTS

**1500 DEAD IN HAWAII
CONGRESS VOTES WAR**

**Tally in Senate Is 82 to 0,
In House 388 to 1, with
Miss Rankin Sole Objector**

By LYLE C. WILSON,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Congress today proclaimed existence of a state of war between the United States and the Japanese Empire 33 minutes after President Roosevelt stood before a joint session to ask such action and pledge that we will triumph—"we help us, God."

Democracy was proving its right to a place in the

**100 to 200 Soldiers
Killed in Japanese Raid
On Luzon in Philippines**

BULLETIN.

By the United Press.

MANILA, Dec. 8.—Press dispatches reported that 100 to 200 troops, 60 of them Americans, were killed or injured today when Japanese warplanes raided Iba, on the west coast of the island of Luzon, north of the Olongapo naval base.

BULLETIN.

The New York World-Tribune's December 8, 1941, front page screamed news of Japan's December 7 attack on the US Naval Base, Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii. Newspaper and radio broadcasts would eventually report about 2,400 dead and nearly 1,300 wounded. Within 90 minutes, Japanese aircraft had sunk three battleships and damaged five others, damaged other ships, and destroyed or damaged more than 350 aircraft. Missed in the attack were deployed Navy aircraft carriers. Our at-sea submarines were credited by Admiral Chester Nimitz, Pacific Fleet Commander, with holding back the Japanese while U.S. ships, airplanes and supplies were readied.



Navy-released photo http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Base_Pearl_Harbor-Hickam

USS Arizona, one of six battleships sunk by the Japanese nearly 70 years ago, lies beneath a memorial designed as a spanning bridge. The memorial represents all military and civilians who died on that infamous day and veterans of all wars.

Permanently docked in the background, and watching over Arizona and crew that went down with her, is another memorial, battleship, USS Missouri. On September 2, 1945, in Tokyo Bay the top deck of Missouri was the stage for Japan's surrender to Army General Douglas MacArthur and Navy Admiral Chester Nimitz.

A part of the recently dedicated "WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument" are the memorials on or adjacent to Ford Island for USS Arizona, USS Nevada, USS Utah, USS Oklahoma and USS Missouri, and markers for USS Tennessee and USS West Virginia. Across the causeway and on the mainland the visitors' center complex, including USS Bowfin submarine memorial and park.

Clark Field in the Philippines,

December 8, 1941

By Joyce Faulkner



The late Billy Templeton was a member of MWSA. His book, *Manila Bay Sunrise*, tells about his experience as a Bataan Death March survivor and a POW in China. He was part of the first flight of new B-17s that flew from San Francisco to Clark Field in the Philippines. Before this flight, new planes were transported across the Pacific by ship.

They landed at Clark Field on November 3, 1941. Most of those beautiful planes were destroyed on the ground on December 8 by a Japanese attack.



When Billy Templeton saw this picture 60 years later, he burst into tears. He was one of two radio operators serving on one of these B-17s. Hearing about the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor a few hours before, they took off mid-morning to patrol the island. Around lunchtime having seen no sign of an attack, they landed to refuel. Some of the crew dismounted to get lunch, while the rest tended to the plane. While Billy was in the mess hall, the first Japanese Zeros arrived. His plane, was destroyed and his fellow radio operator was killed.

As bombs fell and the Airfield was strafed, Billy alternately dodged bullets and worked to put out fires. Many years later a man contacted him to thank him for saving his life that day. Billy vaguely remembered the incident, but didn't remember the man.

MWSA's Autumn 2011 Recommended Reading List

By Bob Doerr

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

MWSA Autumn Reading List		
Life Interrupted by War	Thomas van Hees	Non-Fiction/Memoir
True Blue	Joe Sanchez & Mo Dhania	Non-Fiction/Biography
Henry Ford's Moving Picture Show	Philip W. Stewart	Non-Fiction/Reference
Incoming	Jack Manick	Military/Army
One More Sunrise	Curtis P. Gay	Military/Army
Unsinkable Sailors	Paul Sherbo	Military/Navy
King of the Oilers	Jon Strupp	Military/Navy
Jugs & Bottles	Nelson O. Ottenhausen	Fiction/Thriller
Wraith	James R. Hannibal	Fiction/Thriller
Fighting Bob	Robert Stockton	Fiction/Historical Fiction
The Allemagne Deception	Donald Farinacci	Fiction/Historical Fiction
Depictions	Chuck Habermehl	Poetry
Tales Mark Twain Would have Loved to Steal	Glenn Wasson	Fiction/Short Stories

If you feel like taking a break from football and beer, grab a good book. Looking for a good read – might we suggest one of the books mentioned above? Also, if you do read one of these books and you really like it, don't hesitate to get back to the author with your comments and encouragement.

Elizabeth Carroll Foster

Author of *Follow Me*



Author of the Month

Title: *Follow Me: The Life and Adventures of a Military Family*

Author: Elizabeth Carroll Foster

Genre: Non-Fiction Sub-Category: Memoir

Reviewed by: Charlene Rubush

This is a memoir of a woman who became the wife of an Army officer and pilot. As a young bride, she was clueless as to the demands that would be placed upon her. She felt ill-prepared for the nomadic lifestyle and her frequent moves from pillar to post while raising four children. In spite of that, she succeeded.

In the Preface, she writes, “Military life is hard for anyone who experiences it, whether of short duration or over many years. Yet, as difficult as frequent moves, school changes, goodbyes and long separations are, it is a life of travels to places outside of one’s dreams, of making new friends, and many, many fun times. It is a life of building memories to be unwrapped and relived years later.”

She recalls “We traveled across the United States, lived in Pakistan, toured

in India and Italy with four youngsters and a dog ... my first airplane ride was with a new baby dosed for teething. Four babies were born in five years.”

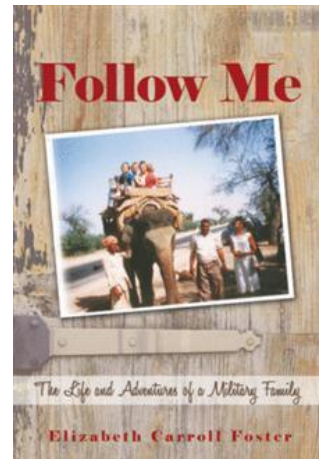
Foster also observes “After twenty-five years as the spouse of a US Army officer, I think I know a thing or two about military wives. They are full of grit.”

She notes that military wives have much in common, regardless of the branch of service. Conditioned to be strong, they show endurance. When life gets hard, they may sit down and cry, but not for long. There is always another move to make, another house to turn into a home. And during tragedies, they share food, tend the deceased’s children, and put the house in order for a grieving friend.

Foster’s book includes photos which help the reader feel a connection to the author and her family. Her story will resonate with many who have lived a life in the military. It may even inspire envy in those civilians who have never had the opportunity to travel to exotic places.

This book is entertaining, enlightening, and honest. It is a testament to the bravery and courage of the distaff side of military life, and a validation of their many sacrifices. As Foster so aptly asserts, “Military wives accept the life that’s dealt them.”

There’s no doubt, our country needs military wives. They are the nurturers, the healers, the bedrock and the heart of America. Very highly recommended reading.



