

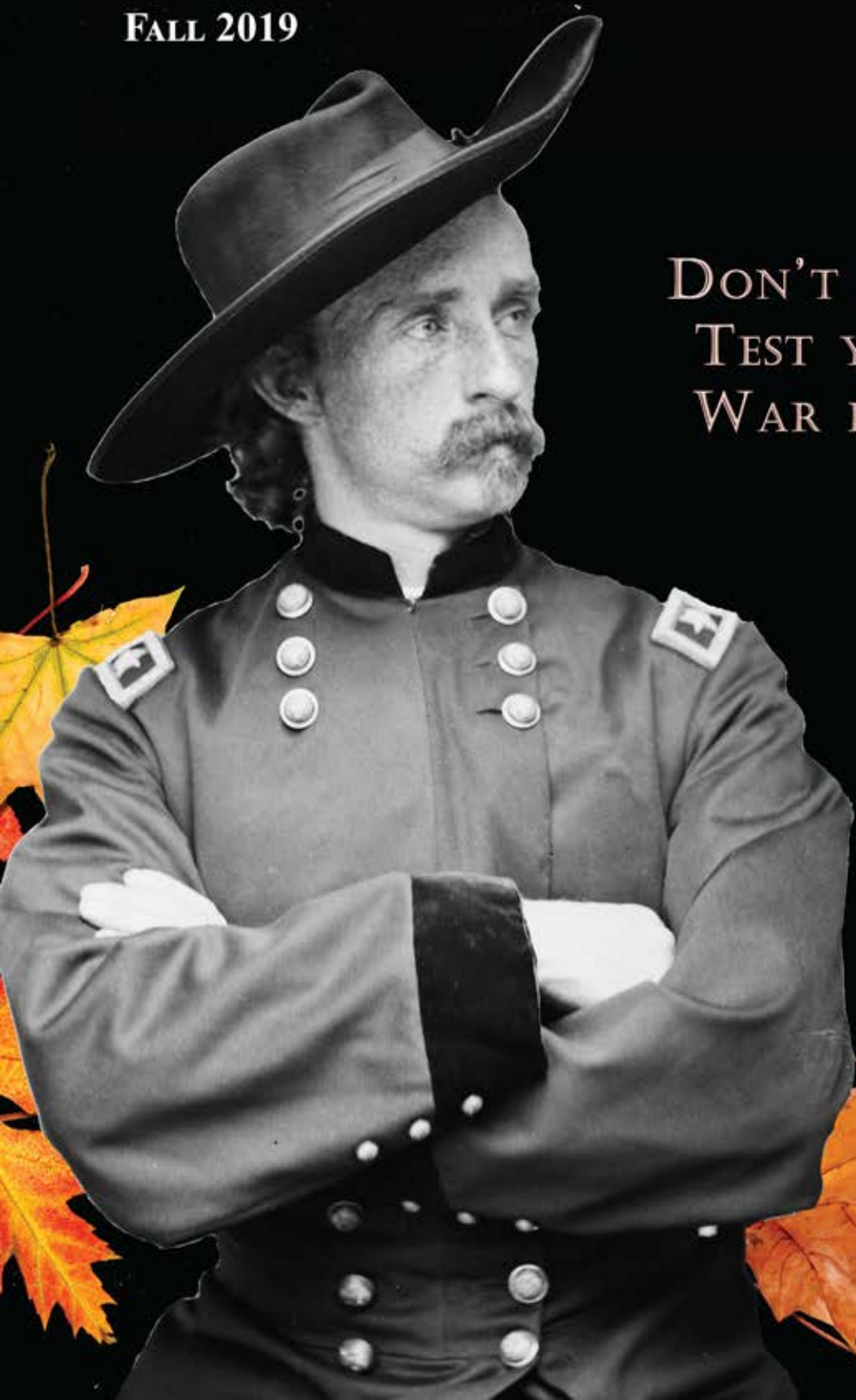
DISPATCHES

MILITARY
WRITERS
SOCIETY OF
AMERICA

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



FALL 2019



DON'T FALL SHORT.
TEST YOUR CIVIL
WAR KNOWLEDGE

Pg 12

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Pat McGrath Avery



I LOVE THE FALL ISSUE where we're fresh from our annual conference. Thank you to all who sent in photos. It's awesome to see the smiling faces.

A new and fun feature in this issue is Dwight Zimmerman's History Quiz. Test your knowledge. I quickly discovered that I'm sadly lacking in mine. Dwight gives us the quiz and some interesting information in the answers section. Good job, Dwight!

Joe Campolo and Jim Tritten both bring to our attention the scars that remain with our Vietnam veterans. Joe vividly remembered the Apollo 13 crisis while he was serving in Vietnam. Jim writes about the social changes that have occurred since the Vietnam War and its effect on the veterans of that era.

MWSA is pleased to accept The Boeing Corporation as a corporate sponsor and is most appreciative of their generous donation to help us pursue our educational goals.

There is much to be done. As you can read from Jack London's article, our workshops and mentoring efforts have encouraged veterans to express themselves through the creative arts. Thank you to all who participate in making these programs possible.

As winter approaches, I hope we all find time to relax and refresh our creative endeavors. Maybe we don't hibernate like bears, but we can take advantage of slower social schedules to refocus and plan ahead. Happy writing and creating, whatever your medium.

