

DISPATCHES

MILITARY
WRITERS
SOCIETY OF
AMERICA

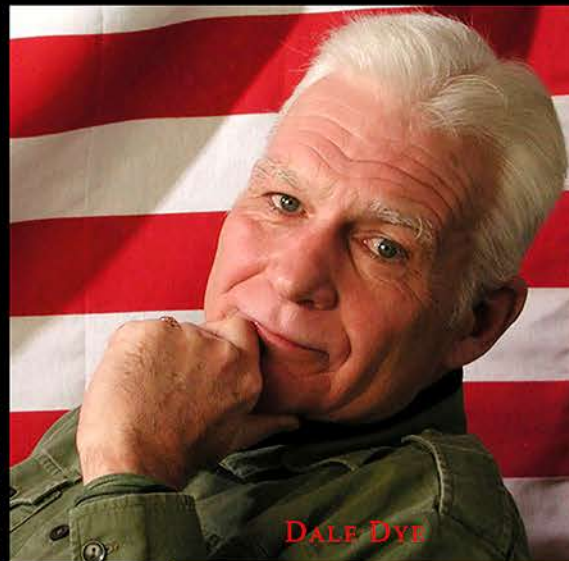
Rescuing History One Story at a Time
www.MWSAdispatches.com



SUMMER 2019



VALERIE ORMOND



DALE DYE



KATHLEEN M. RODGERS

INTRODUCING THE
2019 MWSA
MIKE MULLINS
WRITER OF THE YEAR
NOMINEES

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Pat McGrath Avery



BY MID-AUGUST, OUR THOUGHTS TURN to the school year, cooler weather and a welcoming of nature's beautiful and colorful displays.

For MWSA members, we can add the anticipation of the fall conference and the eagerly awaited awards ceremony.

It's not too late to register for the Albuquerque conference on September 12-15, at the Hotel Albuquerque in New Mexico. For those attending, the city offers a wide variety of museums, attractions and activities.

This issue contains the list of nominees for the Mike Mullins Writer of the Year Award and the finalists for the book awards. Congratulations to all the authors who achieved this level of excellence.

Writing and the creative arts are the reason for our existence as an organization. We create to heal – both others and ourselves. We commend all who entered books in our awards program this year. It takes a tremendous amount of discipline and hard work to write a book. We often discover much about ourselves in the process. Whether it's your first book or twentieth, each helps define who you are as a person. So once again, congratulations to all of you.

Check out this issue's informative articles including Dwight Zimmerman's story on Dr. Mary Edwards Walker and David Westwood's Dead Man's Penny.

We're hoping to see many of you in Albuquerque in a few short weeks.

Dispatches STAFF

- Editor - Pat McGrath-Avery
- Columnist - Bob Doerr
- Feature Writer - John Cathcart
- Feature Writer - Valerie Ormond
- Feature Writer - David A Westwood
- Feature Writer - Jim Tritten
- Feature Writer - Javier Berrellez
- Feature Writer - Kurt Blorstad
- Feature Writer - Dwight J. Zimmerman
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MWSA Leadership

Founder - William McDonald

President - Bob Doerr

Vice President - George Jackson

Secretary - Joe Epley

Treasurer - Hugh Simpson

Members-at-Large

Larry Greenly

Phil Keith

John Cathcart

Jim Tritten

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Jim Tritten - Chair

Jack London

Joe Badal

Rob Spiegel

Awards Director

John Cathcart

Rob Ballister

Betsy Beard

Membership

Betsy Beard



Pat McGrath-Avery

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bob Doerr

LIKE ANY ORGANIZATION, MWSA IS evolving. It began with a fairly small number of members and had the primary focus of helping veterans tell their story, to write. Most of these early members served in Viet Nam, but MWSA was not exclusive, and the Society soon became a mix of authors who wrote military history, historical fiction, and even a variety of fiction genres. This growth has been good for MWSA, but has also brought some inevitable challenges.

Our main challenge has been and still is how can we stay focused on our primary mission, that of helping veterans for whom writing can be therapeutic, while trying to become more relevant and meaningful to a large number of member authors who have moved past that initial stage or were never in it.

Any brainstorming effort for thirty minutes can come up with many good ideas. In fact, over the years MWSA has become more organized, streamlined, automated, and better at marketing itself and its members. However, these steps and the additional ones we need to do to keep MWSA relevant, begs the question “Who is going to do everything?”

We've been lucky because we have had a few hardy souls through the years who have stepped up and have carried the load, but we really need more volunteers – a lot more. Individuals like our Founder, Bill McDonald, Joyce Faulkner, John Cathcart, Jim Greenwald, and a handful of others have been invaluable to MWSA. I could name more, but I'd miss someone and feel bad about it.

My point is that MWSA is not only a group of individual writers, all trying to get better. We are also members of an all volunteer organization that is trying to help others. The more volunteers we have who can help us become better at what we are trying to do, the better it is for all. If you have the time and want to help out, let us know.



2019 MWSA MIKE MULLINS
WRITER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES
(In No Particular Order)

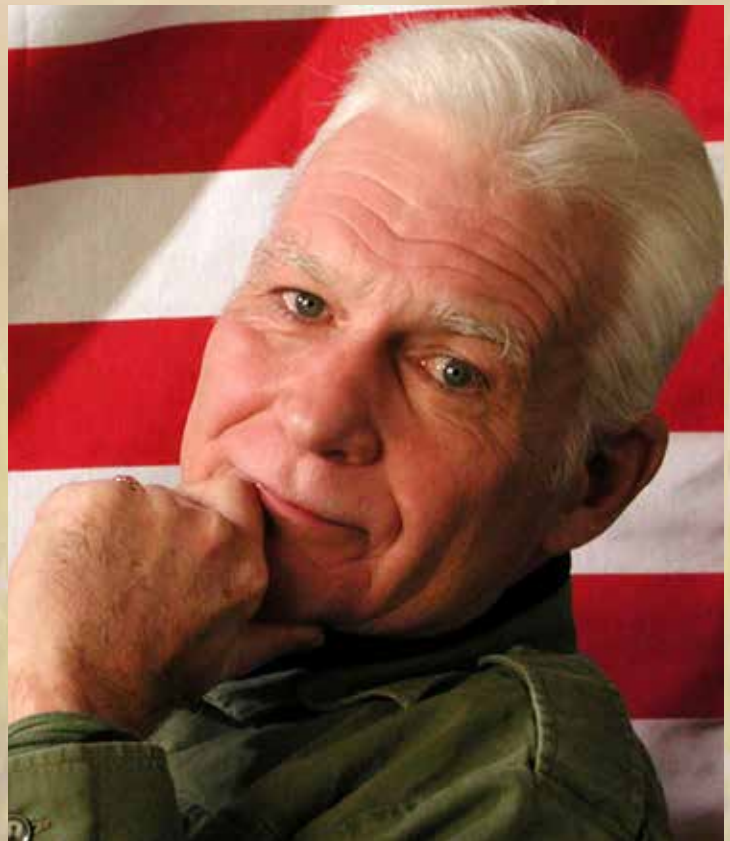


Valerie Ormond

VALERIE (VAL) ORMOND RETIRED AS a Navy Captain following 25 years as an intelligence officer and began her second career as a writer. She founded her business, Veteran Writing Services, LLC, providing companies and organizations professional writing, editing, and consulting services. Her novels, *Believing in Horses*, and *Believing In Horses, Too*, won Gold Medals in the Military Writers Society of America (MWSA) book awards and five other first place awards. Her current and past non-fiction stories have been published internationally in books, magazines, newspapers, and blogs.

Val has served on the Board of Directors of the MWSA, the Southwest Veterans' Business

Resource Center, and the Maryland Horse Council. She chairs MWSA's Outreach Committee and is a member of the Programming Committee, assisting with annual conferences. Valerie helps run MWSA's veterans writing workshops and spearheaded MWSA's Ambassadors Program last year to expand the writing workshops' impact. She lives in Maryland with her husband, Jaime Navarro, a retired Navy Captain and MWSA conference recruited assistant (welcome table, book sales, auctioneer, audio-visual specialist, and more). They spend their spare time with their wonderful family, friends, three horses, and two dogs.



Dale Dye

DALE DYE SERVED IN VIETNAM with the United States Marine Corps for three tours, surviving 31 major combat operations. Highly decorated, including three Purple Hearts for wounds suffered in combat, he spent 13 years as an enlisted Marine, rising to the rank of Master Sergeant before he was chosen to attend Officer Candidate School. Appointed a Warrant Officer in 1976, he later converted his commission and was a Captain when he was sent to Beirut with the Multi-national Peacekeeping Force in 1982- 83.

After retiring from the Marine Corps, Dye founded WARRIORS, INC., the leading military consultancy to motion pictures and television. His firm has worked on more than 50 film and television productions including several Academy Award and Emmy winners such as *Saving Private Ryan* and *Band of Brothers*. He is also a consummate character actor. In addition, he has written 14 novels, including the critically acclaimed *Shake Davis* series, along with *Run Between the Raindrops*, *Platoon*, *Outrage*, *Conduct Unbecoming*, and *Duty and Dishonor*. He is currently in pre-production on his feature-film directorial debut, *No Better Place to Die*.

IN A WRITING CAREER THAT'S spanned forty-five years, Kathleen M. Rodgers has penned numerous articles and feature stories for national and regional publications, including Family Circle Magazine and Military Times. Two of her three published novels were picked up by Thorndike Press, one of the leading hardcover large print publishers in the United States, and are in circulation at libraries across the U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. She's recently completed her fourth novel and is working on her fifth. Both novels are set in her native New Mexico and are represented by agent Diane Nine of *Nine Speakers, Inc.*

An active member of MWSA since 2008, Kathleen says back when she was a young military spouse, she was hungry to read articles and books about



Kathleen M. Rodgers

other service member spouses and families. It didn't matter what branch as long as she was reading about other people who were living the service member family lifestyle. This was before the days of the internet. In her work as a writer, she continues to shine the spotlight on service member families and bring them to the forefront of our collective consciousness. Her youngest son is a decorated combat veteran. During his first deployment to a combat zone, Kathleen relied heavily on the many friends she's met over the years at MWSA. One of those friends was Mike Mullins. He took the time to speak with her at length in a phone conversation that's stayed with her to this day.



A SPECIAL MESSAGE

MWSA President - Bob Doerr

GREAT NEWS ON THE MEMBERSHIP front—paying less and getting more.

One of my main goals as your MWSA president has been to encourage growth in our membership rolls. One of the most effective ways to do this is by lowering the cost of membership.

Over the past six months, our membership and finance committees have been looking for ways to reduce our operating costs while also improving services to our members. As a result, we have been able to identify efficiencies in our operations and increased volunteer participation in our membership management area. These cost-cutting initiatives have led to a significant reduction in our annual expenses.

At the same time, we've introduced many new member benefits and programs to increase the value of your MWSA membership. Over the past several months, we've added author interviews, review-swap and writer's forums, free online library listings (with expanded social media presence to help increase our members' book sales), beta readers, member resource directory, to name just a few—and there's much more to come.

I'm therefore very happy to announce that your MWSA board of directors has approved a reduction in annual dues from \$75 to \$50 per year. We're also creating further opportunities for savings by introducing new membership options:

- 1-year membership @ \$50 per year
- 2-year membership @ \$45/year (\$90 or 10% discount)
- 3-year membership @ \$40/year (\$120 or 20% discount)

We plan to implement these new membership options and pricing on July 1 this year.