Project Seven Alpha: American Airlines in Burma

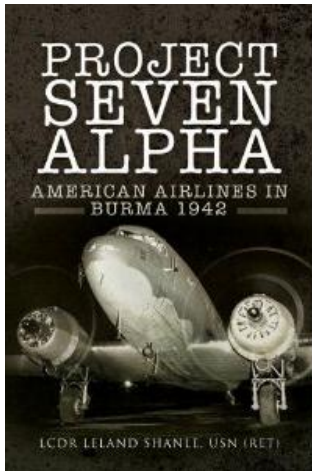
by Leland C. Shanle Jr.

Title: Project Seven Alpha: American Airlines in Burma 1942

Author: Leland C. Shanle Jr.

Genre: Military Sub-Category: Air Force

Reviewed by: Bob Flournoy



The United States was caught with its' military pants down when the Japanese attacked at Pearl Harbor in 1941. Our standing military was pretty much reduced to nothing after the First World War, and there were no Reserve or National Guard units on standby as became the case after World War II. These

passive forces were created because of where we found ourselves in 1941. Given what was going on in Europe prior to Pearl Harbor, one wonders why we did not start building up our armed forces well before the Hawaiian catastrophe. Looking back, such a buildup would have been as effective a way to address the sorry state of the economy as the New Deal. But, we were caught flat footed, and had to play catch-up. The spread of the Japanese war machine throughout Asia, and the South Pacific called for denying the Japanese bases in strategic areas. One of these fronts was in China. The Chinese army was fighting to keep the Japanese army from pushing further west, and eventually south into India. Supplying the Chinese with war material to fight the Japanese became a major priority for the United States after Pearl Harbor. The only way to accomplish this daunting task was to fly the supplies out of India over the Himalayan Mountain range. There



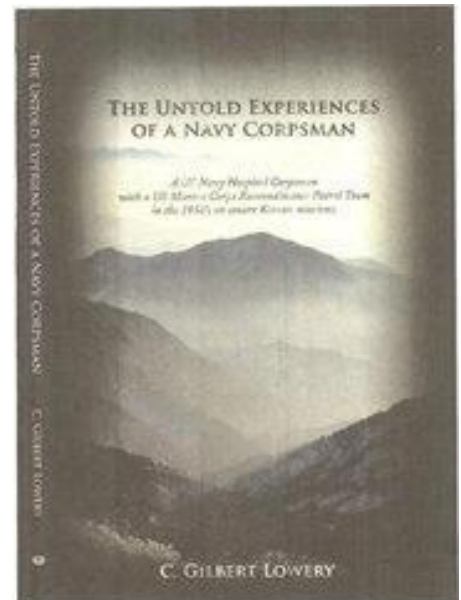
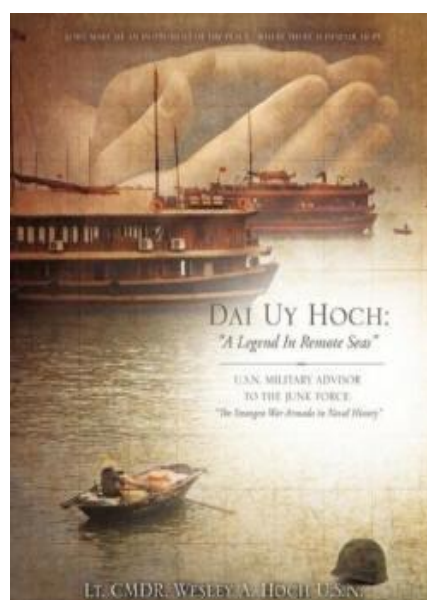
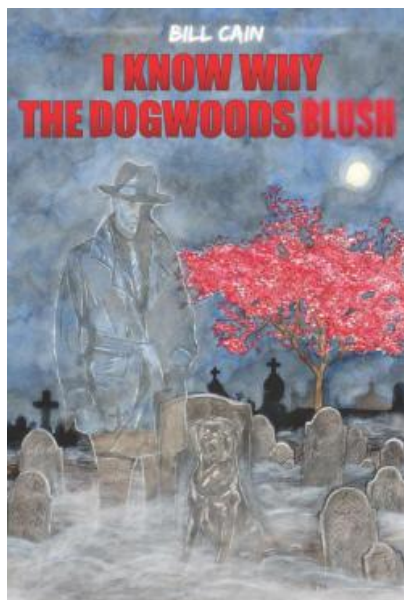
Book of the Month

were no aircraft up to this task, but the job was nevertheless undertaken using American airliners, specifically the DC3. It would later become the C47, which was the workhorse for Army Aviation in every theater of the war. Not able to make the flights at high altitudes that later C46s would make over "The Hump" in one trip, C47s performed by hopping along the southern range of the Himalayas, to supply the struggling Chinese army as it held off the advancing Japanese. Without the service of an American civilian aircraft, the DC3, and the heroic flying of civilian pilots gone military almost overnight, the Rising Sun would have swept over a much larger area of southern Asia, making the task to retake it almost impossible.

Fighters and bombers got most of the press in the air war. But, long distance cargo missions at extremely high altitudes, with winds up to 200 mph, were the most trying, grueling tasks that air crews have ever faced. The monumental logistical undertaking of air supply over The Hump might never have materialized if not for the early, quick response of the original DC3s and their awesome pilots, and crews. Their efforts remain as one of the most astonishing military feats in the history of our country.



*Jack Manick, General Robert E. Lee (Louis Intres), & Dick Hrebik
Photo by Nancy Smith*



Stars and Flag Book Awards – 2011

Grand Prize Winner

U.S. Coast Guard by Tom Beard

Children's Books

1st place: Believing in Horses by Deanna K. Klingel

2nd place: The Elementary Adventures of Jones, Jeep Buck & Blue by Sandra Miller Linhart

3rd place: Avery's Battlefield by Deanna K. Klingel

Inspirational-Stories & Poetry

1st place: Still Standing-The Story of John Kriesel by Jim Kosmo

2nd place: Kings of the Green Jelly Moon by Lloyd King, Jim Greenwald, James Jellerson and Mike Mullins

Inspirational-Devotional

1st place: Stories of Faith and Courage from the Vietnam War by Larkin Spivey

2nd place: A Prayer Journey through Deployment by Donna Mull

Historical Fiction

1st place: The Last Jump – A Novel of World War II by John E. Nevola

2nd place: Chitose Road by Robert S. Ruehrdanz

Honorable Mention: Internal Conflicts by Flint Whitlock

Honorable Mention: The Day Before the Berlin Wall by T.H.E. Hill

Honorable Mention: Altamont Augie by Richard Barager

Other Fiction

1st place: Pirates and Cartels by Lee & Vista Boyland

2nd place: The Warrior Among Us by Dick Hrebik

3rd place: The Letter by Jerry Yellin

Non-fiction - Autobiography/Memoir

1st place: One More Sunrise by Curtis P. Gay

2nd place: Cat Lo, A Memoir of Invincible Youth by Virg Erwin

3rd place tie: Seawolf 28 by A. J. Billings

3rd place tie: Mollie's War by Cyndee & Mollie Weinstein Schaffer

Honorable Mention: Centaurs in Vietnam by Carl William Burns

Honorable Mention: Gated Grief by Leila Levinson

Non-fiction – Biography

1st place tie: The Beasts of Buchenwald by Flint Whitlock

1st place tie: The Twins Platoon by Christy W. Sauro, Jr

2nd place: Uncommon Valor by Dwight Jon Zimmerman & John D. Gresham

Non-fiction – Anthology

1st place: Role Call by Pat McGrath Avery & Joyce Faulkner

2nd place: Porcelain on Steel: Women of West Point's Long Gray Line by Donna McAleer

Non-fiction – Subject Specific

1st place: The Depths of Courage: American Submarines at War with Japan by Flint Whitlock

2nd place: If Chaos Reigns (Allied Airborne Forces on D-Day) by Flint Whitlock

Honorable Mention: The Resilient Warrior, Healing the Hidden Wounds of War by Jerry Yellin

Honorable Mention: Miracles of the American Revolution by Larkin Spivey

Non-fiction – Technical Reference:

1st place: War Wings: Films of the First Air War by Philip Stewart

November/December Notes By jim greenwald

The conference was great and I feel positive in calling it a success. Thanks to all who helped in any way, as it takes many hands to put together this event.

