

DISPATCHES

MILITARY
WRITERS
SOCIETY OF
AMERICA

Rescuing History One Story at a Time

www.mwsadispatches.com



SPRING 2018



*Quarterly Magazine
featuring articles written by:
Dwight Zimmerman ~ President
Bob Doerr ~ Vice President
Pat McGrath-Avery; John Cathcart
Joe Campolo Jr.; Jack Woodville London
Joe Epley; Sandra Miller Linhart*

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Pat McGrath Avery

THE CALENDAR SPEAKS OF SPRING but I know that many of us are still searching for the lost season. It's been a strange weather year and in light of our yearning for all that Spring brings, we're featuring flowers throughout this issue. Our wish is that they brighten your day and warm your hearts.

Although we are an organization of writers, many of us pursue other creative endeavors. When I was invited to spend a day with a group of plein-air artists, I thought it would be the perfect way to foster new artistic endeavors in each of us. I hope you enjoy this look into a day with artists at work.

We need your work! If you are an artist or a photographer, please consider sharing some of your work in *Dispatches*. Likewise, if you're involved in fascinating research for your next novel or biography, please send us an article. We are blessed with an abundance of talent within our organization and I would love to see us sharing more of it.

As the seasons come and go, many times we're so involved in work or projects, that we overlook the world's beauty and each other's endeavors. Submit your books if you have not already done so, write that article for *Dispatches* or send us a copy of a painting or a genealogical discovery. Let's get to know each other a little better.

I hope you're planning to attend the November conference in Charleston. This issue, Joe Epley offers us plenty of attractions and historical sites. Next issue, we'll hear Carolyn Schriber's perspective on this charming city.

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Staff

Editor - Pat McGrath-Avery
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 Feature Writer - John Cathcart
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dwight Jon Zimmerman

WELCOME TO YOUR SPRING 2018 issue of *Dispatches*!

I want to begin by giving a huge, and well-deserved shout-out to John Cathcart for all the hard work he has done on the MWSA Website and Book Awards program.

The MWSA Book Awards program is far and away the most important service we offer our members. Processing book applications, finding and training reviewers, and tallying results and making sure all the awards are properly attributed is an enormous task. I am amazed at how efficiently John has tackled this task, all the while doing so with an upbeat attitude!

I'd be remiss if I also didn't mention the new interactive author interview function on our website that John created to help members promote their books. In addition to that, he's given members the opportunity to list their books in the MWSA Library. Thank you, John, and well done!

I know you're anxious to dive in, so I'll just briefly mention that in this issue you will get an update from Secretary, Joe Epley on our fall conference in Charleston and budget, news from Jack W. London about the MWSA Writers Education Forum that he and John Cathcart built, and the always useful reading list for Spring from Vice President, Bob Doerr.

You'll also see articles from such familiar names as Pat McGrath Avery, Sandra Miller Linhart, John Cathcart, and Joe Campolo Jr. I'm happy to point out a poem by first time contributor, Shirley Harrison. (The poem, **Blackout**, was written by her father, Pvt Joe Butrum—page 32). Welcome aboard!

This gives me the opportunity to invite members to contribute to *Dispatches*. The topic can be of anything you want to write about, the only qualification is that you are a member in good standing. In addition to seeing your work and name in print, getting published in *Dispatches* also helps you build your writing resume. Email sandstar62@msn.com for more information.

Best wishes, and see you next issue!



SISTER EUGENIE DEMEUSY, A LADY TIGER

Pat McGrath-Avery

MANY RELIGIOUS OF VARIOUS FAITHS serve God by serving their fellow humans. Often working as missionaries, they travel to foreign lands, immerse themselves in the local culture and do their best to help those in need.

Sister Eugenie Demeusy, a French member of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres, joined the order to serve. In the early 1930s, she revealed in her assignment to the order's orphanage in Seoul, South Korea. For the next eighteen years, she utilized her nursing skills to care for the many children who needed love and medical attention.

When the North Koreans attacked South Korea, within the next few weeks, they arrested eighty-one foreign citizens including missionaries, diplomats and business people. Their goal was to rid South Korea of anyone disloyal to Communism. Ranging in age from six months to eighty-one years, the civilians became part of the infamous Tiger March.

The "Tiger," the sadistic officer in charge, proved as heartless to the civilians as to the soldiers. The 100+ mile march began with more than 800 prisoners. He showed no mercy to the elderly, the sick or the wounded. Eighty-nine died during the march and although the Tiger was replaced, more than half of the rest succumbed during their long imprisonment.

The prisoners included twenty-three women, among them Sister Eugenie. At the age of forty-seven, her nursing duties turned to encouraging and caring for other prisoners. She kept

a diary throughout her nearly three years of captivity.