As we iron out the technical details, we'll be providing everyone with further information about how and when you'll be able to take advantage of these new ways to save money as an MWSA member. We'll be posting these details on the membership page of our website (<https://www.mwsadispatches.com/membership>) in the coming days.

These are exciting times for MWSA. I'm optimistic about our future, and I think this new membership initiative will help set our organization on a path toward sustainable growth and ever-increasing value to our membership.



From Writer to Author

Joint Writing Conference
September 13-15, 2019
Hotel Albuquerque
Albuquerque New Mexico



Truman Capote once commented, when asked his opinion of the work of Jack Kerouac—who never looks back after committing words to paper: “That’s not writing, that’s typing.”

Join us this September for the writing conference of the year, featuring sessions with master authors, editors, and teachers whose only goal will be to help you on your journey to become the author that you can be.

Included are presentations and panel discussions on such devices and conventions of creative writing as developing characters and conflicts, the elements of memoirs and biographies, planning and structuring of fiction and non-fiction books, honing your craft, and, the importance of editing.

The featured speakers include award-winning authors together with members just like you who will share their secrets from a life spent in the literary trenches. And... the Redline Coffee Cup: you will be given the opportunity to send a chapter of your work in progress for review by a published author who will in turn have a private one-on-one session with you.

The Military Writers Society of America’s conference is one of the most author-accessible events in the U.S. You will be able to meet and have in-depth conversations with award-winning published authors. Southwest Writers is renowned as one of the finest writing groups in the country, a collection of authors who help authors.

So, if you’re ready to take your work to the next level, to move from typist to writer to author, join us in Albuquerque this September.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/378767359543298/> or <https://www.mwsadispatches.com/events/2019/conference>. Register at <https://militarywriterssocietyofamerica.wildapricot.org/event-3264400>

JOINT CONFERENCE UPDATE

Jim Tritten

WE RECEIVED 36 PROPOSALS TO present at this September's joint MWSA/SWW writing conference. The Program Agenda and Scheduling Committee was busy evaluating all submissions, coming up with a draft conference program, and discussing those submissions amongst themselves and the submitters.

We expected to have a solid program ready for review by both presidents by the end of May (more or less). The quality of the submissions has been extraordinarily high and attendees will have the opportunity to participate with numerous award-winning published authors who will be in Albuquerque for the conference and the VA workshop. Early-bird registration was extended to mid-June.

A sign-up registration page for the VA workshop is available on Facebook. The VA workshop is free for all veterans and, space available (which should not be a problem) for individuals who have paid to attend the main conference.

Conference costs cover food only—all speakers and program staff are volunteering their time to run the program and make presentations. The early-bird pricing for the following meal selections make this conference one of the most affordable writing conferences in the nation. The menu is as follows:

9/12/RECEPTION

GREEN CHILE QUESADILLAS
MINI BEEF WELLINGTON
JALAPENO CHICKEN SKEWERS
TOMATO BASIL BRUSCHETTA

9/13/2019 AM BREAK

BAGELS
COFFEE
TEA

9/13/19 LUNCH

THE NEW MEXICAN BUFFET

9/13/19 PM BREAK

RED CHILE ROASTED NUTS
CHOCOLATE POPCORN
ASSORTED SODAS

9/14/2019 AM BREAK

BAGELS
COFFEE
TEA

9/14/19 LUNCH

THE NY DELI BUFFET

9/14/19

CHEESE BOARD
HAND-CRAFTED TRAIL MIX
SODA

**9/14/19 PLATED DINNER
[AWARDS BANQUET]**

SALAD:

FARMER'S MARKET SALAD

ENTREE SELECTIONS:

HERB CRUSTED CHICKEN BREAST
KYZER FARM PORK CHOP
SEARED ATLANTIC SALMON,
GINGER LIME BUTTER
VEGETARIAN OPTION

DESSERT:

SALTED CARAMEL MOUSSE
WITH CANDIED PECANS
DARK CHOCOLATE MOUSSE
& STRAWBERRIES



MEMBER POLL—2020 CONFERENCE

It's time to start planning on a location for our 2020 general membership conference. We'd like to hear from as many members as possible before we settle on a location.

If your browser doesn't show the poll in the space below, click on the blue button to visit our members-only website (user name and password required).

<https://www.mwsadispatches.com/2020-conference-poll>

<https://www.mwsadispatches.com/2020-conference-poll#oops>

Thank you!

If you filled out an earlier version of this poll (before July 1) we apologize and ask for another submission.

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT: BETA READER FORUM

John Cathcart

AS A NEW SERVICE to our members, MWSA announces our Beta Reader Forum. The idea is to easily expand our authors' pool of potential beta readers—an important part of our creative process for books nearing completion.

As with our review swap program, MWSA is only providing a venue to get authors and beta readers together. Once there, you might also agree to swap reviews once the book is published.

The page is available to members only (username and password required).

Here are the details (which are also posted at the top of the forum page):

- * Paper copy: manuscript, proof, etc.
- * Digital format: Word document, PDF, eBook format (.mobi, .epub)
- ★ How you'll collect feedback--i.e. via paper questionnaire, online form, email responses
- ★ When you'll collect feedback--i.e. your expectation on how long beta readers have to read and provide feedback.
- ★ Whether or not you'll be posting beta reader names into your book's acknowledgment section.
- * MWSA recommends that authors acknowledge beta readers... and that they allow the readers to opt in or out!

PURPOSE

- ★ Use this forum to line up beta readers for your book.
- ★ This is a member-to-member program, MWSA will not monitor any individual agreements made via this system.

SUGGESTIONS

- ★ Provide a short paragraph describing your book
 - * Include title, author, genre, expected publication date
 - * Keep your initial posting short--you can always share more details once another MWSA member responds to your request
- ★ What format(s) you'll provide your beta readers



<https://www.mwsadispatches.com/mwsa-news/2019/4/new-member-benefit-beta-reader-forum>

THE LOOP

John Cathcart

KEEPING YOU IN...

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR a site to hold our 2020 general membership conference. If you are near a venue that you would think would be a good location for a future conference, please let us know. If you do, we might need your help in doing some coordination with the hotel, but the vast majority of the work that goes into the conference will be done by the MWSA Programs committee. So, don't think helping us find a location means the conference falls on your shoulders.

OUR 2019 MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE

IN JUST A FEW SHORT weeks, MWSA will be holding its general membership conference in Albuquerque, NM. While the bulk of this conference will be held in conjunction with the Southwest Writers, <http://www.southwestwriters.com/>, we will have time set aside for a membership meeting where members can interact with the MWSA's leadership. Saturday evening we will have our annual awards banquet. It's a great affair, and we encourage all award winners to try to make this banquet.

BY THE WAY, ALBUQUERQUE IS A GREAT PLACE TO VISIT:

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g60933-Activities-Albuquerque_New_Mexico.html

OUTREACH AND BOOK DRIVE

WE'RE CONTINUING OUR OUTREACH EFFORTS with planned programs in September in Albuquerque at the VA Med Center and in October in Austin. In addition to these writing classes, we're having our annual book drive and ask anyone who has books to donate to please send them to Larry Greenly at 2916 Jane Ct NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112-1638, to arrive by September 10. These books will be donated to the Raymond G. Murphy VA Med Center in Albuquerque. Remember to use media mail rates to keep your costs down.



DEAD MAN'S PENNY

David Andrew Westwood

AS A WRITER OF BOOKS set during The Great War I recognized it immediately, of course. It was just that you didn't see them very often, and not in California. The vendor at the Long Beach swap meet also knew what it was, and its value. I wasn't able to get him to lower his price.

But I bought it anyway, not just to possess it, but also to get it out of the grime and harsh sunlight, and stop it being clumsily handled by those who had no idea of its meaning and provenance.

It was a Dead Man's Penny, the colloquial name for the memorial plaque the British government awarded the families of men and women killed during what was then thought to be The War To End All Wars. Solid bronze, four and three-quarter inches in diameter, with the name of the deceased embossed in a cartouche. The government issued more than 1,355,000.

Mine is dedicated to Thomas Heaton.

The design of the plaque was picked from 800 submissions in a public competition, and won by the sculptor Edward Carter Preston. His design shows Britannia holding a trident and standing with a lion. In her outstretched left hand she holds an olive wreath above the rectangle containing the name. Significantly, no rank is included, since it was decided to make no distinction between sacrifices made by different individuals. Two dolphins swim around Britannia, symbolizing Britain's sea power, and at the bottom a second lion tears apart the German eagle.

Around the whole reads the legend, "HE DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR," later modified for the 1500 plaques issued to commemorate women to read, "SHE DIED..." Sent separately from the plaque would have been a scroll with message from King George V, reading,



*He whom this scroll commemorates
was numbered among those who, at the
call of King and Country, left all that
was dear to them, endured hardness,
faced danger, and finally passed out of
the sight of men by the path of duty and
self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives
that others might live in freedom.
Let those who come after see to it
that his name be not forgotten.*

I tracked down some scanty details of Thomas' service. He was born in Ashton under Lyne, a mill town in the North of England, and served as a private in the Manchester Regiment, 21st Battalion. He died on July 1, 1916, likely during the Battle of the Somme, during the *first day* of which the British lost a stunning 19,240 men.

Why Thomas' family sold the plaque I have no way of knowing, but I find it sad they did. Perhaps it ended in a pile of someone's belongings after their death, liquidated in a lot of other possessions. Perhaps his widow fell on hard times during the Depression and sold it for food money. Perhaps his sister was killed during an air raid in the war

that followed. Or perhaps a great great grandson sold it to buy drugs. No doubt there's another novel in there somewhere.

Europe was scoured of young men, men whose lives were cut short largely by the new and coldly efficient machine guns. It seemed to some that every woman wore widow's weeds.

The Great War had a profound effect on the generations that followed, in the countries of both the Allies and the Central Powers. The world's attitude was changed, hardened; the course of human history skewed forever. Every city, town, and village built monuments to commemorate the dead, and in Britain the few hamlets that managed to avoid losing any men were celebrated as "Thankful Villages." In London, a memorial called The Cenotaph was placed in the middle of Whitehall, the center of government, and when I was a child on a bus with my father he told me to stand as we passed it. All the passengers stood.

Families displayed their Dead Man's Penny on the mantel, or on the front door, or gave it to the local church to add to its memorial to the lost. There would have been some streets down which bronze plaques glinted in the sunlight on almost every door, sunlight that would no longer brighten the face of a young lad or lass, just their name.

Thomas Heaton's now sits in my house, a long way from his home, and Thiepval Cemetery, where his name is inscribed. But he fought for my great-grandparents, and their line lasted long enough to bring me into the world, so as far as I'm concerned he's family.

.....
David Westwood is the author of 14 novels, set during WWI, WWII, and Vietnam.

THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW YOU NEVER KNEW

...about the MWSA Website.

We list the types of correspondence members can anticipate receiving from MWSA here:

<http://www.mwsadispatches.com/membership/>

(3rd bullet under "New Members" section)

Archived, electronic copy of past email blasts (back to Nov 2017) can be found on our website here:

<http://www.mwsadispatches.com/mwsa-news/>

MWSA Blasts can be found here:

<http://www.mwsadispatches.com/mwsa-news?tag=Blast>

If you have any questions about navigating the MWSA website, please reach out to MWSA and we'll answer as best we can. Thank you.