For those planning ahead the dates for the next four conferences are as follows:

Dayton, Ohio	2012 - September 27-30
	2013 - September 26-29
Phoenix, AZ	2014 - September 25-28
	2015 - September 24-27

Every one enjoyed the auction although travel plans precluded some from participating. For that reason, next year's auction will be moved to Friday night—immediately after Open Mic. The auction provides an opportunity to spend those “Buckaroos” you earn.

You can start making donations to the auction immediately. If you have ever attended you know almost anything is appreciated and sells. Do not depend on others to donate—get in on the fun yourself. There are rewards beyond the giving. You earn Buckaroos for the value of your donation and when the item sells you receive Buckaroos for the auction selling price (the difference between the value and selling price) as well. Gift cards, electronics and services are hot items, but anything is better than nothing. So think, look around and start sending to me your information today.

You earn Buckaroos (our very own monopoly money) for doing and or donating things. Be a reviewer, a helper at the conference, put on a seminar, write articles for *Dispatches*, send photos for use in our magazine, pay your dues, win an award, submit something to the anthology, participate in the WEM Award process, serve on a committee, be a judge, panelist etc. There are many ways to grow those Buckaroos. Save what you do not spend they do not decrease in value or expire.

Each year when you arrive at the conference you will receive all you have earned in an envelope

or in a pouch in a neck wallet. Lose them and it is too bad as we do not replace them. Just like your checking account when the funds are taken out the balance is zero at that point.

If we do a book table next year in Dayton, there needs to be a clearer understanding of how it works. First,

you are allowed to place one book, five copies only. You must clearly price it and present it to the folks at the registration desk when you arrive. Once the books are on the table, you may not touch them, move them, hand them to people or borrow them for a seminar or to show to someone. Payment to you for any books sold will be based on what is recorded by the registration desk volunteers. MWSA is not responsible for the books.

Requests for Reviews

MWSA is a growing organization with a limited number of reviewers and a great number of authors waiting to have their books reviewed. Also, without a webmaster, we have a backlog of books and reviews to post on the site. To remedy this, we will be switching to a new web site and system shortly. When we do, authors will assume responsibility for entering their book information and cover art onto the site. More later on this. But keep this in mind, what you type is your responsibility, so be positive of what you say and how you spell it as we will not be making corrections for you. Authors will be required to decide which genre and sub-category their book is in, filling in a choice of several thoughts is not ac-



(Continued on page 39)

(Continued from page 38) **greenwald**

ceptable, you wrote it you should know best which one it fits.

Though we would love to review every book as they are received, the volume of submissions and lack of volunteer reviewers makes that impossible. It is also impossible to provide a time line of when your review might be assigned and when it might be done. So do not email asking when! Please be patient. Better yet volunteer to help by becoming an active reviewer.

As an interim solution to speed things up, we are limiting authors to one review per year. We may, because of reviewer likes and dislikes, or time, do a second but no promises. Additionally, when you are notified that your book has been assigned to a reviewer you will have a total of ten days to get a copy into the reviewer's hands. If the book does not reach the reviewer in that time frame, it will be removed and placed back on the waiting list. We can no longer afford to tie up a reviewer waiting on a book. It is not fair to other members. All communication regarding reviews should be directed to LeansToFar@aol.com. No other individual can answer your questions. Contacting Joyce ties her up as she has to open and read the email then send to me. Joyce has enough to do, this is why there is a Lead Reviewer.

When your book is assigned to a reviewer you are to send the book only! Do not enclose comments, opinions, other reviews, information concerning second improved printings etc. During the reviewing and/or judging process, no communication may exist between an author and reviewer. Reviewers and judges are ethically obligated to report any such communication/contact. (See page xx.) Authors who violate this rule will be disqualified from award consideration. Do not ask to have lines included in your marketing review, we do not do that. The written review is the opinion of the reviewer only.

Reviewers and judges.

Part of the proper way in which to review a book is to divorce personal likes and dislikes from the process. Reviewers and judges evaluate how well

a book complies with MWSA standards. They are asked a series of questions. For example, does a book do what it's supposed to do—if it's a thriller, does it excite and surprise? If it's a history book, does it inform and offer new information on the chosen subject? Does it have too many adverbs and adjectives? Is the author redundant—repeating himself throughout the book without adding any additional value to the work. This focuses the review on the things that MWSA as an organization values and makes the scoring more consistent. A reviewer can turn down a review if he feels he cannot be objective but if he accepts a book, we expect a professional assessment of the material. We owe that to the author.

If you have questions or suggestions about the process, send an email to MWSAPresident@gmail.com. Keep in mind we cannot change the system mid-stream. All books must be reviewed with the same criteria so changes may not be instituted until the following year.

Reviewers! You must notify me when you receive a book as we are really backed up and I am quite busy. When you are about finished with a book do not be shy, ask immediately for another. We need ten more reviewers to keep up with the volume. Your email volunteering to do reviews I will be happy to receive. Folks at the conference who mentioned they would help need to email me and I will get you started.

The Awards Process.

We held a seminar this year in Pittsburgh on the process and will again next year. I highly recommend each of you attend. Joyce will be including the information on the criteria in her Tips for Writers column starting with this issue of *Dispatches*, too. When our new site is launched, we'll be posting the information there as well. It will combine the review process with the awards process and give each of you both a better understanding of how the system works and why winning an award is not easy.

(Continued on page 40)

(Continued from page 39)

Awards Process

- Reviewers are required to read a book in its entirety and write a thoughtful analysis of the material. Using an MWSA custom-designed spreadsheet which asks the reviewer twenty questions with suggested responses in a drop-down menu. Their response to those questions determines the book's initial score which counts as 50% of the final score.
- Books make it through the first round by scoring the highest in a Genre/Sub-Category. Only the first six books are nominated for award consideration.
- During the summer months of each year, MWSA members volunteer to judge books for the annual awards program.
- A separate volunteer committee made up of three MWSA members assign the nominated books to judging pairs. They do not have the names of the judges—just a Pair Number.
- From that assignment list, authors are notified to send books to two different judges. Judges do not know the identity of the other judge in each genre/sub-category. (Officers and Board Members do not participate in the assignments and are not permitted to be judges. This divorces them from the process.)
- A nominated book is then judged by two separate judges who also score them. Judges are not required to read the books but their spreadsheet guides them through an inspection looking for specific qualities. For example, they are asked to look at the cover and assess certain design requirements. They are also asked to select a page toward the beginning of the book, one in the middle, and one at the end. They then ask questions about those passages. Judges can read all the books assigned to them if they wish, but from a practical standpoint it is not likely that they will. Reading six to ten books in 26 days and scoring them is not reasonable to expect of volunteers. (It is unlikely that judges, independent of each other, would select the same passages for evaluation. Therefore, we be-

lieve this is a reasonable sample for judging since we are asking them to confirm or refute the reviewer's appraisal of the same criteria.) In this way, each judge produces a score which is 25% of the final score.