Dispatches STAFF

- Editor - Pat McGrath-Avery
- Columnist - Bob Doerr
- Feature Writer - John Cathcart
- Feature Writer - Joe Campolo Jr
- Feature Writer - Jack W. London
- Feature Writer - Jim Tritten
- Feature Writer - Dwight J. Zimmerman
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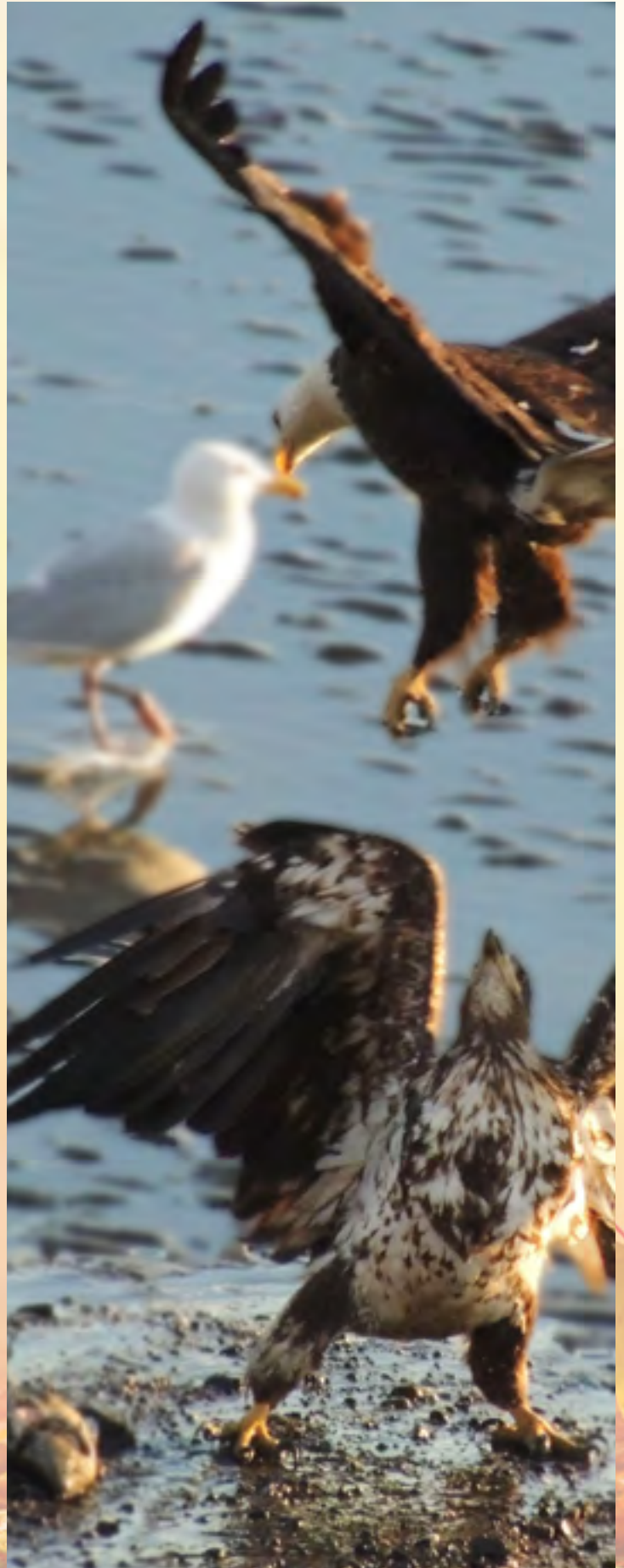
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Membership

Betsy Beard



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bob Doerr

GREETINGS FROM SOUTH TEXAS. OUR 2019 general membership conference is now a thing of the past, and, while I might be biased, I thought it was a fantastic conference. Combining the conference with another writers group made for some complications, but in the end it went very well and nearly two hundred people attended the awards banquet. As in past years, we conducted a free writing course at the VA Med Center in conjunction with the conference, and I want to thank everyone who donated books.

Next summer MWSA will hold elections for the 2020-2022 term. All officers and board positions will be up for election. While I'm hoping most board members will run again, I'm sure we'll have a couple of positions we will need to fill. Our nominating committee will be reaching out and touching everyone as we get closer to summer, but I wanted to get an early word out to everyone.

MWSA will continue to strive to bring value to its members, and I encourage each of you to consider volunteering in some way to help MWSA become better.



RECOMMENDED READING LIST ~ FALL 2019

MWSA President - Bob Doerr

THE MILITARY WRITERS SOCIETY OF America (MWSA) is an organization of hundreds of 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.

In September, MWSA had its annual book awards banquet. Winners recognized during that banquet had their book covers displayed in the last edition of Dispatches. I encourage everyone to take a look at those books, as they are all worth reading. Since we have a short lull before the next group of books start getting reviewed, I've compiled this list of recommended books from past reviews:

SHRAPNEL WOUNDS BY TOM CROWLEY

JOURNEY OF AN ADVENTURESOME DANE BY JASMINE TRITTEN

ENEMIES BY RICHARD BARNES

THE COURT-MARTIAL OF BENEDICT ARNOLD BY RICHARD McMAHON

THE BARBAROSSA COVENANT BY IAN O'CONNOR

WELCOME TO FOB HAIKU BY RANDY BROWN

NEVER FEAR BY BOB D'ANGELO

DEATH SHIP BY JOSEPH BADAL

BATTLE RATTLE BY ROGER BOAS

FORGOTTEN HEROES OF WORLD WAR II BY TOM SIMMONS

THE FIFTH BOMB BY KENNETH ANDRUS

STAY THE RISING SUN BY PHIL KEITH

CHITA QUEST BY BRINN COLENDIA

It's only going to get colder, so grab your Kindle, Nook, iPad, or an old-fashioned book and bundle up on the old recliner. The list above would be a great place to find a new book. More info about the books listed above and the authors can be found at www.mwsadispatches.com.

**THE BOEING CORPORATION DONATES
\$2,000 TO MWSA**



The Boeing Corporation, one of America's fabulous success stories and a long-time essential contributor to our nation's defense donated \$2000 recently to MWSA. As our first national corporate donor, we are honored and most appreciative for their assistance. This donation will allow us to reach out and help more veterans, a key role for MWSA. Thanks again, Boeing!