MWSA *DISPATCHES* IS LOOKING FOR MEMBER SUBMISSIONS.

* * *

WE'VE MANY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR you as a member in good standing, from [Author Interviews](#) to Poetry submissions, to Book Profiles (three books—first come-first served, which will be showcased in the *Dispatches* every quarter).

If you'd like to write a featured article, submit a book or you just have questions, please email dispatches@mwsa.co

THANKS FOR PLAYING.



WELCOME TO THE MWSA ~ WHO WE ARE

John Cathcart

WE ARE A NATION-WIDE ASSOCIATION of authors, poets, and artists, drawn together by the common bond of military service. Most of our members are active duty military, retirees, or military veterans. A few are lifelong civilians who have chosen to honor our military through their writings or their art. Others have only a tangential relationship to the military. Our only core principle is a love of the men and women who defend this nation, and a deeply personal understanding of their sacrifice and dedication.

Our skills are varied. Some of us are world class writers, with many successful books. Others write only for the eyes of their friends and families. But each of us has a tale to tell. Each of us is a part of the fabric of Freedom. These are our stories...

For more details, [click here](#) to read more about us on our website. Feel free to browse our site and get to know our organization, our members and their works.

Thanks very much for being a part of the MWSA organization.



SAVING HISTORY ONE STORY AT A TIME

PRESS RELEASE

Foreword Reviews

Foreword Reviews, a book review journal focusing on independently published books, announced the winners of its **INDIES Book of the Year Awards** this week. The award recognizes the best books published in 2018 from small, indie, and university presses.

THE GOLD MEDAL FOR MILITARY AND WAR FICTION FOR 2018 HAS BEEN AWARDED TO:

CHILDREN OF A GOOD WAR

BY JACK WOODVILLE LONDON

“Being surrounded by the year’s best books from independent writers and publishers is a humbling and invigorating experience that we take seriously at every step of the judging process,” says Foreword Reviews Managing Editor Michelle Anne Schingler. “As the INDIES progress, our editors, and our librarian and bookseller judges, have the honor and the privilege of discovering and rediscovering independent titles that give us hope about the future of publishing and that, at their best, make us consider the world around us anew.”

* * *

FOUNDED IN 1998, *FOREWORD MAGAZINE*, Inc. is the publisher of the only review journal completely devoted to independent publishing: *Foreword Reviews*, a Folio: award-winning bimonthly print review journal. Foreword exclusively covers university and independent (non “Big 5”) publishers, the books they publish, and their authors. Foreword is based in Traverse City, Michigan, with staff based worldwide.

Vire Press, publisher of *Children of a Good War*, is honored by this award and the attention it brings to America’s finest writing to readers, libraries, and book shops throughout the country.

Children of a Good War is the crown jewel in London’s French Letters Trilogy. These are novels of the United States in the second half of the twentieth century. Written through the eyes of the Hastings family, their friends, their enemies, and their secrets, they portray a period in which the nation’s unity in World War II and its progress and prosperity afterward give way to bitter division over the Vietnam war, followed by the struggle to find the nation’s soul through the generation that forgot its history and took its wealth, status, and privilege for granted.

Congratulations, Jack.

INTERROGATING THE INTERROGATOR

INTERVIEWING THE AUTHOR OF *INTERVIEW WITH A TERRORIST*

Javier Berrellez

I WAS TEN PAGES INTO the book, and I had to reach out to the author. At first I was fascinated by the book's summary, an interrogator's memoir on his two thousand hours of interrogating terrorists. Once I got into the book, the realism smacked me in the face, the author's ability to draw you into the story and make you feel that you're a fly on the wall and experiencing every moment was astounding.

On Thursday, May 2nd, I got the opportunity to sit across from James Rosone, author of *Interview with a Terrorist*. I wanted to ask him about his book and his life as an interrogator, and what made him tell his compelling story.

Interview

Me (Javier): Tell me about yourself, James.

James R. (Author): I'm a full-time author, who's now written thirteen novels. All of my books are military related in one way or another. I wasn't always an author, I spent some time in the Army, and subsequently transitioned to the Air Force where I had a successful career as an Interrogator.

Me: What got you in to writing, and what made you want to write this particular book that is so close to you?

James: It's my therapy. It's my way of dealing with PTSD. As part of my Cognitive Processing Therapy, my doctor asked me to write down what I felt, saw, smelled. This kind of therapy is intended to help desensitize things that happened and may be inflicting me. I eventually started writing so much that I organically became the author I am now.

Me: Tell me about this story, and what you wanted to share with the reader.

James: The book was originally called, *Dinner with a Terrorist*. I wanted to demystify the whole approach to interrogation, and what people think it is. To start, you can't interrogate everyone the same way. Culture has a huge influence on your approach. For example, in the Arab culture there are three opportunities every day, that no matter who you are, they will treat you as an equal: prayer, tea time, and when you sit to eat. During these times, you don't fight, argue, or create tension. This is a time to rejoice in each other's company and make peace.



James Rosone

As you have these peaceful conversations you pepper in questions. You ask things that will help to bring peace, limit the continued fighting, and hopefully put an end to this issue you're trying to solve. What people don't realize is that a good interrogation revolves around a win-win

situation. The person you're interrogating wants something, and you do too. It can be more security for their village, better access to medical care or infrastructure, or even better conditions in a prison cell. And, I want information.

Me: Obviously, this can be a touchy subject for many people. Have you encountered any issues with readers?

James: Yeah, you get those crazy people that troll you online and harass you about everything under the sun. What's worse though, are those people you meet in person who've never served in the military and ask you questions such as: how many times have you water-boarded someone, etc.

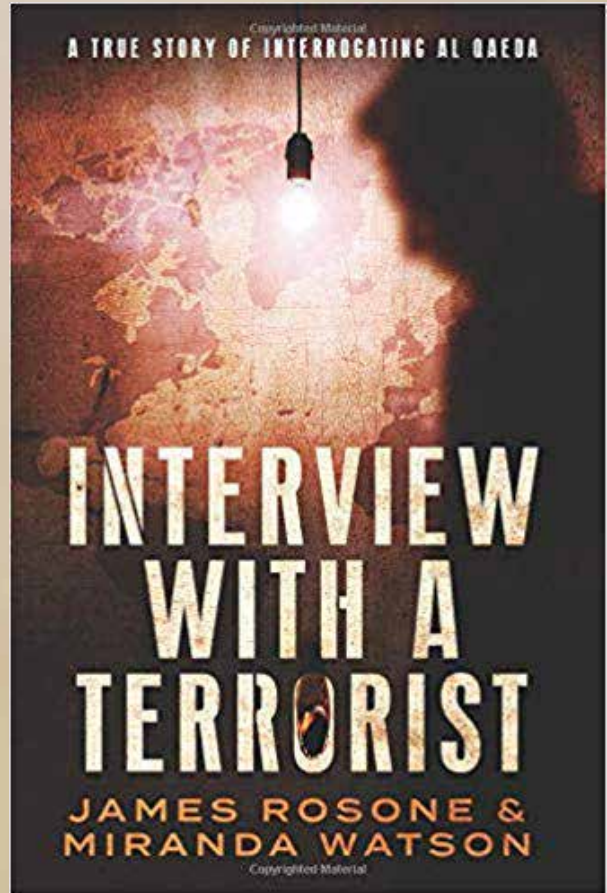
Me: Yeah, I know what you mean. When I first transitioned to a job outside of the DoD community, I was surprised by the kind of questions people would ask. Especially the one: how many people did you kill?

James: With only 4% of the U.S. population ever serving, people don't know much about the military, and they're completely naive to the lifestyle and situation.

Me: In the last few years, there've been stories that have been published that have gotten authors in trouble with the Department of Defense for writing more than they should have. For example, the book *No Easy Day* written by Mark Owen (pen name, his name is actually Matt Bissonette). He got sued by the U.S. government for breaking his non-disclosure agreement, and eventually had to pay \$6.6 million. Do you feel you may have crossed the line with your book?

James: No. To start, *The Military Interrogation Manual* is on sale on Amazon. The techniques used to interrogate people aren't secret. When I wrote my book though, I did take extra care to change names, locations, bases, time-lines, etc. There's nothing that would reveal sources or methods that would compromise a mission, an organization, any persons, etc.

Me: What life lessons did you learn from your interrogations?



James: Interrogations taught me the art of negotiations, and how establishing rapport with someone is the most critical element in communications. When you sit across from someone, you need to quickly ascertain what they value, and you do that by listening and looking for non-verbal cues. You learn, and eventually master, mirroring, which is a key component to building commonality and eventually trust.

Me: Has your book been successful?

James: It has. It constantly ranks in the Top 30 books about the Iraq war.

Me: Why do you think it has done so well?

James: I'm trying to fill a gap out there in the writing world. Everyone is writing about Special Forces. I wanted to write about those elements in the military you rarely hear from. In my other

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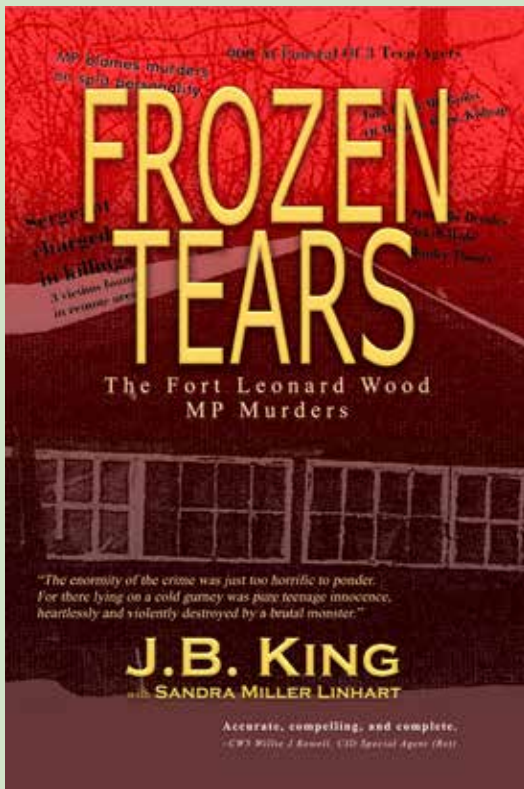
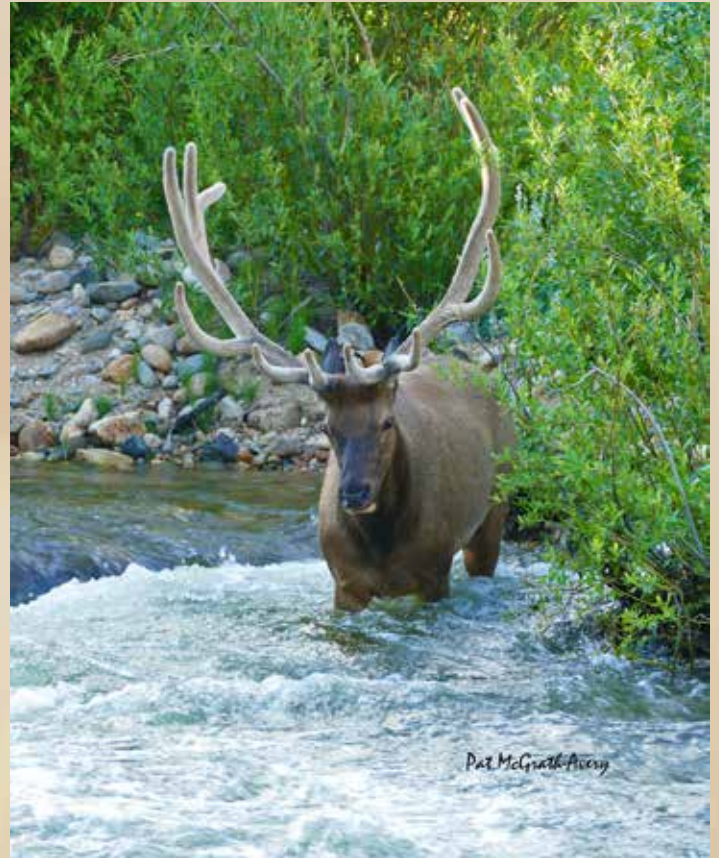
books, I talk about division-to-division warfare. What it takes to logistically position a tank army from one country to another and engage in combat.