- The Lead Reviewer then compiles the results. Final Score = $.5 \times \text{Reviewer Score} + .25 \times \text{1st Judge Score} + .25 \times \text{2nd Judge Score}$. He then ranks the final scores of each book within their individual genre/subcategory. (Using three people to make the determination minimizes the chances of collusion—one person lobbying with other judges/reviewer for a given book to win or not win an award.)
- The Lead Reviewer then submits the results to the President who evaluates and confirms the numbers.

This is a simplified explanation but should aid those unfamiliar with the how of the awards process. See page xxx for more details.

Winners of 2011 Awards.

If you have not contacted me yet as to your award and or book stickers please do so soon. We charge \$6.00 postage/handling and will mail your item/items out upon receipt of your check or money order. Mail to; MWSA, P.O. Box 264, Bridgeville, PA 15017.

Scholarship Raffle.

Raffle Tickets are on sale for \$25.00 each. You can win a new I-Pad or Zoom (your choice) and help out a new student. We are sponsoring two \$500.00 scholarships in the name of William (Bill) McDonald for Creative Writing. Be part of a great program. To purchase contact me for information or send a check to our post office box for the number of tickets you wish to purchase.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE WALL

by Robert B. Robeson

Farewell, my comrades entombed upon the Mall,
I'm one with you in reflections from The Wall.
Twin black granite scrolls framed in green,
The world indifferent to what we've seen.

Decades beyond the clash of weapons and wills,
Memories recall the ways that combat kills.
Standing silent 'neath names I have known,
Midst fifty-thousand, I'm not alone

My friend, John Hill, on panel eleven west,
Who lies here, forever, with all of the rest.
Like *Hamlet*, a stage heaped with dead,
This play's last act is better unread.

Farewell, my comrades entombed upon the Mall,
I'm one with you in reflections from The Wall.
Like steel to magnets, you tug me home,
Black granite mirrors...won't let me roam.

TO STEAL, OR NOT TO STEAL

(with apologies to Shakespeare's **Hamlet**)
by Robert B. Robeson

To steal, or not to steal: that is the question:
Whether 'tis safer in the end to ignore
The pickoff move of a left-handed pitcher
Or to test a catcher's arm on a pitchout
And by testing beat them? To slide: to steal;
Once more; and, by a step to win a base
The thrill and the thousand cheering voices
That success is heir to, 'tis a grand reward.
Greatly to be wish'd. To slide, to steal.
To steal: perchance to win: but, there's a dilemma;
For in that attempt at theft what else may come,
When we have taken leave of the bag,
Must make one ponder. There's the risk
Of a tag-out ninety feet away;
For who could bear the taunts of hometown fans,
The opposition wins, the bold man rejected,
The pangs of victory lost, the umpire's call,
Thumb thrust in air, and the groans
That cascade from your own visiting dugout,
When your coach makes his anger known
With a bold oath? Who would bear that,
To sweat and endure under the public eye,
Is a dread that is worse than death,
The unfamiliar country of bush leaguers
No player desires, confounds the will,
And makes one think twice about attempting a steal.
Why be a goat when first is so safe?
Thus conscience can make a player a coward;
And thus the common thirst for laurels
Is hampered o'er with the cast of second thoughts,
And enterprises of great daring and glory
With this decision their fortunes turn awry,
And deny the claim of hero.

FLYING OVER VIETNAM

by Bob Flourney

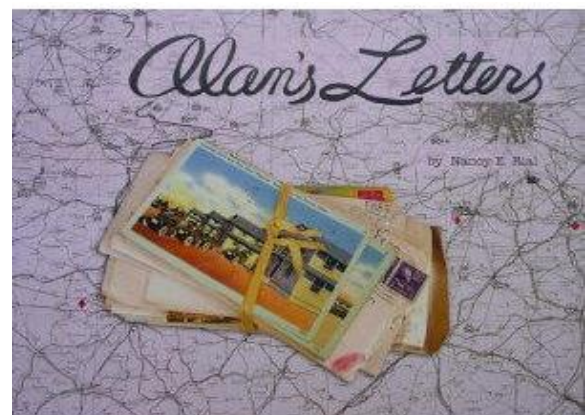
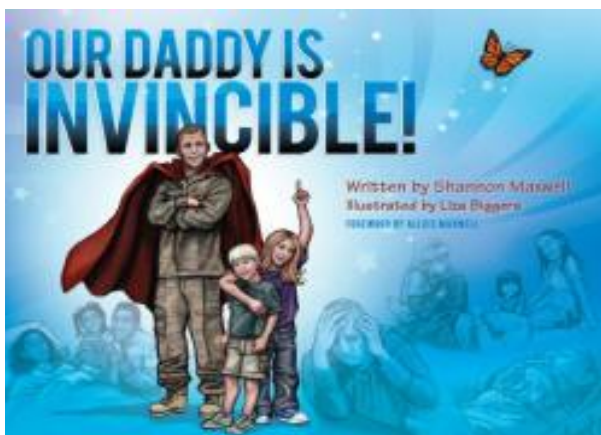
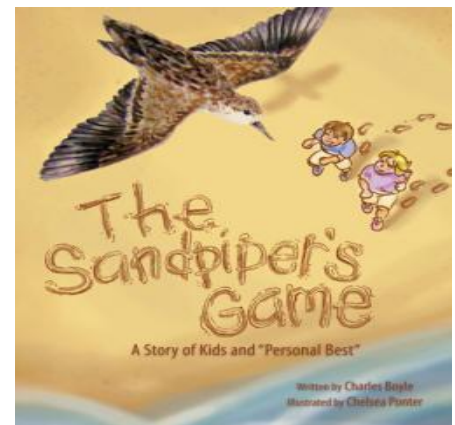
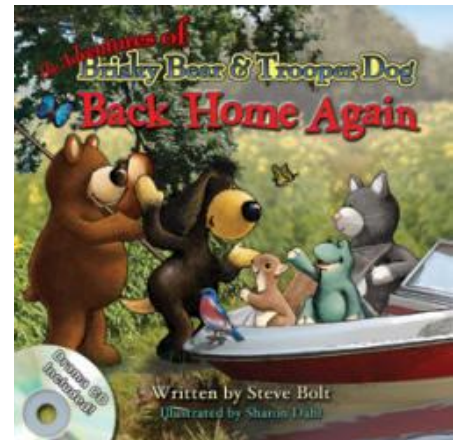
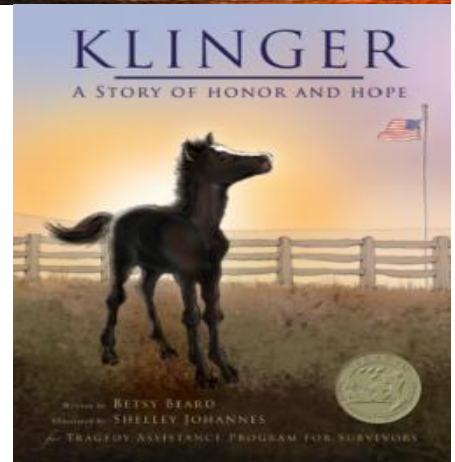
Where are the craters, scorches, gashes and rips that I remember?
 Have the reminders of our presence been so thoroughly eradicated,
 new growth fertilized by the blood of a million?
 Half a world away, there will be no such scars
 in the soft shifting Arabian deserts,
 not even for a time,
 just the ghosts of another cause.
 Our reminders will be still further away,
 here at home,
 faded wooden crosses,
 green weathered bronze, and
 wind shallowed stone,
 names whose faces will be forgotten
 with time.