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.*

APOLLO 13

Joe Campolo Jr

ISERVED IN VIETNAM FROM January of 1970 to January of 1971. My service was during the latter stages of the U.S. involvement in the war and it would be inaccurate to say that things were going well.

For various reasons the U.S. public had soured on the war and President Richard Nixon's program of Vietnamization was in full swing. The U.S. was handing the war over to the South Vietnamese.....be they ready or not.

The outlook of the whole U.S. military was very negative during this time and particularly in Vietnam where drug use, fragging and a lack of military discipline became increasingly problematic. I well remember my time there and particularly the fact that the attitude regarding the war and the direction it had taken cast a pall over everyone and everything.

Officially, we were fighting the Vietcong as well as the North Vietnamese Army; but we were also fighting each other. During those trying days, conflict surfaced between the U.S. military and our ally, the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN); and alarmingly within the U.S. military itself. Black vs. white, enlisted vs. officer, lifer vs. first term, druggie vs. boozier, Yankee vs. country; there were any number of internal conflicts tearing at the U.S. military in

all parts of Vietnam during this time.

In those moments while fighting off VC or NVA, the troops united and most of the enlisted and officer corps were at their finest; however it can be safely said that the U.S. military was at one of its lowest points in history during the latter years of the Vietnam War, and for some years after as well.

During one short period of time in 1970, however, this was not the case. The crisis that developed during the Apollo 13 moon mission brought unity and pride to the American military in Vietnam; if only for a short time. Apollo 13 was to be the third moon landing for the United States of America, and on April 11, 1970 astronauts James Lovell, John Swigert, and Fred Haise departed earth's atmosphere on their way to the moon.



APOLLO 13 CREW (LEFT TO RIGHT) MISSION SPECIALIST FRED HASE, JR., COMMANDER JAMES A. LOVELL, JR. AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT SPIRO T. AGNEW, JR. WITH PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON

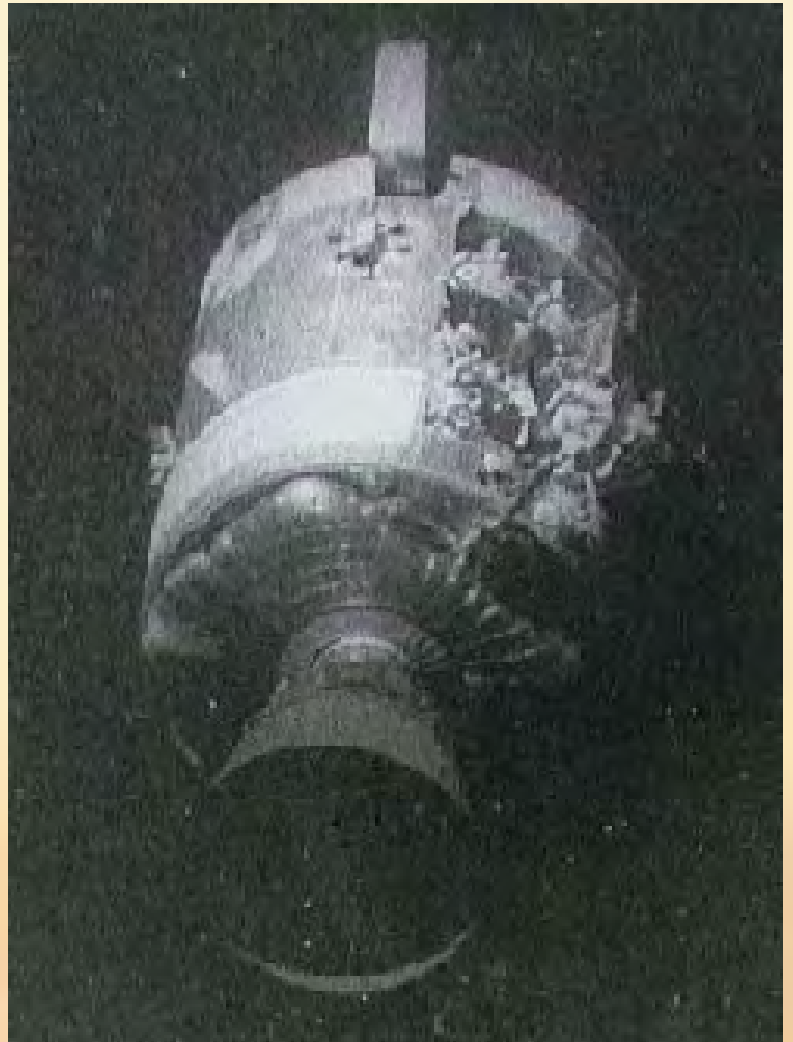
The mission proceeded according to plan and schedule until April 13, when during a routine procedure, an oxygen tank exploded. As the results of this malfunction progressed, the small capsule containing the three men slowly lost much of its life support capability. The crisis quickly became worldwide news, and our one and only radio station in Vietnam, Armed Forces Saigon, switched its focus to the crisis, monitoring it non-stop as did much of the world at the time.

Most firebases, airbases, and other large facilities in Vietnam had access to the Armed Forces radio broadcasts. Suddenly every GI in Vietnam had a cause they could rally behind; three of their own were in danger and their lives hung in the balance. We followed the developing events night and day, hoping and praying for the best for our imperiled astronauts. Many of the Vietnamese who worked with us also got behind the movement.

For four days we were focused on the imperiled mission; on duty or off we were fixated by the events. On one of the days of the crisis we had to go out on the road, taking some material to an army salvage yard near Phu Tai. As at Phu Cat, all the soldiers at Phu Tai were zeroed in on the mission as were many of the 173rd Airborne soldiers we saw humping along the road. Many of the Airborne soldiers listened to small portable radios as they plodded along those dangerous roads. We even heard the broadcast in some of the larger villages that we drove through.