Me: Where can people find your book, and anything else you've written?

James: Obviously Amazon and also our home page: <https://www.author-james-rosone.com>

<https://www.jberrellez.com/post/interrogating-the-interrogator-interviewing-the-author-of-interview-with-a-terrorist>

MAY 5, 2019



Frozen Tears: The Fort Leonard Wood MP Murders
by J. B. King

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1943267707>

In 1977, four teenagers were kidnapped and attacked near and on Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Only one survived. This book is written by the first responder to the call, Missouri State Highway Patrol Trooper J.B. King. He goes back in time to tell it how it was from the moment of the crime until the conviction of Military Police Game Warden Johnny Lee Thornton. Riveting!

Genre(s): True Crime; Military

Format(s): Trade Paperback, Kindle

ISBN: 978-1943267705

WRITER'S BLOCK

Kurt Blorstad

AS I SIT IN MY CHAIR TRYING MY BEST TO WRITE
I AM THINKING OF DINNER FROM THE PREVIOUS NIGHT.
WHEN I HEAR A COMMOTION WITH A RUMBLE AND ROAR
AND TURN TO SEE CONNOR NOW OPENING THE DOOR.

"PLEASE PLAY WITH ME, BESTEFAR—
EVERYONE ELSE SAYS THEY'RE BUSY.

I'VE BROUGHT ALL MY TOYS AND
MY FAVORITE TIN LIZZY."

WITH A TRUCK IN HIS HAND AND
A BIG SMILE IN PLACE,

I COULD NOT BE THE ONE TO TAKE
JOY FROM HIS FACE.

I JUMPED FROM MY CHAIR AND SAT ON THE FLOOR
TO PLAY WITH YOUNG CONNOR AND
BE A CHILD ONCE MORE.

"I'VE BROUGHT ALL YOUR FAVORITES,
I KNOW WHAT YOU LIKE.

LET'S PLAY WITH THE RACE CAR AND
DRIVE DOWN THE PIKE."

WE PLAYED WITH THEM ALL, EVERY LAST LITTLE TOY.
BECAUSE OF YOUNG CONNOR MY DAY WAS A JOY.

VSA FESTIVAL IN OCTOBER

Jack Woodville London



Jack Woodville London hanign out with penguins in Antarctica

THE VSA (VETERANS SERVICE ADMIN) of Austin and Central Texas will host a festival for veteran writers, artists, and musicians in October.

The dates are October 26-28, and will be at the new Austin Public Library, itself an amazing new facility on Town Lake that has become a tourist destination in its own right.

We will host a one day short course for writers that is modeled on our MWSA one day course and will have a one hundred per cent MWSA faculty. President Bob Doerr has said he will join us and Valerie Ormond, the head of our MWSA

Ambassador Program, is 98.9 % sure that she, too, will come to Austin for the program (I'm only waiting for her to say yes).



75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY WITH JACK LONDON

Dave Froehlich, Fox 7 News



AUSTIN, TEXAS (FOX 7 AUSTIN) - Historian Jack Woodville London talks about the day the Allied Forces took over the beaches of Normandy during World War II.

Here is an excerpt of the interview between Dave Froehlich, Fox 7 Austin and Jack Woodville London, award-winning author, and MWSA member.

Dave Froehlich: *Engaged in War; French Letters* – One of your many works but really kind of dovetails with this anniversary.

Jack Woodville London: The book takes place almost entirely inside Normandy beginning on D-Day.

Dave: I think we all, well, most of us know D-day... A lot of people don't really seem to still understand the significance and just how treacherous everything was.

Jack: In terms of the significance, it was the blow that broke the spine of the Nazi Empire...

Watch the entire interview here: <http://www.fox7austin.com/good-day/75th-anniversary-of-d-day>

DR. MARY EDWARDS WALKER

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT, SOCIAL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, FASHION RENEGADE

Dwight Jon Zimmerman

OF ALL THE MANY GREAT women in American history, there is one, though petite in stature, who was a giant in accomplishments. Her name is Dr. Mary Edwards Walker and her record of achievements is unique among her American sisters.

Dr. Walker was a major leader in the nineteenth century suffragette movement and the only woman to be awarded our nation's highest military decoration for valor, the Medal of Honor. She was a woman of will and courage who refused to back down or break, waging war not only against a society and government ruled by men, but at times even against her sisters in the suffragette movement. The former saw her as a brilliant, articulate, iron-willed advocate who repeatedly shamed them by exposing the chauvinistic double-standards of the time. The latter saw her as a dangerous renegade to their cause who wouldn't sit down and keep her mouth shut in the name of common cause and jealously resented her many accomplishments.

Nineteenth century American society placed enormous pressure on middle- and upper-class women to conform to the career path of homemaker making them financially dependent on their husbands' support. Unlike the other suffragette leaders who accepted such roles, Mary Walker lived an independent life with a professional career as a medical doctor. Also, unlike them she was a Civil War war hero who served as a surgeon in the Union army, as a Union spy, and was a prisoner of war. In recognition of her service, she was awarded the Medal of Honor, being the only woman to receive the decoration.

But what grated on her suffragette sisters most (and placed her at odds with most other American



*Dr. Mary Edwards Walker wearing her Medal of Honor
Library of Congress*

women) was her defiance of fashion norms that decreed women dress in skirts and corsets and instead chose to wear, in the parlance of the time “mannish attire”—in other words, pants! Dr. Walker's decision to wear comfortable clothes for reasons of health rather than the body-altering corsets of fashion that restricted movement and were a health risk, was an affront to their conventional sensibilities.

Finally, in New York City in early June 1866, Dr. Walker paid the price for flouting fashion convention. She was arrested. Twice. The charge in both cases: wearing “mannish” attire. On June 13, 1866, Dr. Walker had her day in court.

DR. WALKER'S DAY IN COURT

Wednesday, June 13, 1866

The Tombs

125 White Street

Manhattan

If a building could be said to look like a bully, the New York City Halls of Justice and House of Detention was that building. Constructed in 1838 and based on the design of an ancient Egyptian tomb, the squat, rectangular gray granite structure located along what is now the southern border of New York City's Chinatown was a combination courthouse and jail. From the street it appeared only one story high (most of the complex was below ground level, surrounding a sunken courtyard) and took up an entire city block. It was located on land that had once held a large pond that had provided water to colonial Manhattan. Dimly lit by gas lamps and long, narrow windows, its corridors and rooms were dark, dreary, and damp. Nobody, not even the newspapers, referred to the building by its official name. Instead, because it *did* look like an Egyptian tomb everyone called it by the nickname: "The Tombs." It was a place ladies of society generally avoided.



New York City Halls of Justice and House of Detention, popularly known as The Tombs.
Library of Congress

But not this day.

Dressed in their finest attire with tight corsets and full-length skirts, they began arriving in force in the morning at the Metropolitan Police Court run by Police Commissioners Thomas C. Acton, John G. Bergen, and Benjamin Manierre and soon packed the long benches of the spectator's gallery. The atmosphere in the room was electric with anticipation. But they were not there to watch a sensational murder trial. They were there because Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, a petite thirty-three-year-old woman, had been arrested on June 5 and June 11 and thrown in jail for the scandalous crime of wearing *pants*!

The first arrest was bad enough, though the charges were dropped. But the second arrest, coming in less than a week after the first, was worse. The judge in that case ruled she be held on \$300 bail (almost \$6,000 today) and put on a year's probation. To use today's term, news of the June 11 incident went viral.

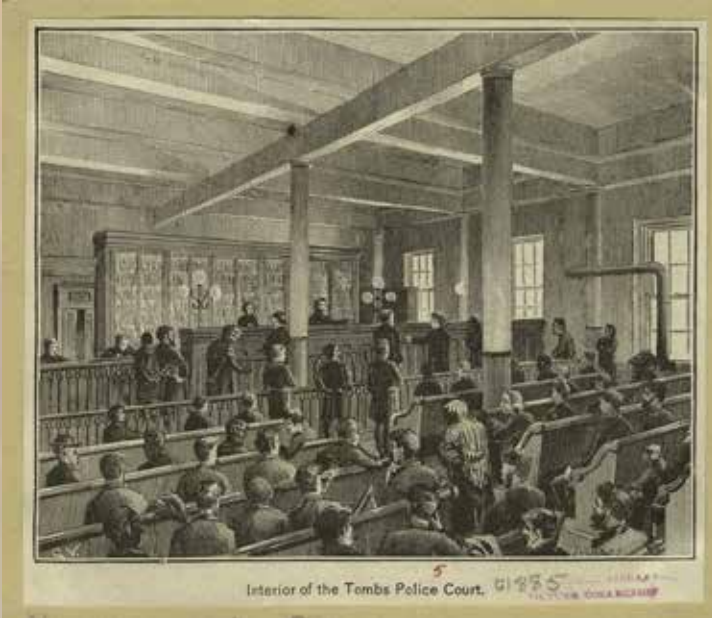
If you combined the publicity magnetism of Kim Kardashian, the political and social activism of Elizabeth Warren, and the iconic heroism of Joan of Arc, you'd have Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. Good or bad, everyone had an opinion about the polarizing Dr. Walker, the internationally famous suffragette, women's rights activist, and Civil War hero who had been awarded the Medal of Honor for her service in the Union Army, and what had happened that week in June. Furious over the two arrests Dr. Walker demanded her day in court. Now she was going to get it and reporters, ladies of society as well as a number of gentlemen were there to see the show.

Today's hearing was about the first arrest. Dr. Walker had filed a complaint of "improper conduct" (today the term would be "police harassment") against arresting officer Patrolman Patrick H. Pickett. She charged that he had lied to her in order to get her to the Eighth Precinct

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police station on Wooster Street where she was arrested. Though the charges were dismissed, she was outraged by the behavior of Officer Pickett and the station sergeant. She had filed charges so she could make the case that a woman had the right to wear whatever clothing she wanted, so long as it was not salacious, to end future police harassment.



*An illustration showing a typical police court hearing in The Tombs.
New York Public Library*

A few minutes before the scheduled hearing, the door to the courtroom opened and in strode Dr. Walker leading a group of young women from the West Village boarding house where she lived. As she walked to the front, a *New York Times* reporter wrote, “the chamber became vocal with whispering.”¹ The reporter noted that Dr. Walker was an attractive woman. Her clothing, he wrote, was “black broadcloth.” From the waist up it looked like what any woman of the day would wear, “but from the waist downward the cut of both coat and pantaloons [pants] is masculine.” On her head was a small black, straw hat and she

carried in one hand a small parasol. Her jewelry was also typically feminine, with one exception. Proudly pinned on her blouse was her Medal of Honor.