MY RIVER

by Bob Flourney

When I was young
 my spring water sparkled and danced in the sun
 and the stones in my bed were bright and polished.
 I fell haphazardly forward, bounding downward,
 inertia propelling me on gravity's course, forward
 toward the murky mouth and inevitable slow tug
 of my waiting river.

I am broad and sweeping now, a creeping expanse
 embracing companions of moss and debris,
 inching onward,
 languidly searching
 for the tranquil lower ground
 and the endless expanse of the deep sea.



I Know Him Too Well

By Marcia Sargent

He's never invited to our table, on base, in housing, with the kids.
He is not welcome to knock on my door, nor my neighbors' doors
Nor my friends', nor wanted on a visit to anyone I know.

Yet he sneaks in anyway
Or blows in on a scrap of paper
Or on the evening news
Or in a chance phone call
An email
And he still knocks with the fist of the uniformed
The warm hand of a rabbi, priest, pastor.

Dear God. No.

If he announces his visit ahead of time,
We fight like muddy Marines in trenches,
Like top guns on ACMs over the Mekong,
Like sailors refusing to give up the ship,
We struggle to our last breath
To prevent him overrunning our position.

He dresses in flames and blood, sometimes in mystery
Often in black as tears or red as sobs or gray as grief.

I try not to think of him.
I never remember when he ends his visit.
Even when he has come and gone, he lingers.
And his specter follows me all the days of my life.

When my guy goes out the door,
Dread sits with me.
And so do the ghosts of those Death came for, before.

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



**2009 Small Business
Journalist of the Year
Joanne Quinn-Smith**



**Pittsburgh Internet
Radio & TV Network
412-628-5048**

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

MWSA Members Participate in Press Conference with Prominent Americans

MWSA Conference-goers met with three famous American characters on Thursday, September 29, 2011. All were excited to make the acquaintance of a cantankerous and lecherous George Washington (Dwight Zimmerman), a charming and erudite Ben Franklin (Louis Intres), and a delightful but reclusive Harper Lee (Kathy Rodgers). After each introduced him or herself and spoke a few words, the attendees—eager to learn more about these great authors—asked a flurry of questions. The responses were merry, educational—and in some cases—unexpectedly revealing.

The attendees then wrote a piece reflective of what they had learned and shared their work with the larger group. Betsy Beard's article was declared the best of the lot and she acquired additional Buckaroos for the auction.



***Great statesman, author, and publisher
Benjamin Franklin (aka Louis Intres)
Photo by Nancy Smith***

Stop the Presses..err..Computers!

News updates, members' message

Nancy Yockey Bonar

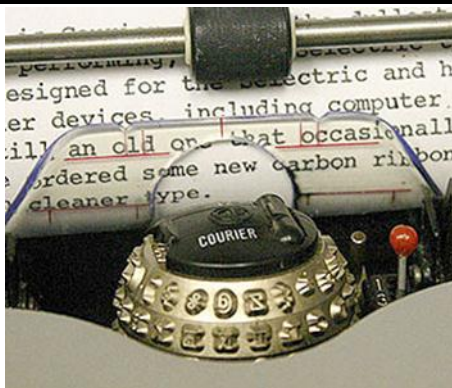
Yes, I'm of the ink-on-tree newspaper generation, a chip off the block of Harry Yockey, both father and editor. With copy paper rolled into the IBM Selectric typewriter, my reporter/copy editor fingers danced on the keys as I rushed to meet deadlines.

"Stop the presses" barks from editors jangled everyone from reporters, copy editors, and artists to linotype operators, pressmen, and newspaper deliverers.

My most remembered shouts were from November 22-24, 1963, as wire-service machines shrieked news of President Kennedy's assassination, Lee Harvey Oswald's arrest, and Jack Ruby's gunning down of Oswald. All the while in the building's cavernous underbelly, monstrous, beast-like presses whirled from rolling thunder to throbbing lulls, waiting.

Talk about laborious work! Reporters and editors banged out the latest news on copy paper and sent it to the composing room's linotype operators. As they retyped the updates into their machines, the emerging hot type was hand-carried to nearby tables where the newspaper's earlier pages were metal-framed. With old type removed, the now tepid hot type went into frames and page impressions created. In the pressroom, old impressions were pulled from the massive rollers and replaced with new ones. The presses growled and spat out the revised newspaper.

As *Dispatches* goes to print, I don't hear roaring presses or quiet clicks that send the magazine through the air and into my computer. Yeppers, I'm a curmudgeon who occasionally yearns to



Selectric Photo, Michael A. Covington

type on paper, to not wait for a monitor or printer to show what I've written. And perhaps I'll never understand those who don't hold in their hands entire ink-on-tree publications but, rather, prefer to read them page-by-page on a computer or tablet screen.

Stop the presses! I looked back at my *Dispatches*' articles and updated a few of them. This'll probably be the last time I'll ever write,

"Stop the presses," so please bear with me. At the end, there's a *special message* to MWSA members.



First women submariners. I reported in 2010 about the lifting of the ban prohibiting women from serving aboard Navy submarines. Initially, there were some waves in the small, tightly knit submarine community. These sailors and families are used to the Submarine Force's now 111-year history as an all-male bastion, and they are very aware of the scant privacy within these sewer pipe-like sharks of steel. I explained why it took so long for subs to have unisex crews, why the first women would be officers. Earlier this year, *Dispatches* readers got a status report on these in-training women.

Stop the presses! This month and through December, 24 women officers will report to one of the alternating Blue or Gold crews of four of our

(Continued on page 47)

(Continued from page 46) **Bonar**



The Submarine Force began this month to make one of the most sweeping changes in its 111-year history: integrating women as officers aboard submarines. (Navy-released photo, college NROTC woman learns about conventional periscopes, the boat's "eyes.")

http://www.navytimes.com/news/2010/04/navy_women_subs_042910w/

largest submarines, each crew with about 150 men. Among these women, 18 are 2010 US Naval Academy or college NROTC graduates who will have completed a year of submarine nuclear academics and hands-on nuclear prototype training and a 10-week sub officers' basic course.

Aboard, the women, as do newbie men, will start the rigorous task of qualifying for coveted Dolphin breast pins awarded to both officers and enlisted. Why this process? At-sea submariners are always combat-ready. A mistake by a single sailor could be dangerous or fatal. Qualifications are designed so crew members know a boat's systems, can perform damage control and are warfare-qualified. Wearing Dolphins means, no matter the situation, "You can trust me to take care of you."

Each boat crew will deploy with three women—two of the above junior officers plus a female supply officer (SO)—who will bunk together in one officer's quarters. The eight incoming SOs, experienced in Navy surface or aviation communities, will be department heads and mentor the

younger women. These SOs will be required to qualify aboard for the submarine supply officer's badge. As *Dispatches* was being formatted, a second group of 18 women was announced for submarine officers' training. *Fair winds and following sea* for all submariners.



False honor, liar, liar. In April's article, "Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire," you read about the 2005 Congress-approved, 2006 President Bush-signed Stolen Valor Act that makes it a federal misdemeanor offense to lie about having received any Congress-authorized military medal or decoration. I credited those who introduced and supported the legislation, and the many people who track and expose military imposters.