On April 17th the capsule made ready to enter the earth's atmosphere. And although

we didn't get the blow by blow account from NASA the radio kept us apprised of the status. There was a significant time gap between our update from when the three men had entered earth's atmosphere to the appearance of their capsule in the sky over the South Pacific.



I distinctly remember that day; we were in a warehouse on the Phu Cat airbase when the small craft landed. We held our breaths seemingly endlessly until Radio Saigon declared that the capsule had been opened and the men were alive and though not in prime health as a result of their ordeal, they would be OK. We roared and cheered

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

and screamed and shouted. Gunfire went off all over bases, outposts and up and down roads all over Vietnam. Men hugged, stomped their feet and clapped their hands; some cried.



It was a rare day of victory for the men and women mired in a war that held little promise; but a victory it was. The three stalwart men who represented the best of our nation, by looking death in the eye and beating it, brought a moment of pride and patriotism to thousands of their countrymen, who were adrift on their own mission of peril, some ten thousand miles from home.



Dale Dye, Kathryn Watson Quigg, G.C. Pete Hendricks and Don Martin

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.



Kathryn Watson Quigg receiving Award



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>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Jim Tritten

WHEN U.S. MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS came back home from Vietnam, they often were shunned, spit on, or discriminated against when trying to obtain work. At best they were ignored. For many years. Even by the veterans from World War II – our Greatest Generation. In short, most were not welcomed home or thanked for their service.

The safest course of action was to take off the uniform, stash it in a sea bag or put it in a Dumpster, hunker down, and pretend like you never even saw a war movie let alone thought about serving.

Decades passed and the social fabric of the nation changed. Many of those who screamed in protest “Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Min, Ho Chi Min is gonna win,” and applauded Hanoi Jane, at some point began to focus their feelings about the Vietnam War into profound disagreements with political decisions and decision makers. Feelings about the war or politicians were one thing. Feelings about the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines were another.

Many finally realized these men and women were either drafted or volunteered to do what they thought their country wanted them to do in Southeast Asia. As time progressed, there was an apparent national guilt about making the common service member the scapegoat for a war they did not cause, did not understand, but were willing to commit to support as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces.

What was society’s new response to American servicemen? To try to make amends for past insults by thanking veterans and service members for signing a blank check to give, if needed, their lives, their bodies, and their healthy minds to serve in the armed forces. It didn’t matter if they served in combat, stateside support missions, or in a multitude of small wars. Today’s veterans receive a different and justified response from society.

As one who had eggs thrown at him while doing recruiting duty during the Vietnam War, the change in society’s view of servicemen was, and sometimes still is, hard to comprehend. As one whose mother was told at work that her son was a baby killer and they hoped he died, I could not grasp why her fellow newspaper reporters would take it out on her for my standing up for my country and doing what I thought was the right thing. At 97 years old, she has still mental scars from those verbal assaults. What did she ever do to deserve being scorned?

“Thank you for your service.” How should I respond to that? I understand it is an attempt to say the right thing, to atone for past behavior, but is it appropriate? Some older veterans do not know how to respond.

I, for one, appreciate the gesture, the offers of special discounts for veterans, for recognition, as a way to make up for facing the crowds on college campuses as draft-deferred students ruined my uniforms

with their more than vocal assaults at a different time when military service was not appreciated.

“Thank you for your service”—I always smile and say, “Thank you.”

At one point in my life, I wrote the nation a blank check. There was, and is, no expiration date on that check. Millions of young men and women have written that check.

Our nation needs to have the ability to cash those checks when necessary.

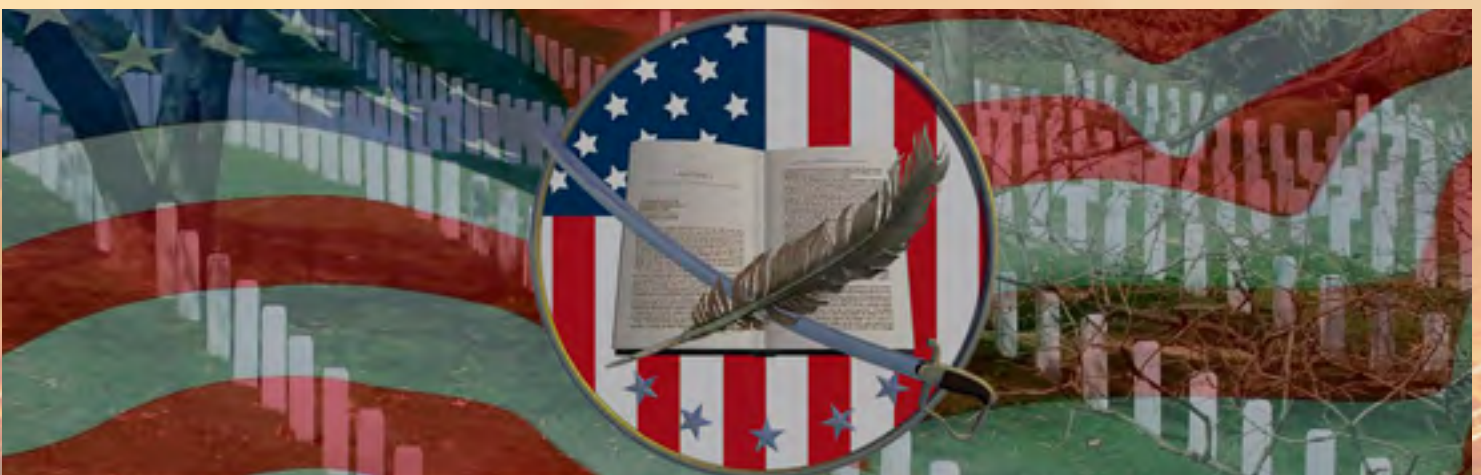
“Thank you” for appreciating my service.