Commissioner Acton, in charge of the proceedings, called everyone to order and motioned for Dr. Walker to make her case.

Standing before the commissioners, in a clear and confident voice that could be heard throughout the courtroom Dr. Walker said, “I dwell at No. 13 Laight Street, and am a practicing physician and surgeon. I graduated as such in 1855, and as such have been in both civil and military service.”

Pointing to her clothing, she said, “I have worn this style of dress for many years, as many female medical students and practitioners have done.” She went on to say that she had been “respectfully entertained at the mansions of gentlemen of distinction in every walk of industry or of art and science.” She named Supreme Court Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase, President Abraham Lincoln, and other notable politicians and generals. She said that of the many male officials she had encountered through the years, the only ones to object to her attire and arrest her were Officer Pickett on June 5 and Officer Johnson on June 11.

She said she wore what was called “reform dress” for two reasons: practicality and high moral principle. “The fashionable dress of the day,” she told the commissioners, was inconvenient and unhealthy. She said its hem “sweeps the filth” from Manhattan’s notoriously dirty sidewalks and cobblestone streets. Its corset, pulled tight to give the wearer the narrow, pinched waist favored by fashion, is unhealthy. It “fastens the lungs as within a coffin.” And any woman wearing a hoop skirt did not dare to go outside when there was a “high wind, or attempt to climb a staircase” or hill because doing so would cause “immodest exposure of the limbs; it is an abomination, invented by the prostitutes of Paris, and as such unfit to be worn by a modest American woman.”

¹ The quotes of the proceeding itself are taken from the article “Police Trials,” *New York Times* June 14, 1866.



A caricature published in Puck magazine showing Uncle Sam and John Bull leading a group of world leaders through an exhibit of women suffragettes. The caption reads: "A suggestion to the Buffalo Exposition: Let us have a chamber of female horrors." The caricature of Dr. Walker is on the far left. Library of Congress

Aiming her outrage at the policemen who arrested her, she said that no proper and moral woman "should be compelled by a couple of policemen to put on the long dress and live just as they say she should live." In closing she referred to her military service and ended her statement on a defiant tone, "I claim in free America, on whose tented fields I have served four years in the cause of human freedom, the right unmolested to dress as I please."

When she had finished Officer Pickett's lawyer, Charles S. Spencer, stood up. Looking at the commissioners, he said, "It is untrue that any woman may legally dress as she pleases. The State law, from the earliest history of our country, has forbidden the wearing of men's garments by women. And if Mrs. Dr. Walker was so attired so to attract a crowd, and thus get together the elements for a breach of the peace, the policeman was legally bound to take her into custody. Dressing thus, in this neutral manner, is clearly a misdemeanor." If Spencer thought he had succeeded in bringing the petite woman down a peg, he quickly found out how wrong he was.

Dr. Walker stared at the lawyer and in a stern voice asked, "Do you arrest a band of music for creating a crowd in the public streets?"

Conflicting versions of what happened at the hat store and station house were then told, with Dr. Walker claiming the crowd was small and that Officer Pickett had lied about protecting her from the crowd in order to bring her to the station where she was arrested. Officer Pickett said about 200 people, many of them boys, had gathered to gawk at her, had become rowdy and that at the station

house he did not arrest her. The tall officer also said that Dr. Walker threatened to "have him broken" if he did try to arrest her. The station's sergeant, Officer Schofield, testified that she was "airy and defiant" and that when Officer Pickett did not want to charge her, "I released her from restraint."

Elizabeth Miller, the hat store owner, and Mary Donnelly, the sales clerk who attended to Dr. Walker were called to testify and they backed Walker's version of what happened at the store. They also said that Pickett, not Walker, was responsible for stirring up the crowd to an unruly level. Then Pickett's partner, Officer William B. Moseman, was called to testify and he, too, backed Dr. Walker's story.

After testimony was complete, the commissioners gathered together to reach a decision. It came quickly. Commissioner Acton dismissed Dr. Walker's complaint, stating, "The lady was taken to the station house to get her away from the mob, and in making the arrest for such cause the officer was not guilty of wrong, because he

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did not know her abode and could not take her there. But if the arrest had been made because of her peculiar attire, he would have been in error. Police have no more right to apprehend a woman in such a dress as hers than they have to arrest me.” Turning to the police officer he said, “Officer Pickett, let her go.” Then he added an observation that had become obvious to everyone in the room. “She is smart enough to take care of herself. Never arrest her again.”

The *New York Times* reporter wrote that Dr. Walker “departed under a storm of applause.”

A reporter from the *New York Sun* wrote that the “general opinion of the masculine portion of the spectators was that ‘they didn’t want anybody like her about their houses.’ The ladies smiled, and—said nothing.”



MWSA is introducing several new membership improvements for 2019—“More Bang for your Bucks.”

Social Media

We’ve recently launched several new social media initiatives to help spread the word about MWSA and our members’ books. As you know, for the past two awards seasons, we’ve been putting all our books and reviews on our MWSA Goodreads page. Starting with the 2019 season, we’ve expanded that presence to include Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Tumblr!

ADD YOUR BOOK TO THE MWSA LIBRARY

John Cathcart

...from \$0.00

THIS IS FOR SUBMITTING your book to the MWSA library only.

- MWSA will **NOT** review your book, nor will it be considered for award using this option.
- Members in good standing may submit one book per year cost-free (as a member benefit) for inclusion in our online library.
- If you'd like to add additional book(s), please chose the "Extra Book" option (cost \$5.00 per book).
- MWSA will add your book as quickly as we can... but it may take some time (depending on webmaster workload).
- We are limiting submissions to 50 for each option to make sure we can handle the workload and get your book included on our website in a timely manner.
- If an option is listed as "Sold Out," please check back later or contact the MWSA Awards Directors... we may be able to include your book once we've cleared any backlog.
- MWSA's online library will include your book for at least one calendar year after it's added and will remain online until and unless MWSA transitions to a new/different website.

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<http://www.mwsadispatches.com>



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LOOKING FOR MEMBER
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We have opportunities available for you as a member in good standing, from [Author Interviews](#) to Poetry submissions, to Book Profiles (three books, first come-first served, will be showcased in the Dispatches every quarter).

If you'd like to write a feature article or have further questions, please email:

dispatches@mwsa.co

Thanks.



FREE WRITING WORKSHOP

Valerie Ormond

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2019

Media Contact:
Valerie Ormond
Outreach@mwsa.co
(443)994-5651

Military Writers Society of America Helps Veterans Write

A free writing workshop offered to benefit local veterans.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. –The Military Writers Society of America (MWSA) will hold a free writing workshop Thur., Sept. 12, 2019, at the Raymond G. Murphy Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Seasoned writers will present on the topics of storytelling, character, conflict, dialogue, memoir, short story, non-fiction, and editing.

MWSA published authors have conducted veteran-focused workshops over the past five years at VA medical and veteran centers in Phoenix; Waco, Texas; San Antonio; and Charleston, S.C. The goal of the writing workshops has been to help veterans and their families share their stories through a positive writing workshop venue at no cost to attendees.

Jim Tritten, a local Albuquerque writer and MWSA board member, will present ideas on how to write short stories. A Navy veteran patient who participates in the medical center's creative writing program, Tritten has twice won Gold Medals for 1st Place in the annual National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Tritten said, "Writing short stories has been a natural path to follow as I process my PTSD symptoms and the road to recovery."

MWSA's Director of Education Jack W. London started the program in 2014. London, a multiple award-winning author and Army veteran, said, "Writers helping writers. Veterans helping veterans. These workshops focus on the things that all of us need help with - organizing the non-fiction and fiction, story, characters and dialogue, memoir - the things we want to write."

London continued, "Our faculty have all won awards for their writing, and we do not charge for our workshops. Our reward is the best reward of all: the satisfaction from giving back with our talents to help you with yours."

The workshops aim to achieve one of MWSA's organizational purposes "to reach out to reach out to schools, military organizations, and veterans' groups and encourage an interest in writing..." In addition to MWSA volunteers London and Tritten, the faculty will include Valerie Ormond, Robin Hutton, Dane Zeller, Jacqueline Loring, Nancy Arbuthnot and Joseph Badal.

Any veteran being treated at any VA hospital or clinic is welcome to attend. In addition, anyone registered for the Joint MWSA/SouthWest Writers (SWW) Conference held Friday, Sept. 13 – Sun., Sept. 14, in Albuquerque may attend. Event organizers request attendees register so they may prepare a sufficient number of books, worksheets, and other handouts. To register for the VA Writing Workshop, please see <https://www.facebook.com/events/1247577138714012/>.

For additional information about the Military Writers Society of America or the Joint MWSA/SWW Conference, please see <http://www.mwsadispatches.com/>.

About the Military Writers Society of America

The Military Writers Society of America (MWSA) exists to help military service members, veterans, their families, supporters, and historians record history and the complexities of military life, and to encourage writing as therapy. The 501(c)3 non-profit organization focuses on using the writing of MWSA members to educate the general public, students, and the military community. Learn more at <http://www.mwsadispatches.com/>.


About the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center

The Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center is part of the New Mexico VA Health Care System and is located at 1501 San Pedro SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. The Medical Center can be reached via telephone at (505)265-1711 or (800)465-8262. For more information on the VA Writing Workshop, please see <https://www.facebook.com/events/1247577138714012/>.

About the SouthWest Writers

SouthWest Writers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging and supporting all people to express themselves through the written word. Southwest Writers actively helps writers of all ages to improve their craft and/or writing career in all fiction and nonfiction genres and poetry. Learn more at <http://www.southwestwriters.com>.

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Military
Writers
Society
of America
Veterans
Writing
Workshop

Raymond G. Murphy
Veterans Affairs
(VA) Medical Center,
Albuquerque, NM

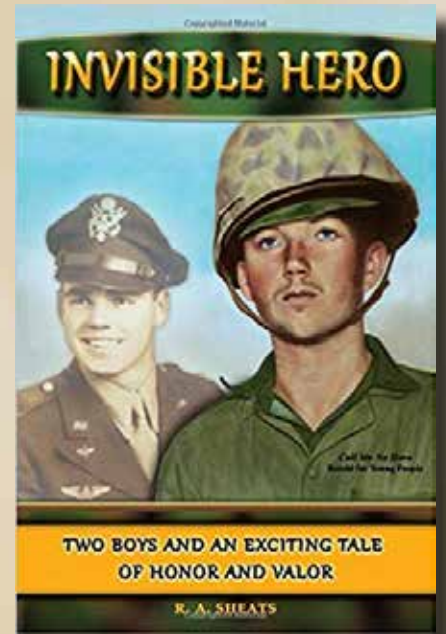
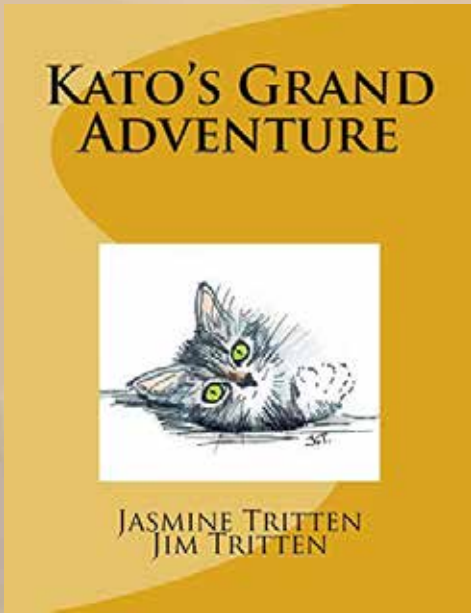
Sept. 12, 2019 9am - 3pm