I also noted—from having researched experts in constitutional law and reading about federal district courts splitting over whether the act infringes on the First Amendment's freedom of speech—that "I'm far from being a legal expert, but the act might go to the Supreme Court for final judgment."

Stop the presses! Last month the US Department of Justice Department petitioned the Supreme Court to uphold the Stolen Valor Act (SVA), that it *is* a crime to lie about having received military medals and decorations. The DOJ seeks to negate the California federal 9th district circuit court of appeals' ruling that "white lies" under the SVA are freedom-of-speech protected.

Backtracking to May an amended version of the SVA was introduced in the US House of Representatives by Rep. Joe Heck (R-Nevada). The bill, now in committee, would make it a criminal offense to *fraudulently* obtain *anything of personal value* through misrepresentation about military service. Value could mean, for example, paid civilian and government jobs or medical care. (A similar bill is working its way through Nevada's legislature.)

(Continued on page 48)

(Continued from page 47) **Bonar**



Tomahawk, weapon of choice. The April 2010 “Flushed with Success” story unveiled a little known fact: it was in a Pentagon head where funding was “flushed” out to develop the concept of vertically launching Tomahawk guided-cruise missiles from canisters within submerged submarines.

My now late brother, Tomahawk program manager, and a colleague—after their concept had been turned down at the Pentagon’s Navy desk—went into an E-ring men’s room where the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations asked, “So, what are you two captains doing here?” Three hours later the funds came through. This was in the late 1970s

To fill in previous blanks, in 1983 Tomahawk was operational from both surface ship armored boxes and sub vertical launch systems. Britain, which acquires its missiles from the US, has them on Royal Navy ships and subs. Unmanned guided Tomahawks were first combat-fired by US and British ships in 1991 at the start of an international coalition’s drive to push Iraq out of Kuwait. The proven missile then became the weapon of choice for opening days of military campaigns. Among US/NATO operations that began with Tomahawk salvos include Kosovo, Yugoslavia, 1991; Iraq, series of four launches, 1993 -2003; Bosnian Serb territory, 1995; Afghanistan and Sudan (Al-Qaeda) 1998, and Afghanistan, 2001.

Stop the presses! Last month’s death of Libyan Dictator Moammar Gaddafi by freedom-seeking civilian rebels had earlier involved Tomahawks as a point-of-the-spear weapon. Back in February, a UN resolution called for NATO to establish a no-fly zone to protect civilians from Gaddafi’s government. The first responders in March

—to shield civilians by taking out Libyan aircraft and anti-aircraft—were French and Royal air forces, and a bevy of Tomahawk launching-US and British ships and subs.

After the war’s August conclusion, the Libya National Transitional Council issued a draft national constitutional in which aspects include a democratic Libyan Republic with Islam as the state religion.



In Flanders Field Thanks to *Dispatches*’ June 2010 theme, “Memorial Day Remembrances,” I wrote about the famous WW I poem, “In Flanders Field,” and its author. (At age 16, when I recited the poem during a hometown Veterans Day ceremony, I hadn’t a clue about this war and its death toll, including about 116,000 American soldiers.) I was further inspired to research and write the story by a VFW buddy poppy my son had purchased a month earlier, and to find the history of my Uncle Bill, Kentucky, who’d served in WW I. *In Flanders Fields the poppies blow Between the crosses row on row ...* (Canadian LtCol John McCrae, MD, Flanders Field, Belgium, 1915.



Uncle Bill Pierce

Stop the presses! Remember when November 11 Veterans Day was Armistice Day? We just had the 93rd anniversary of WW I’s end. November 1918 events included Kaiser Wilhelm II’s abdication, the establishment of the German Republic—and at 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month—the Armistice-signing by Germany and the US and allies.



USS Sultana sinking. Among perks of working on *Dispatches* is reading articles before they’re published. Such was the case in July 2010 when I proofed MWSA member Louis Intres’ article

(Continued on page 49)

(Continued from page 48) **Bonar**

about the greatest maritime disaster in US history: the 1865 explosion and sinking on the Mississippi River of the Cincinnati, Ohio-built steamboat, USS Sultana. Historian Intres wrote, in part, that the vast majority of the 2,400 passengers were Civil War Union soldiers (including hundreds from Ohio) returning to their northern homes at war's end. About 1,800 of these soldiers died. As an Ohioan, I was flabbergasted. I didn't remember learning about Sultana in high school or during a college "History of Ohio" course.

"Heroes" was this issue's theme, the deadline was looming. Scrambling to write about a Sultana hero, I "found" Chester Berry, a Michigan soldier who, despite head injuries, survived the steamboat's fiery death trap. Twenty-three years later, the now Reverend Berry wrote the book, *Loss of the Sultana and reminiscences of survivors: History of a disaster*, which was to become the bible for all ensuing authors' publications.

Mind you, Rev. Berry had no phone, computer or books for research. He typed letters, post office-

mailed them to those he knew had survived and asked for their recollections. From responders, he got more names of men who'd lived through the catastrophe and, from them, more names, more reminiscences.

The 1892-published book can be found online, including a free, downloadable one from the Library of Congress archives:

<http://www.archive.org/details/lossofsultanarem00berr>

Be sure to read the book's beginning which features 1865 Sultana-related documents Berry collected from government and Army officials.

Stop the presses! At this year's fall MWSA conference, I made a bee line to Louis for his latest news about Sultana. Among the tidbits that he shared with me are:

- the Sultana Descendants and Friends' updated website (see the photo caption);
- at Arkansas State University where he is a history professor, Louis maintains the Sultana archives of more than 6,000 documents, illustrations and photos—and is always seeking more;
- the 2012 Sultana reunion will be in Cincinnati, once Sultana's homeport. Nearby is Camp Dennison and Museum. It was this camp that more than 100,000 Union troops mustered in, received training or mustered out, including southern Ohio's soldiers.



Kovach's faded flags. In the July 2010 *Dispatches*, I asked, Who is John Kovach? He's all but one of these—visionary, architect/engineer, flag lover, Betsy Ross descendent, writer/speaker, Marine Corps/Army National Guard veteran, American Legion, and MWSA member and elementary school head custodian/hero. (Not a Ross ancestor). We surprised John by profiling him, and his love of the American flag and efforts to build in the Pittsburgh area a public place where flags could be retired with dignity and respect.

(Continued on page 50)



USS Sultana passengers leap from the blazing steamship into the Mississippi River on April 27, 1865. The majority of the 2,400 passengers were Northern soldiers returning home from the Civil War and about 1,800 of them perished. 18"x24" prints of the above new painting of the Sultana—the most accurate portrayal to date of the disaster—can be ordered from the Association of Sultana Descendants and Friends
<http://sultanaremembered.com/>

(Continued from page 49) **Bonar**

Stop the presses! This year's 200-page MWSA anthology, *The Faded Flag*, is a treasure of members' poems, stories and illustrations. In chapter one, Kovach writes of his journey from home to the military to the realization of his dream—the construction and dedication of *The Dawn's Early Light Flag Memorial Plaza in Allegheny County's South Park Recreation Area*. (Patriotic activities include retiring flags.) If you didn't get the anthology at the MWSA fall conference, contact Jim Greenwald at leanstofar@aol.com or check on Amazon or Barnes & Noble online.



Members' message *"To look forward and not back, To look out and not in, and To lend a hand."* – Edward Everett Hale, American author, historian, clergyman.