Kathryn Watson Quigg and G.C. Pete Hendricks

We were encouraged to send pictures from the awards ceremony in Albuquerque. My book *TO ANY SOLDIER A Novel of Vietnam Letters* tied with three other books for the highest award given in literary fiction. The three men in the first photo (page 8) are all Vietnam Veterans. Don Martin provided many of the pictures highlighted in our book and Dale Dye willingly posed with us holding our book. The second picture is of me receiving the award. The last picture is of G.C. (Pete) Hendricks, my co-author with me after receiving the award.

~ Kathryn Watson Quigg



THE MWSA MILITARY HISTORY TRIVIA QUIZ

Dwight Jon Zimmerman



THE CIVIL WAR

WELCOME TO THE DEBUT EDITION of the Military Writers Society Trivia Quiz! Here's your opportunity to test your knowledge of military history, rank yourself, and impress your friends as a respected fountain of irrelevant information—or maybe just have some fun killing time.

The subject of this first quiz is the American Civil War. With this, and future quizzes, the intent is to give a mix of questions that will both challenge the knowledgeable, yet not overwhelm those with a more general knowledge. And, don't worry, you'll never find yourself having to answer questions on really obscure subjects like the Aroostook War.

You'll discover that some answers raise questions of their own, and explanations are provided in the answer section starting on page 16. Above all, the purpose of this quiz is to have some fun.

Drop me a line at djonzim@gmail.com and let me know what you think, suggestions of

how to improve it, and subjects for other quizzes.

Good Luck! (And no cheating, going to Google or any other search engine or reference book for answers.) *All photos courtesy of the Library of Congress.*

1. GEORGE PICKETT (CLASS OF 1846) AND GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER (CLASS OF 1861) HAVE WHAT IN COMMON REGARDING THEIR TIME AT WEST POINT?

- A. They dated the same woman.
- B. They graduated last in their class.
- C. They both were members of the West Point baseball team (then known as "base ball").
- D. They both participated in raids to Annapolis that successfully captured the Naval Academy's mascot, Bill the Goat.
- E. They were expelled from West Point for garnering too many demerits.



*Gen. Robert taking the order to charge from Gen. Longstreet
Gettysburg, July 1863*

2. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT CONFEDERATE GENERAL JAMES LONGSTREET IS FALSE?

- A. He was a groomsman at Ulysses S. Grant's wedding.
- B. His nickname was "Old Pete."
- C. When the Civil War broke out, Longstreet volunteered his services to the Confederacy as a paymaster. Instead he was commissioned a brigadier general.
- D. After the war he fled to live in Brazil, one of the Confederados, before returning to the United States to become at one point the U.S. Resident Minister to the Ottoman Empire.
- E. He was one of a number of Civil War generals on both sides who saw combat earlier in their careers during the Mexican American War.

3. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE TRUE?

- A. North Dakota, then the northern half of Dakota Territory, has five Civil War battlefields.
- B. Ship captain Nathaniel Gordon was the only slave trader to be executed for engaging in the slave trade.
- C. Colonel Robert E. Lee commanded the Union troops that captured abolitionist John Brown at Harper's Ferry.
- D. Both the Union and the Confederacy used submarines.
- E. Despite a Confederate offer of statehood if Utah Territory sided with the Confederacy, the Mormons remained loyal to the Union.



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4. WHICH WAS THE CONFEDERACY'S NORTHERNMOST ATTACK IN THE NORTH?

- A. Salineville, Ohio
- B. St. Albans, Vermont
- C. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
- D. Buffington Island, Ohio
- E. New York City, New York

5. WHICH STATEMENT ABOUT THE MEDAL OF HONOR IS FALSE?

- A. It was a decoration proposed by the U.S. Navy and first authorized by the U.S. Army.
- B. Dr. Mary Edwards Walker is the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor.
- C. The 27th Maine Volunteer Regiment was the only unit in which all of its soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor.
- D. Union Army General-in-Chief Winfield Scott did not like the Medal of Honor.
- E. It is a misnomer to refer to the decoration as the Congressional Medal of Honor.



6. WHICH OF THE STATEMENTS ABOUT JOHN SINGLETON MOSBY AND MOSBY'S RAIDERS IS FALSE?

- A. The raid that made Mosby famous was the "Stoughton Raid" in which he captured Union Brigadier General Edwin Stoughton sleeping in his bed.
- B. He claimed that he and his raiders were responsible for making the Colt revolver popular.
- C. He and his Raiders became such a thorn in his side that Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant issued an order that any Raider captured was to be immediately executed without trial.
- D. He surrendered his command to Major General Philip Sheridan.
- E. After the war, he became a close friend and supporter of Ulysses S. Grant.



7. MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE MCCLELLAN'S MOST DISTINGUISHING TRAIT AS A UNION GENERAL WAS WHAT?

- A. His decisiveness in battle.
- B. His deference to Abraham Lincoln, despite his lack of military training, out of respect of Lincoln being president.

- C. His decision at the start of the war to accept Ulysses S. Grant under his command when no one else would.
- D. His skill in organizing and training troops.
- E. His taking full responsibility for the disappointing outcome of the Peninsula campaign.

8. THE SECOND BATTLE OF HAMPTON ROADS BETWEEN THE CSS VIRGINIA AND THE USS MONITOR WAS NOTABLE FOR WHAT?

- A. It took place during daylight.
- B. It ended in a draw.
- C. It rendered obsolete all the fleets of the world's naval powers.
- D. It was the only battle fought by the *Monitor*.
- E. The *Virginia* was the Confederate Navy's first steam-powered ironclad warship.