[https://www.facebook.com/
events/1247577138714012/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1247577138714012/)



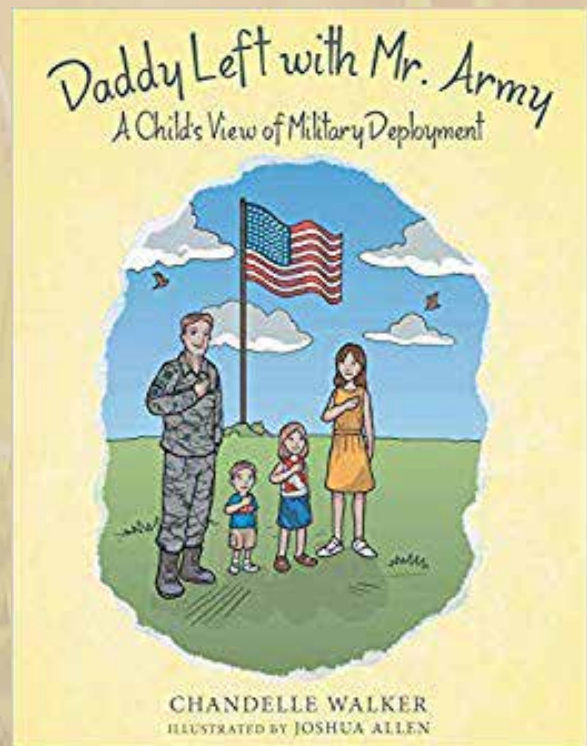
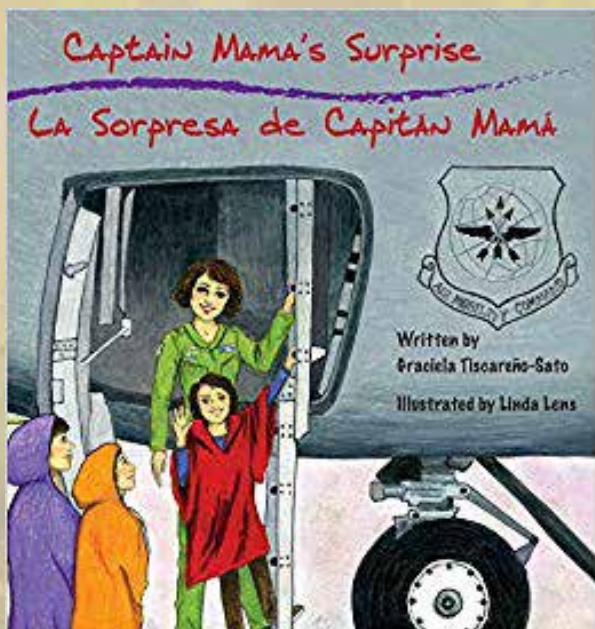
2019 MWSA BOOK AWARD FINALISTS

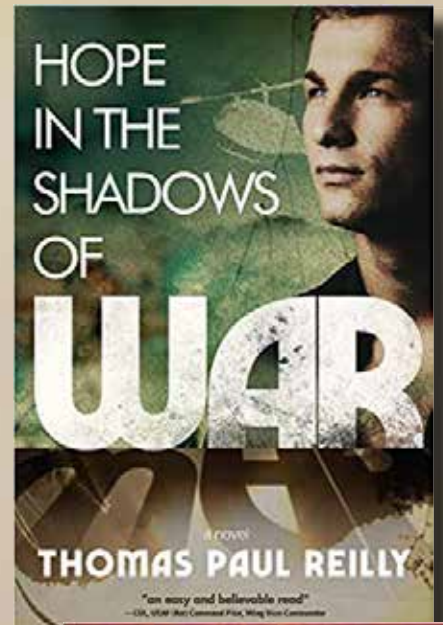
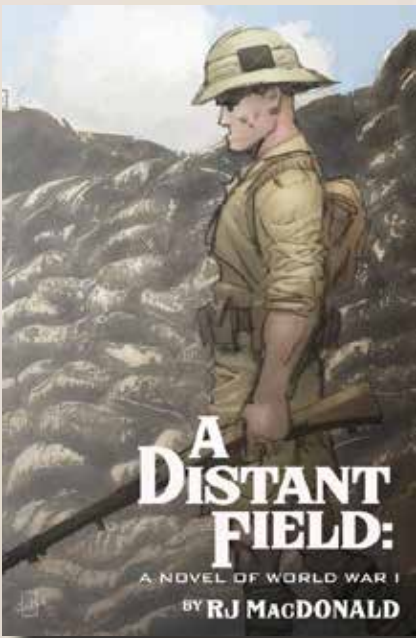
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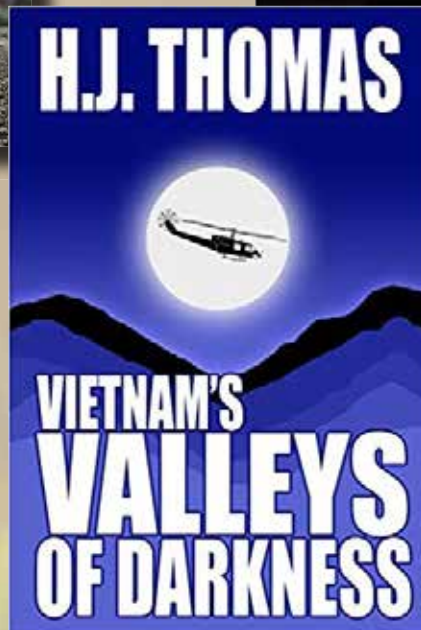
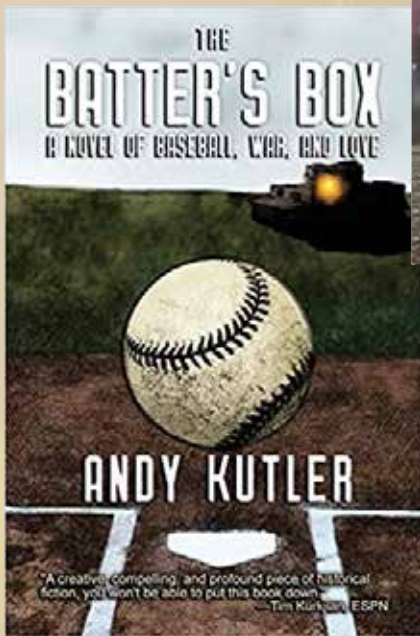
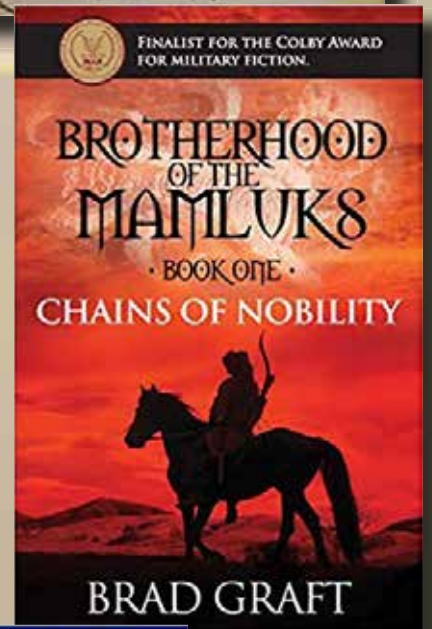
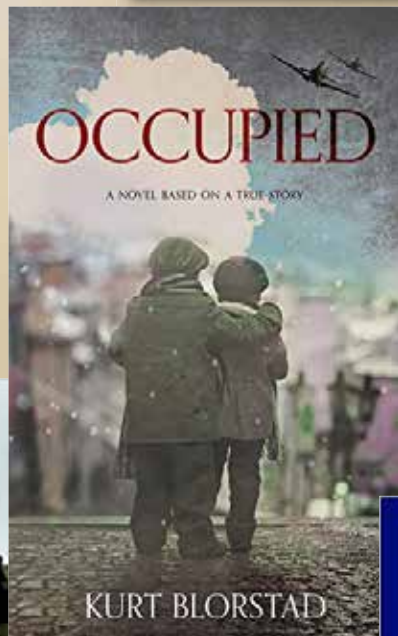
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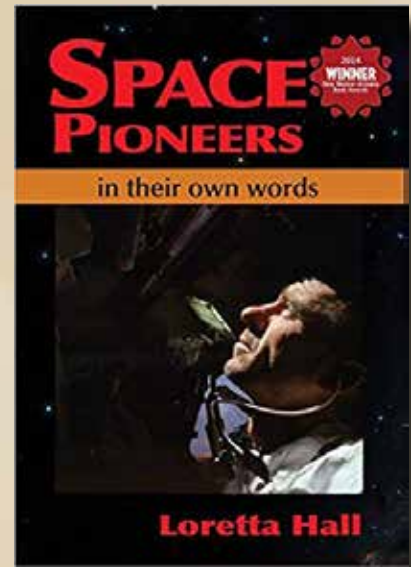
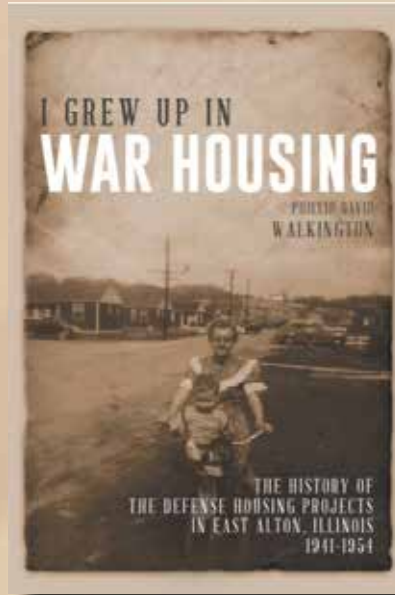
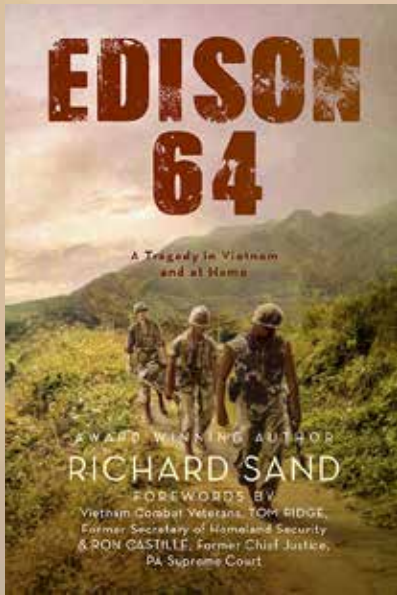
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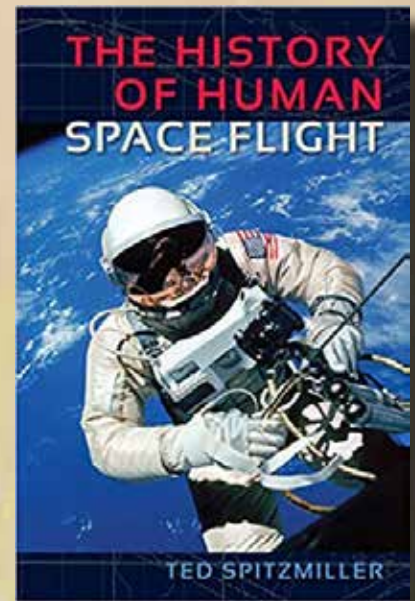
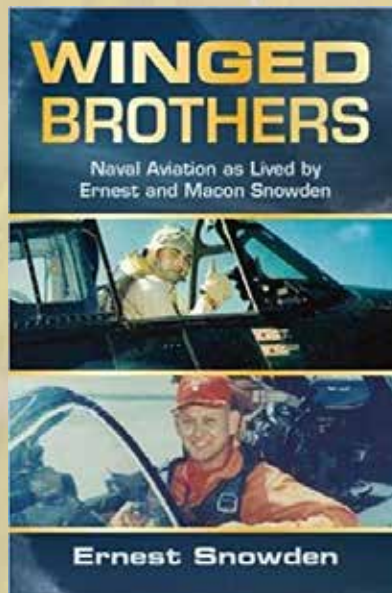
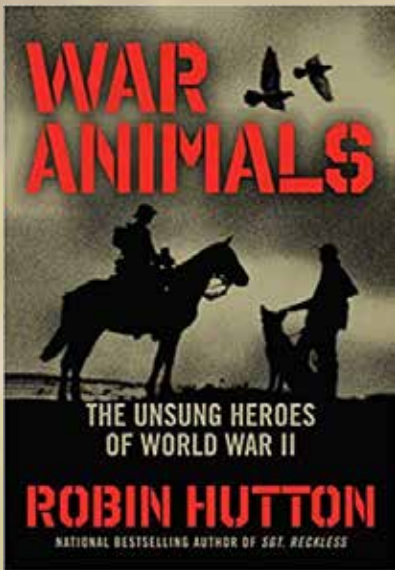