It's from working on *Dispatches*, attending the annual conferences, and "talking" with MWSA members via phone and Internet that I've gleaned more insight into writing and publishing a book. When my book-writing journey began three years ago, I thought it'd be a snap. After all, I'd won awards in other writing fields. I'm still snapping, plugging away on my book and looking to MWSA published authors for advice.



The scuttlebutt? Changes are on the near horizon to further enhance communications among members as well as with the public and other entities that buy our authors' works. Whether a longtime or newer MWSA member, I encourage lending your hands to continue to move our organization forward, including, but not limited to, sharing your successes as well as struggles as

authors with hope-to-be ones. And if you haven't yet volunteered for a MWSA committee, consider doing so. Many hands *do* make lighter work.

As Hale penned, *"I cannot do everything; but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."*

Writing Tips

Than:

- used in comparison statements: Chai Tea Latte is sweeter **than** Hot Chocolate.
- used in statements of preference: I would rather write **than** watch football.
- used to suggest quantities beyond a specified amount: I want more **than** the first course.

Then:

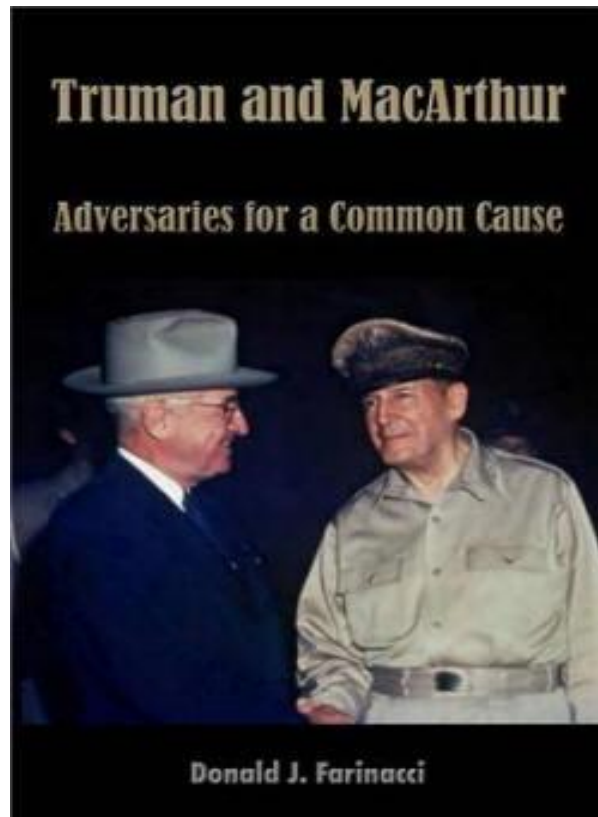
- a time other than now: He was younger **then**.
- next in time, space, or order: First we must study; **then** we can play.
- suggesting a logical conclusion: If you've studied hard, **then** the exam should be no problem.

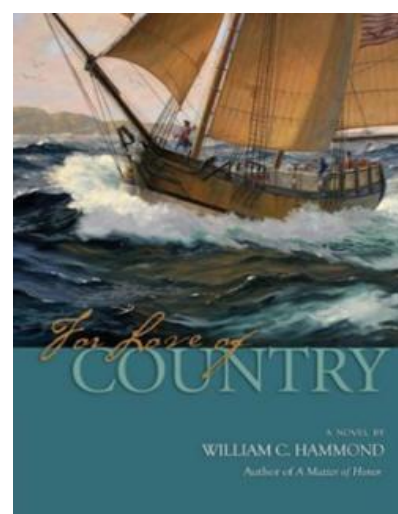
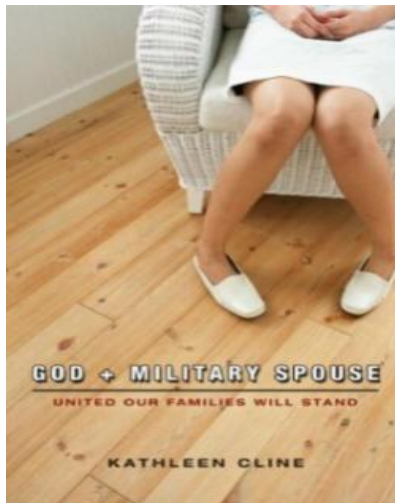
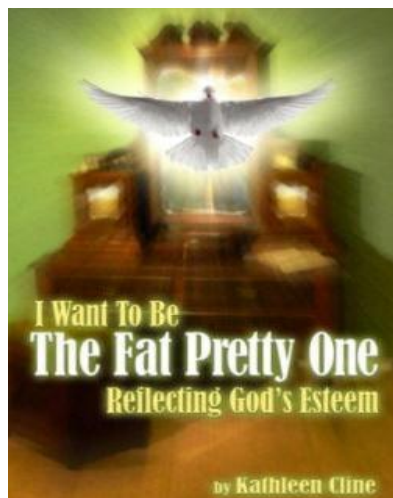
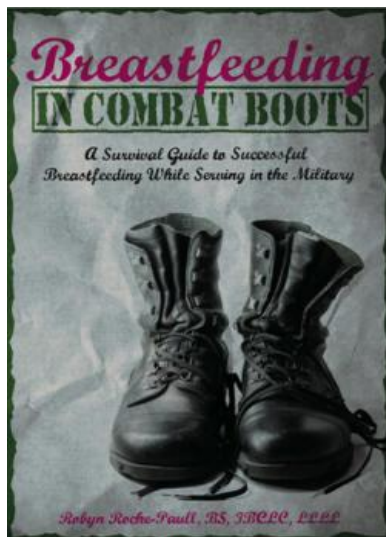


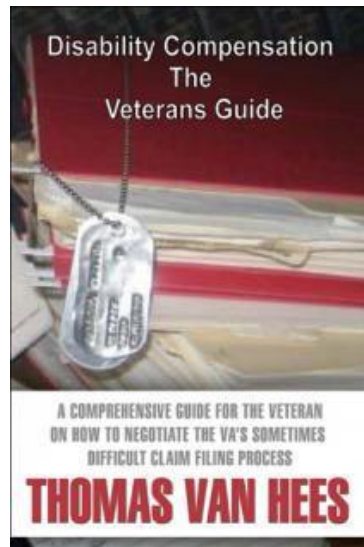
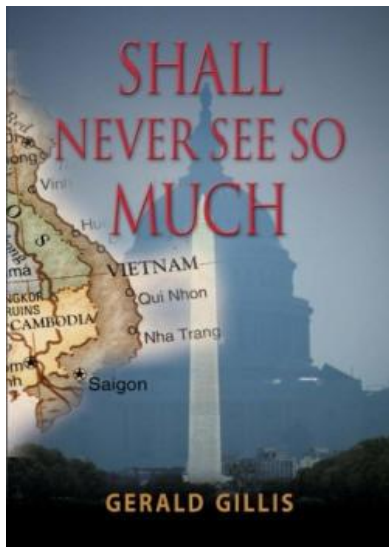
Bob Dylan's lyrics: I was so much older ____, I'm younger ____ that now.

NOTE: First 3 people to send correct version of Bob Dylan's lyrics to MWSAPresident@gmail.com will be credited with 100 Buckaroos!

Korean War Book Award Winner **Donald Farinacci**







*Del Staecker discusses writing both fiction and non-fiction in a seminar at the MWSA Conference in Pittsburgh this fall.
Photo by Nancy Smith*

Dwight Zimmerman—Industry News

Elsewhere in *Dispatches* you've seen the list of winners of the 2011 Branson Stars and Flags Book Awards. Congratulations to all the winners, particularly all the MWSA members, which includes my co-author John D. Gresham as our book *Uncommon Valor* got 2nd place in the Non-Fiction Biography category.