- A. It featured the first use of an aircraft carrier.
- B. It featured the first use of ironclad warships.
- C. The Gatling Gun, the ancestor of the machine gun, was used for the first time.
- D. It was the first war to use railroads for military operations.
- E. The first appearance of wrist watches.

10. THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR HAD MANY NAMES. WHICH ONE WAS NOT AMONG THEM?

- A. The War of Northern Aggression
- B. War Between the States
- C. War of the Rebellion
- D. Second American Revolution
- E. America's Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Years of Fussin' and Feudin'



9. THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR WAS NOTABLE FOR MANY TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS. WHICH ONE IS FALSE?



MWSA HISTORY QUIZ ANSWERS

1 . AND THE ANSWER IS . . . B. Both George Pickett and George Armstrong Custer graduated the last in their class. Both had run afoul of West Point's notorious demerit system and were under constant threat of washing out because of it.

As for the other answers:

A. Though it actually happened after they graduated from West Point, that was George McClellan and A.P. Hill whose object of affection was Mary Ellen "Nelly" Marcy, daughter of Captain Randolph Marcy. After much toing and froing, and engagements to both men (though not at the same time, perish that scandalous thought), it was McClellan who won out.

C. The origin of baseball/base ball is lost to history with the earliest records dating back to 1845. At the time Pickett and Custer were cadets West Point did not have an athletic program.

D. Obviously, this didn't happen, either. The Naval Academy didn't have a goat as a team mascot until 1893. His name was El Cid. After several other animals served as mascots, in 1904 the goat, soon named "Bill," became the regular mascot.

E. No, but boy did they come close.

2 . AND THE ANSWER IS . . . D. Though a few thousand former Confederates and their families did move after the war to Brazil where slavery was still legal, becoming Confederados, with many later deciding to remain, Longstreet never joined them.

As for the other answers:

A. The friendship between Longstreet and

Grant was formed at West Point, where Longstreet was in a class ahead of Grant. It was an unlikely friendship as both had very different backgrounds. Perhaps that difference served as a special bond. It was through Longstreet that Grant met Longstreet's cousin Julia Dent, whom he married.

B. It was Longstreet's father who gave him the nickname "Peter." This eventually became "Old Pete." Lee called him "Old War Horse."

C. Longstreet had been a paymaster in the U.S. Army, a position he enjoyed. But his combat experience in the Mexican American War was deemed too important for him to be put in an administrative position, thus he became a fighting general.

E. The list of such generals is a long one beginning with Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant.



Longstreet at Gettysburg, July 2, 1863.



3. AND THE ANSWER IS . . . all of them. Here's why.

A. This answer is something of a trick response because it points out that not all battles fought in the Civil War were between the Union and Confederate forces. Some battles were actually against Native American tribes and nations, as was the case in what is now North Dakota. I confess to this one being a little unfair as North Dakota is my home state, though even I was surprised to learn how many Civil War battlefields are in what would become North Dakota. The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, established by Congress in 1990 and part of the National Park Service, is responsible for identifying and preserving Civil War battlefield sites. For details, go to <https://www.nps.gov/abpp/battles/tvii.htm>. For those wondering, the battlefields in North Dakota are Big Mound, Dead Buffalo Lake, Stoney Lake, Whitestone Hill, and Killdeer Mountain.

B. Even though the importing of slaves was outlawed by the Piracy Law of 1820, not until the outbreak of the Civil War was the section covering slavery enforced. What's often overlooked is that New York City was a major financial center for the slave trade. It was in New York City that Gordon was arrested, tried, and, after President Abraham Lincoln refused a stay of execution, hanged on February 21, 1862, aged 36.

E. The U.S. government had a tense relationship with the Mormons because of their religion. The Confederacy sought to exploit it, since some Mormons owned slaves, but were unable to do so. Though the Mormons remained in the Union, the relationship remained a rocky one.

4. AND THE ANSWER IS . . . B. Lieutenant Bennett H. Young led a small Confederate force, based in Canada, in a raid on St. Albans, Vermont, 15 miles from the Canada-U.S. border. The Confederates robbed banks and stole about \$3 million in today's money. Its political impact outweighed its military importance, doing more harm than good for the Confederate cause. Needless to say, the Canadian government wasn't happy about it. They captured the rest and returned the money to the U.S.

As for the other answers . . .

A. Salineville was the northernmost military action of Confederate Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan in his famous Morgan's Raid, which included "D" the battle of Buffington Island, Ohio.

C. I don't think I have to explain Gettysburg. But "E" deserves one.

E. The self-styled Confederate Army of Manhattan was a group of eight Southerners who attempted an arson raid on New York City in late November 1864. It failed with one of the arsonists, Robert Cobb Kennedy, being captured, tried, and executed.

Continued from page 17

5. AND THE ANSWER IS . . . A. It was the other way around; the Medal of Honor was proposed by the Army but first adopted by the Navy.

As for the other answers . . .

B. If you chose “B” shame on you for not reading my article in the previous issue of *Dispatches* about Dr. Mary Edwards Walker.

C. The “saga” of the 27th Maine Volunteer Regiment is an awkward one, to say the least, in the history of the Medal of Honor. The unit received the decoration for three days of garrison duty in Washington, D.C. during the Battle of Gettysburg. The photo here of the Civil War Medal of Honor is of the decoration presented to Captain Jeremiah Plumer of Co. F, 27th Maine. You can read more about the unit at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/27th_Maine_Volunteer_Infantry_Regiment.

D. This is true. When General Winfield Scott’s chief of staff proposed the creation of the Medal of Honor, Scott rejected it. He felt it smacked of British aristocratic orders and decorations and as such went against the republican principles that founded the country. Secretary of the Navy Gideon Wells, however, liked the idea and saw it as a way of boosting morale in a navy that needed something to uplift its spirits.