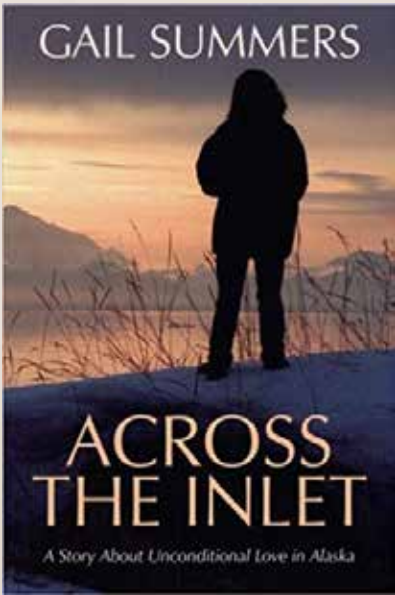
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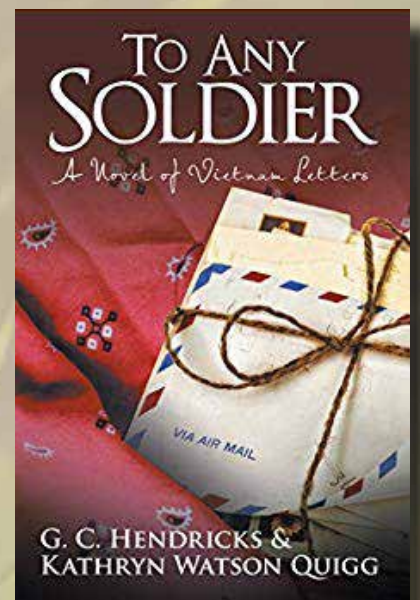
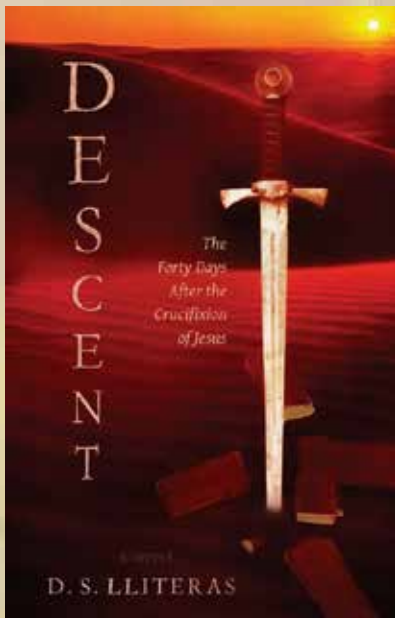
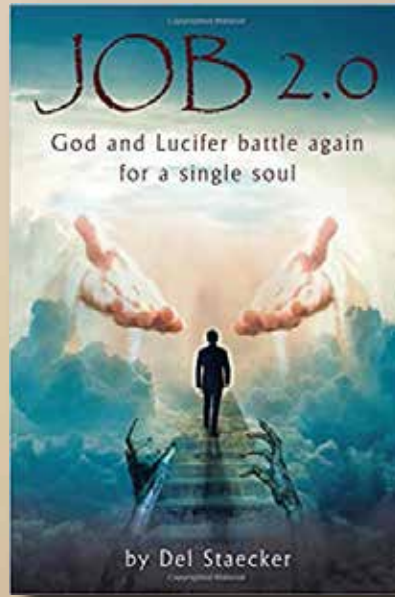
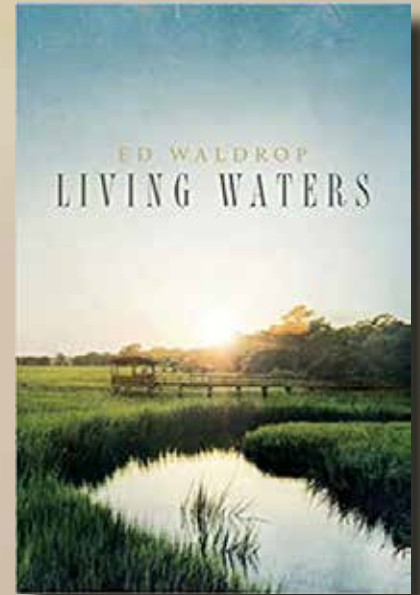


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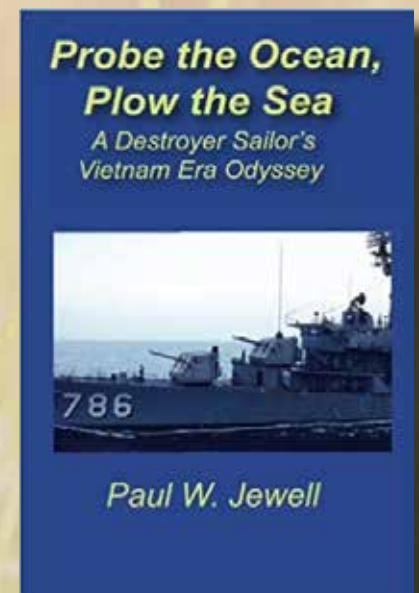
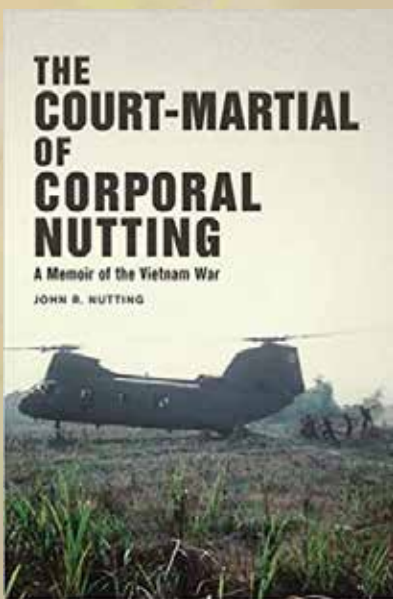
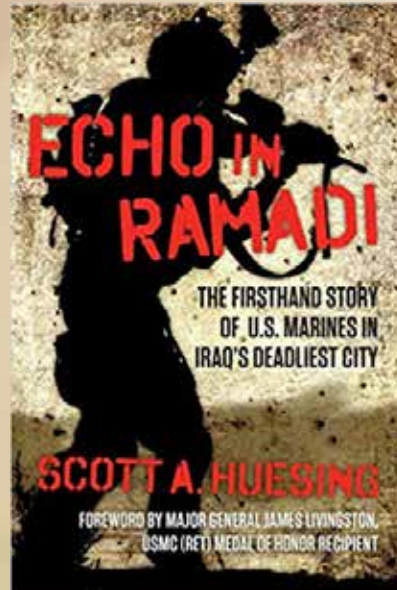
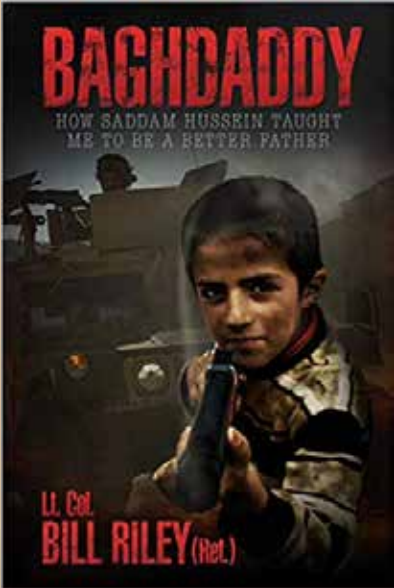


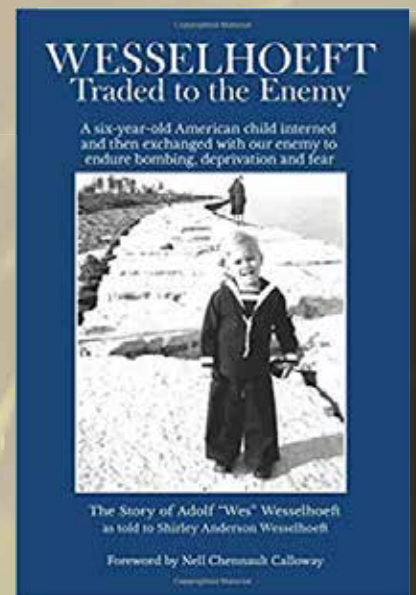
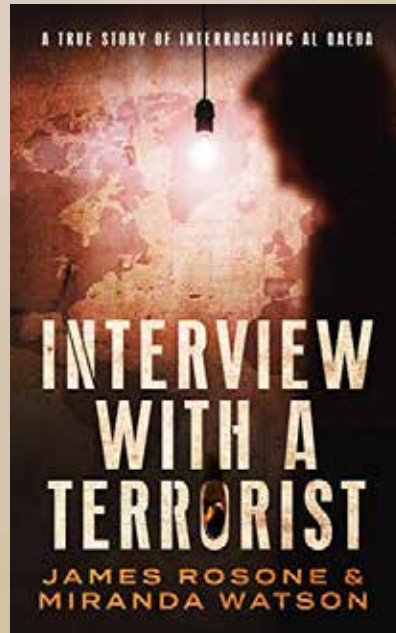
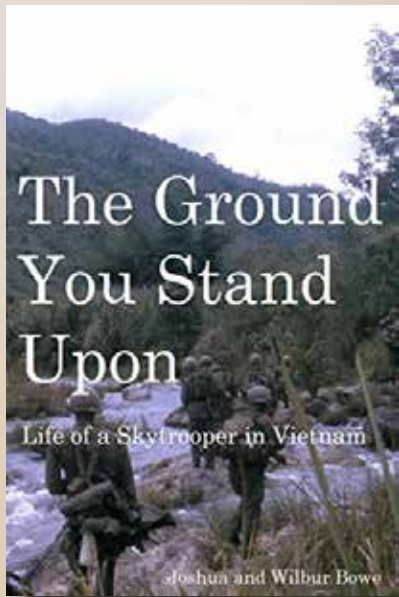