Once again, I find myself writing my column on the last minute of the last hour of the last day it's due to be submitted to Joyce. And, as there's really not that much industry news to write about (mostly because I don't have time to search through my files and see what news there was—which wasn't much), this column is yet another ad hoc example of how to write on the fly when you don't know what you're going to write about and don't have any time to think about it. (I do have to present some sort of theme here in order to justify my Buckaroo Bucks payment, after all.)

Here we go!

What a whirlwind it's been for me since our annual conference! It actually started for me prior to the conference with me green-lighting monumental dental work. I'll ultimately have to have six crowns for my molars—at the conference two temporary crowns came off. The first two permanent crowns are now in place and shortly after I'm done with this article, I'm off to the dentist to begin work on the next two crowns. By the way, occasionally you'll hear a complaint that writing is painful. Well, right now in my case, it's literally true. I've been making topical applications of aspirin to the area where these next two crowns are going to be installed because I've had this throbbing ache in the area.

Then there was the little matter of our 30+ year-old boiler. (Note the clever abrupt transition.)



With cold weather approaching, I scheduled a maintenance crew to do some servicing. Oh, what they told me! Basically, the boiler needed to be replaced. We knew it had to happen sometime, but. . . . They offered to install a new boiler and gave me an itemized estimate of costs. Well, buying a new heating system for a house (particularly a 150-year-old house like ours) is not quite the same thing as buying a

new suit to fit a middle-aged body with an expanding waistline. So, with one estimate in hand, I proceeded to do an Internet check and arrange for other people to come and give us quotes.

And the weather clock is ticking. . . . (Note the foreshadowing here.)

Well, got the handful of different quotes and, being thoroughly confused between the specs of high-efficiency systems compared to the not-quite-so-high-as-to-get-the-maximum-energy-rebate system (oh, yeah, and the clock was ticking on qualifying for that as well), I started asking people in the neighborhood I knew for advice. I should make it clear that one thing my wife and I *did* understand was the cost differential—high efficiency also meant High Cost (\$13,000 compared to about \$8,500). Turns out one of my neighborhood friends was responsible for building infrastructures and he was able to interpret the different quotes. At the end of it all, he said the company who gave the quote for the high efficiency system had done the best job. I have to say I was also favorably impressed by the person from that company—he wasn't trying to push something (like the others were). His atti-

(Continued on page 55)

(Continued from page 54)

tude was: “You need a new system? Here’s what we offer. And here’s the price.” We also had to have some asbestos-wrapped pipes cleaned up before work could be done. And he gave the name of a company who could do that. None of the others did.

And the weather clock was ticking. . . .

Oh, yeah, did I mention that this system was going to cost us \$13,000? There now was a scramble to figure out how we were going to pay for this. Unfortunately our first-born is now an adult and, by living in Maine, outside our reach. So giving him up was not an option. The thought of taking out a second mortgage in this economic climate, even though we have a more than sufficient pile of available equity in the house, was not pleasant—but, necessary. Well, some good news there. Turns out that when we refinanced years ago, we also took out a home equity line of credit which since we didn’t use, we completely forgot about! Cold sweats instantly transformed into handstands and cartwheels! So a big deposit

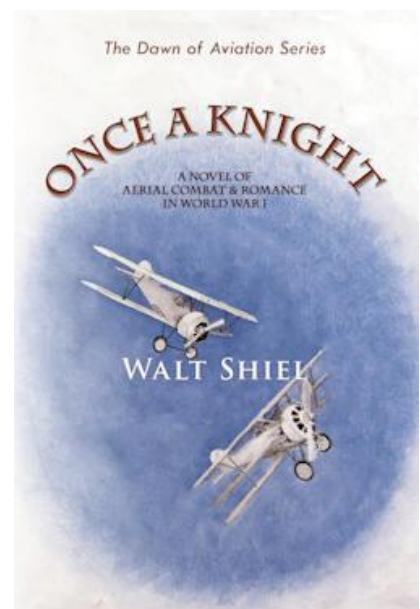
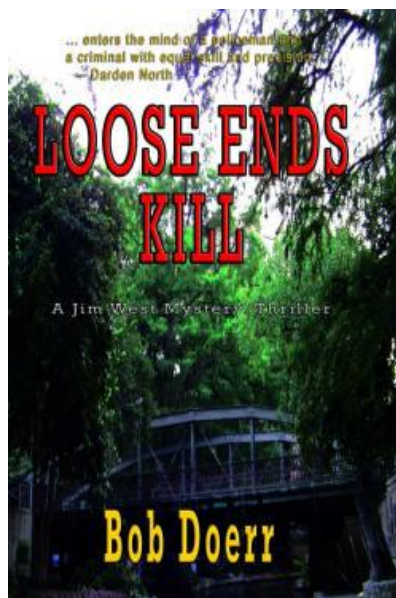
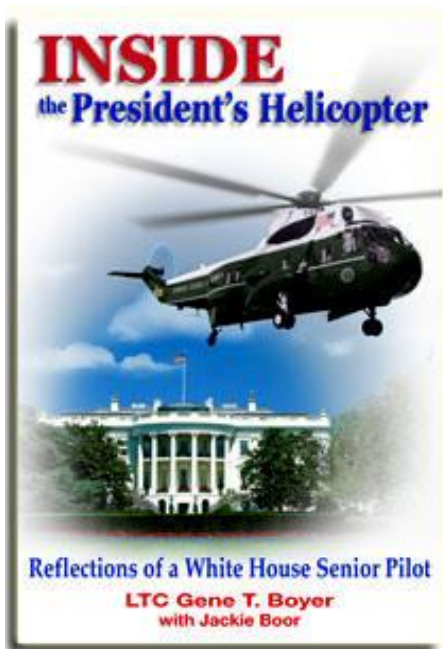
check was made out, order for the boiler placed, and now we’re off and running.

Then the weather clock started tolling!

In the last weekend of October, New York City was hit by a freak, heavy snowstorm. Temperatures plummeted. By this time we had been without heat for three weeks. Oh, were we cold! Extra blankets! Extra layers of clothing! (As for all you gutter-minded vets, don’t get any salacious ideas about what went on beneath those extra blankets!)

Well, to make a long story short, about a week later installation commenced and we now have a nice shiny new heating system, complete with a new hot water heater called an indirect. And we have heat—in the form of a warm spell! (Yeah, the system actually works, too.)

And . . . I’m now at the end of my column! Next month I should have some industry news, and, if not, well, I’m sure I’ll find something else to write about.



MWSA Contacts

Joyce Faulkner — President—MWSAPresident@gmail.com
Mike Mullins—VP—mullins.m.1@comcast.net
Pat Avery—Secretary—patavery@gmail.com
Buddy Cox—Treasurer—buddycox@gmail.com
Jim Greenwald—Lead Reviewer—leanstofar@aol.com
John Cathcart—Webmaster—MWSAwebmaster@gmail.com
Terry Gould —Membership Secretary—purpledoodle@att.net
Dwight Zimmerman—Board Member & Chair of PR Committee—
djonzim@gmail.com

NOTE: For issues concerning:

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



L-R, Fr. Ron Moses Camarda, Joyce Gilmour, Kathy Rodgers, Carol Vento, Maria Edwards, Bob Doerr, Jim Greenwald enjoying conversation at Conference in Pittsburgh.

Photo by Nancy Smith