E. Where the name confusion arises is that the decoration is awarded by the president of the United States in the name of Congress, and that Congress also has the authority to award it (which it did to Admiral Richard Byrd, Floyd Bennett, and Charles Lindbergh). As a result, it

is often referred to as the Congressional Medal of Honor.



6. AND THE ANSWER IS . . . D. Worried his men might be killed because of Grant’s order, Mosby ordered his unit disbanded. So, technically, he never surrendered.

As for the other answers . . .

A. To add insult to injury, the way Mosby awakened Stoughton was by smacking the general’s buttocks with the flat of his sword, putting Stoughton right up there in competition for the most humiliating moments in military history.

B. After the war, Mosby boasted, “I think we did more than any other body of men to give the Colt pistol its great reputation.” Mosby’s men each carried as many as six Colt pistols, sometimes more, into battle.

C. The man who received the order, Major General Philip Sheridan, declined to enforce the drastic terms of the order, instead issuing orders that any raiders were to be imprisoned.

E. Not only that, he became a Republican! As one historian noted, to “Southerners it was an act of apostasy.”

7. AND THE ANSWER IS . . . D. One of McClellan's few strengths was his ability to organize and train men. In this, historians are in unanimous agreement. As for those other traits . . .

A. Hahahahahahaha. Perhaps nothing better highlights McClellan's *indecisiveness* than how he mishandled intelligence about the disposition of the Army of Northern Virginia prior to what became the Battle of Antietam.

B. Hmm. Here's another instance in which it's hard to select something from the long list of McClellan's insulting comments and actions. I'll go with McClellan calling Lincoln "the original gorilla." But, if you want to choose his refusal to meet Lincoln at his home, and instead went to bed, well, yeah, that's pretty bad, too.

C. I'll let Grant describe what happened: "I had known [McClellan] slightly at West Point where we served one year together, and in the Mexican War. I was in hopes that when he saw me he would offer me a position on his staff. I called on two successive days at his office but failed to see him on either occasion, and returned to Springfield."

E. As for him taking responsibility for failure, the last two sentences of McClellan's telegram to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton written during the Seven Days battles are telling: "If I save this Army now, I tell you plainly that I owe no thanks to you or any other persons in Washington. You have done your best to sacrifice this Army." The comment so horrified Edwards Sanford, the head of the War Department's telegraph office

that he deleted it from the message he gave the secretary.



8. ALL OF THE ANSWERS are factually correct. But the most significant one is "C." The battle signaled the end of the era of the wooden-hulled warship and the dawn of warships built of iron.

9. AND THE ANSWER IS . . . E. Officers needed to coordinate their actions and because unlike earlier wars they were more spread out and thus not within sight of senior commanders, they needed timepieces with which to do so. For that they used pocket watches.

As for the others . . .

A. Obviously, this requires a bit of explanation. Bear with me. John La Mountain was an experienced balloonist when the American Civil War broke out.

Continued from page 19

La Mountain offered his services to Major General Benjamin Butler, the commandant of Fortress Monroe. He made his first reconnaissance flight on July 31, 1861, using his own balloon the *Intrepid*. Three days later, on August 3, La Mountain again went aloft, this time to do reconnaissance for the Union navy. His *Intrepid* was loaded onto the armed steamer *Fanny*. His mission was to conduct reconnaissance along Sewell's Point, Craney Island, and Pig Point. After making sure his balloon was secured to the *Fanny's* deck, La Mountain went aloft. Upon reaching the height of 2,000 feet, he began taking notes as the *Fanny* steamed along the assigned route. He made a second aerial reconnaissance from the *Fanny* on August 10. Naval historian and former U.S. Naval Academy professor Craig L. Symonds puckishly suggested, the *Fanny* and the barge *George Washington Parke Custis*, which also launched reconnaissance balloons, could be considered the U.S. Navy's first aircraft carriers.

B. The most famous being the aforementioned *Monitor* and *Virginia*.

C. It saw limited use late in the war (two used at Petersburg, for instance). But it was not formally adopted by the U.S. military until 1866.

D. The North's superior rail system was a major factor in the Union's victory.

SO, HOW DID YOU DO? Tally up your score and find out below what your rank is.

Commander: 10 answers correct. Need I say more?

Chief of Staff: 7 – 9 correct. You're smart enough to know your stuff. More importantly, you're smart enough to not show up your commander.

Adjutant: 5 – 6 correct. You're learning.

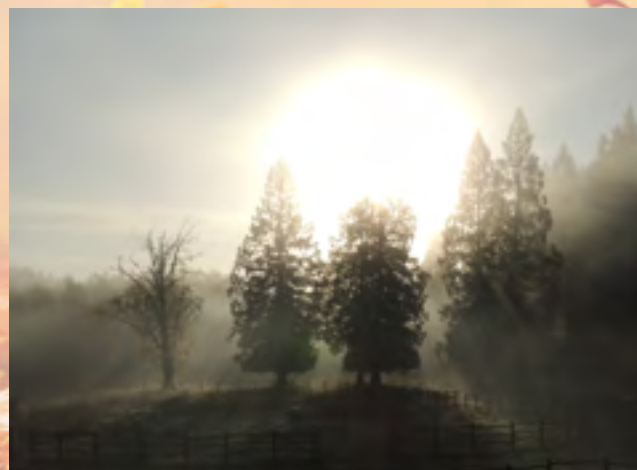
Orderly: 2 – 4 correct. You're beginning to learn.

Flag bearer: 1 correct. You know your place.

Recruit: 0 correct. Welcome aboard. Time to bone up.