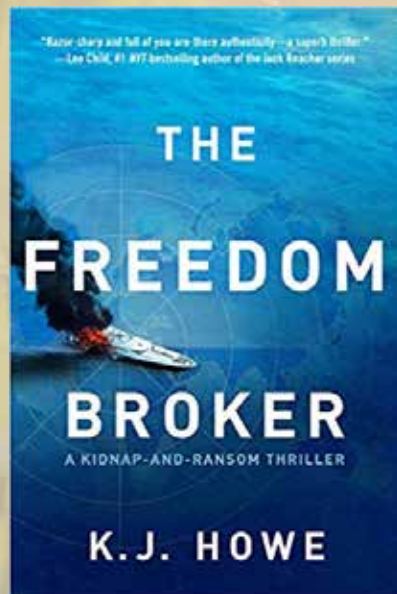
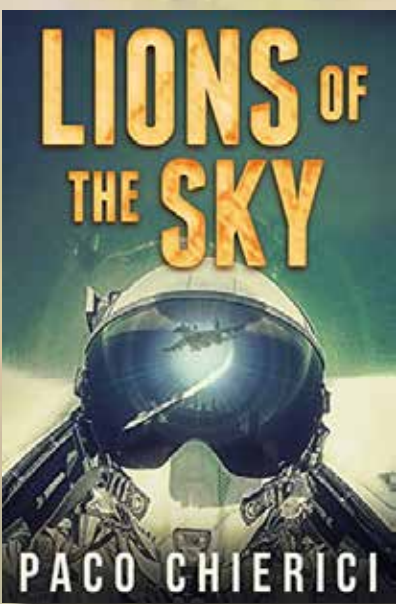
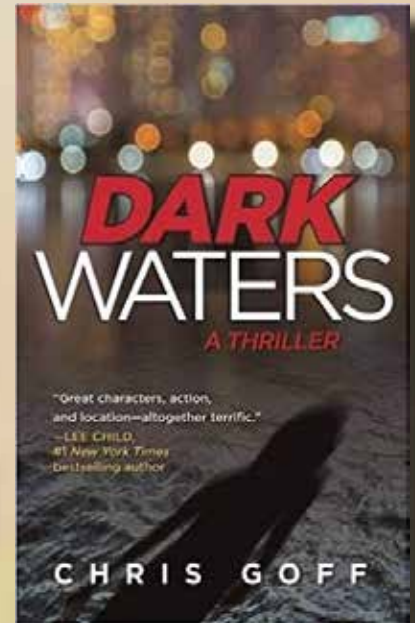
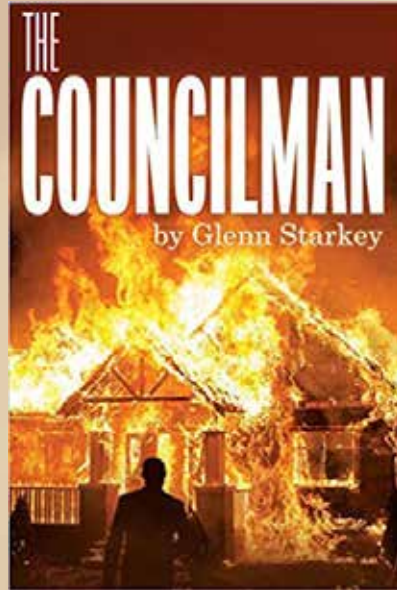
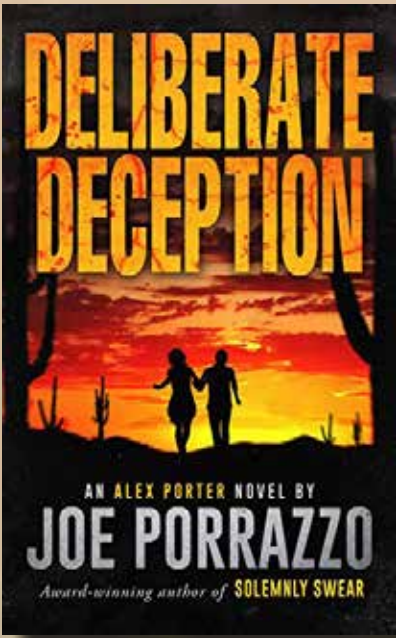
LITERARY FICTION



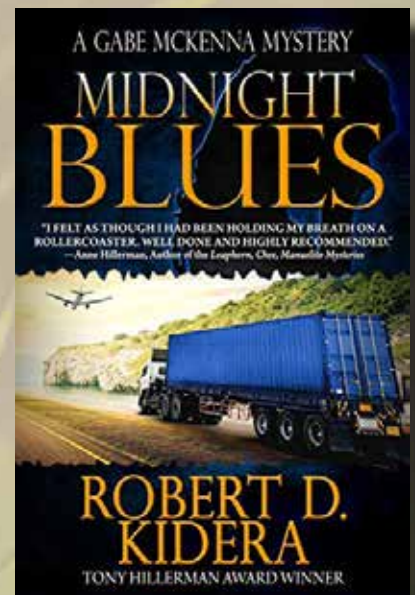
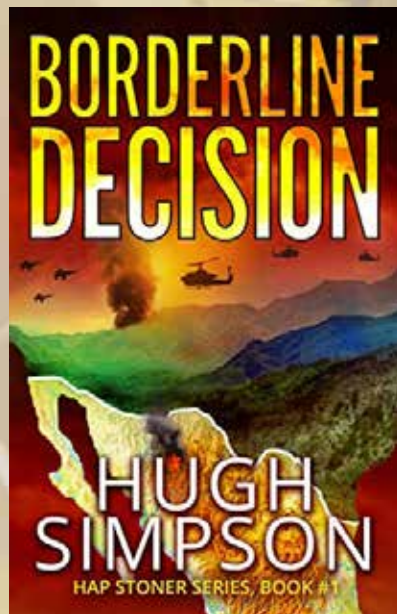
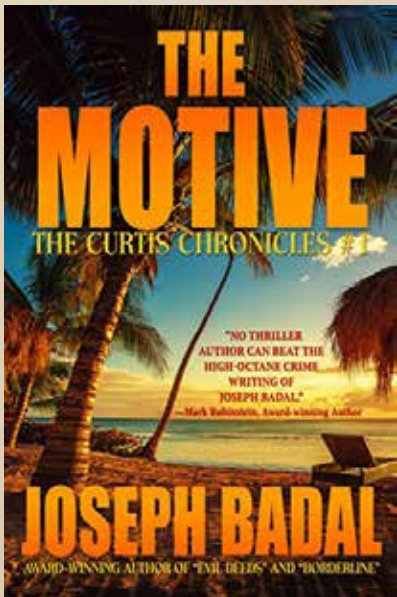
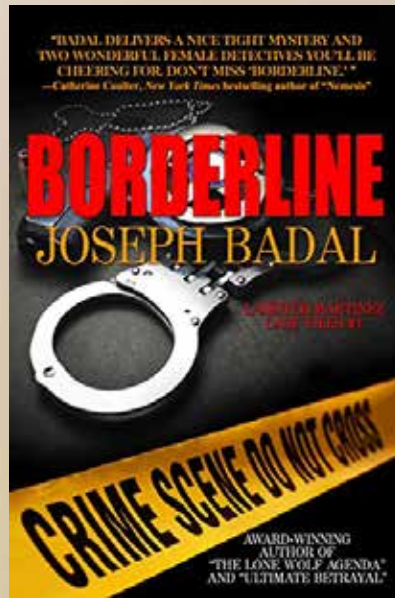
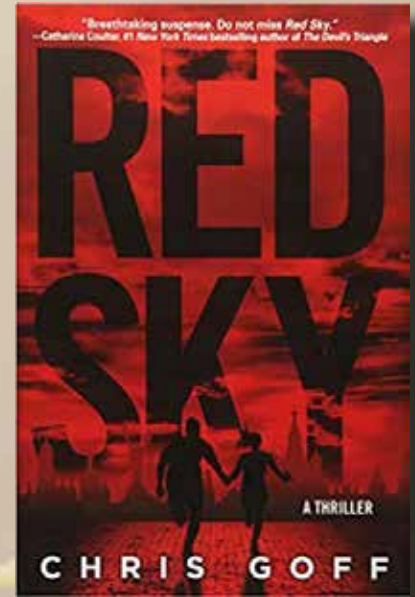
MEMOIR/ BIOGRAPHY



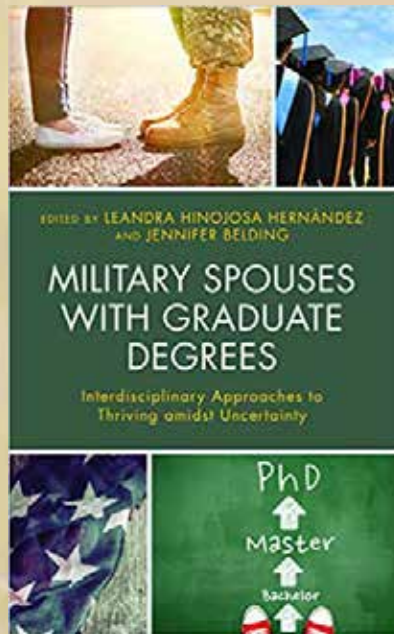
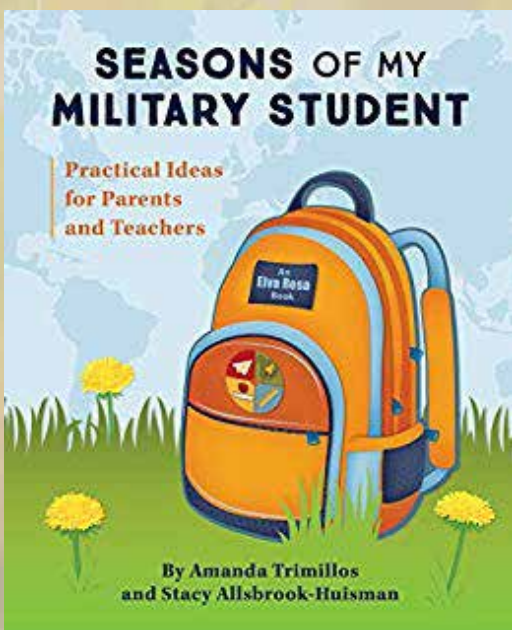
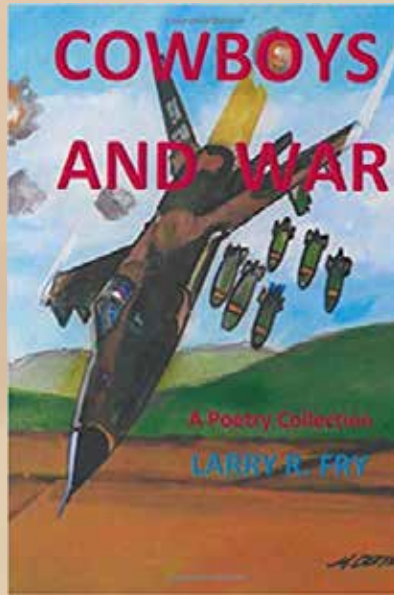




MYSTERY/ THRILLER



POETRY/ POETRY BOOK



REFERENCE