Photo captions, in order of appearance:

1. Civil War envelope
2. Major General George Pickett and Major General James Longstreet at Gettysburg
3. General Robert E. Lee
4. General Winfield Scott
5. John Singleton Mosby (fifth from left, standing) and members of his raiders.
6. Damage caused to the turret of the USS Monitor by the cannon of the CSS Virginia.
7. Major General George Armstrong Custer.
8. General James Longstreet at the Battle of Gettysburg.
9. Forty-first anniversary celebration of the Battle of White-stone Hill in North Dakota.
10. Civil War U.S. Army Medal of Honor
11. Major General George McClellan and his wife the former Mary Ellen "Nelly" Marcy



10. E. APOLOGIES TO JUDITH Viorst, author of *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*.

MORE THAN JUST AN ANNUAL MEETING

Jack Woodville London

MWSA HAS CONDUCTED SHORT COURSES for writers at regional VA centers since 2014. This year was, by all accounts, the best.

Eight teachers presented nine unique classes to fifty-two writers, seventeen of whom were introduced to the program through their association with the Albuquerque VA. Only two of this faculty are old hands: I've been director of the program since 2014 and Valerie Ormond has been on the faculty since 2017. Together the two of us taught literary conflict, character, and exercises in character and dialogue. But, Val and I were just a small part of the program; meet the new faculty:

Robin Hutton taught storytelling with *The 9 Indispensable Ingredients in Every Hit Movie, TV Show, Play, and Novel*. Dane Zeller, author of *Smart Shield*, taught dialogue. Jacqueline Loring, author of *Vietnam Veterans Unbroken*, taught the craft of memoir. The prolific and talented Jim Tritten presented 'Short Stories are fun!' and how to write them. Nancy Arbuthnot, a former Naval Academy teacher, shared her experiences and exercises in non-fiction and poetry. And Joe Badal, author of fourteen thriller and crime novels that have been on the Amazon and Barnes and Nobles Best Seller lists, closed the event with 'Editing: 35 mistakes writers must learn to avoid.' The students loved it all.

One of our goals was to make the students appreciate that they, too, are writers and to believe in themselves as part of the club. It worked. And, their response to instruction

was excellent; the evaluation sheets showed that the students learned a lot and enjoyed being a part of a group of accomplished writers and teachers.

As for the faculty, each of us sat through all the other presentations and, no surprise, we all came away with new ideas, techniques, and lessons. We made new friends and met writers we can mentor in the future as their careers develop.

Thank you to every one of you on the faculty and to you, Catherine Ivie of the Albuquerque VA, for your hard work and dedicated and thoughtful presentations. We're all better for what you've done for MWSA and for what you've done for our veteran writers.

Looking ahead:

October 28: Val Ormond and President Bob Doerr will join me in Austin, Texas, in connection with the first ever ***Austin Regional Veterans Musicians, Artists, and Writers Festival***, where we will put on another ***Write Your Story*** program. Cross your fingers.

Please feel free to join us at the writers' workshop in Austin. See you there!

September 17, 2020: Jim Greenwald already has lined up the facility in New London, Connecticut for us to conduct the VA Writers Workshop next year in connection with the MWSA Annual Conference in September 2020.

See you there and, if I'm lucky, maybe even before then.

PHOTO CREDIT FOR MANY IMAGES in this edition of Dispatches goes to Liberty Bell.

Liberty Bell is a follower of Jesus and proud American, both of which inspire her to write stories of hope overcoming darkness, often centered in the combat zone. She placed as one of fifteen semi-finalists in the *One Year Adventure Novel 2018 Novel Contest* and is a member of MWSA.

She blogs weekly at www.thelibertywriter.blogspot.com where she encourages new authors to write well, write bold, and to write the stories they want to tell.

Liberty lives in the woods and enjoys English

horseback riding, live critique groups, and drinking her weekly chai latte.

Connect with her on social media at: [Instagram.com/libertybell.hgt](https://www.instagram.com/libertybell.hgt)

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SUBMIT photos for an upcoming issue of MWSA Dispatches magazine, please contact dispatches@mwsa.co

Thank you all for your participation in this organization. We couldn't do it without all of us.



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

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John Cathcart

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- 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.
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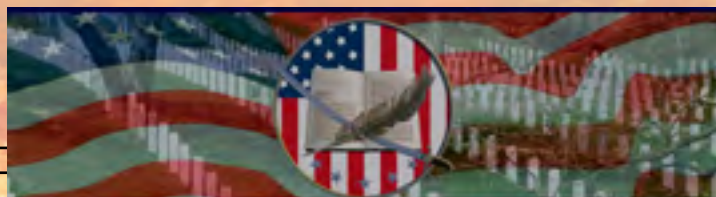
MWSA DISPATCHES IS LOOKING FOR MEMBER SUBMISSIONS.

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.



2019 MWSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AWARDS CEREMONY, WINNERS, & IMAGES



Robin Hutton, MWSA Mike Mullins' Writer Of the Year, Dale Dye, Valerie Ormond, Kathleen Rodgers, MWSA Founder Bill McDonald



*Valerie Ormond (President's Award)
Graciela Tiscareño-Sato (Gold Medalist)
Kathleen Rodgers (WOY Finalist)*



*Jim Greenwald with
Kathleen Rodgers*



*MWSA President Bob Doerr
with Kathleen Rodgers*



Ruth Crocker and Kathleen Rodgers



*Tom Rodgers and
Jaime Navarro*



MWSA 2019 President's Award winner and Mike Mullins Memorial Writer of the Year finalist Valerie Ormond and two-time MWSA Gold Medal winner and New York Times bestselling author Robin Hutton.



John Cathcart, Dale Dye, and Rev. Bill McDonald



Bod Doerr and Rev. Bill McDonald



*Jack Woodville London
and Rev. Bill McDonald*



*LTC Wes Wesselhoeft, Dale Dye,
and Shirley Wesselhoeft ~ Silver
award **Traded to the Enemy***