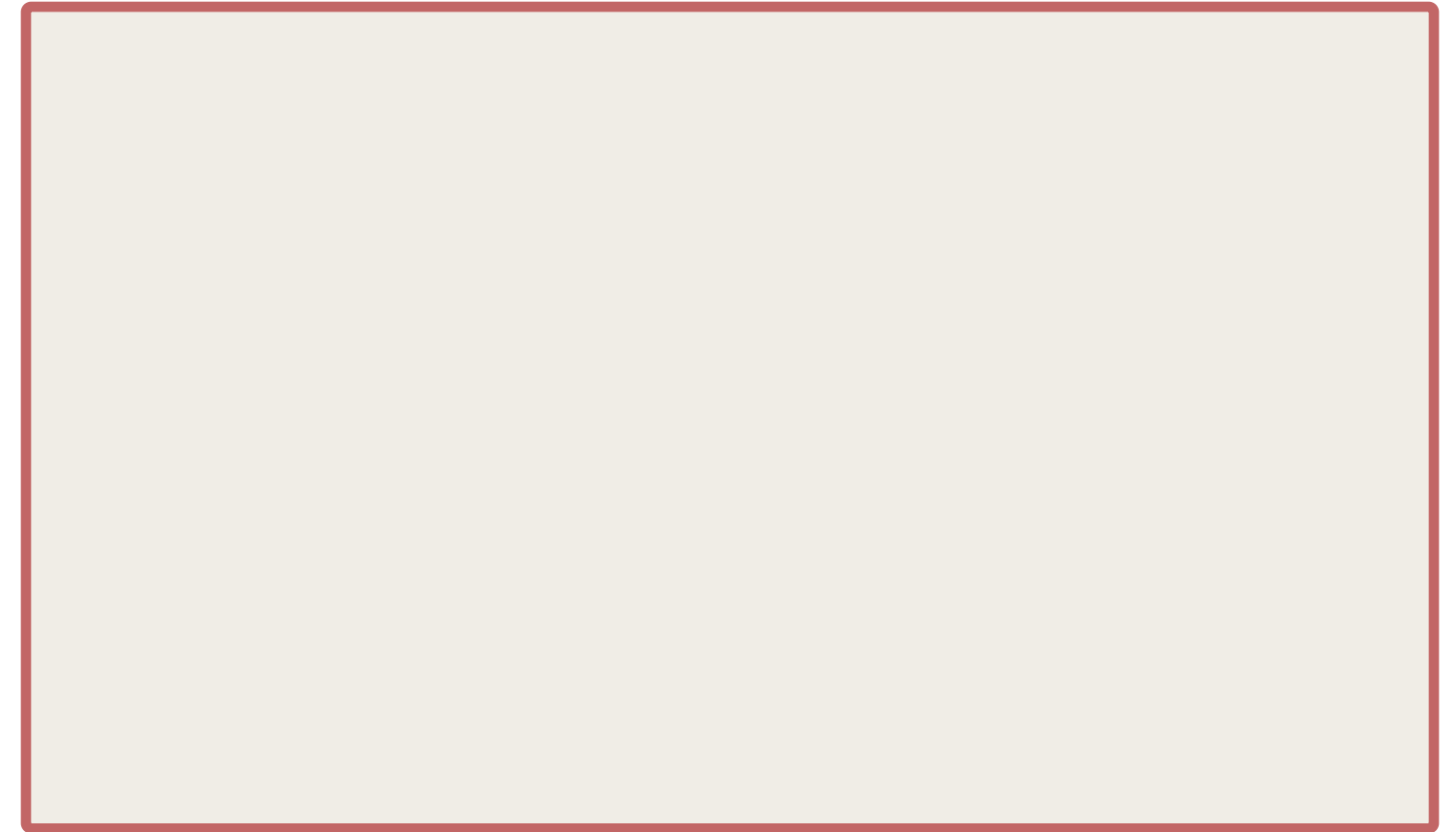
"In spite of the 38th parallel and its consequences, our institutions enjoyed full prosperity: our schools were overflowing with students; the hospitals we served were full to capacity; our nurseries and orphanages were insufficient, so real was the number of children abandoned on the streets."

Sister Eugenie tried to care for the other prisoners. There was little she could do, other than offer comfort and share what little food she received.

"Trusting in Divine Providence, we were working in peace and in abandonment when suddenly, on June 25, 1950, like a flash of lightning in a stormy sky, the din made by the entry of North Koreans to Seoul reached our ears and resounded painfully in our hearts."

These first two paragraphs of Sister Eugenie's diary set the stage for the following days. On June 27th, she and Mother Beatrix declined to take the last American plane out, thinking they could continue their work in Seoul. Over the next days, the North Koreans started arresting civilians. They took over the orphanage on July 13. As the captors took their food stores, the orphans sobbed and formed a line to stop them. They waited until after the children's bedtime to abscond with the food. Sister Eugenie wrote

Continued on page 7



EDITOR Continued from page 1

There's a lot of new and updated information about MWSA so please read carefully. Our board members are doing their best to offer you new and exciting opportunities.

Please take the time to read about—and read—the new books introduced in this issue. This is Sandi Linhart's second issue as designer and I think she's a natural! As we all know from learning about covers and marketing, creative design is critical to success. Great job, Sandi!





REVIEW AND AWARDS INFORMATION

John Cathcart

THE 2018 REVIEW AND AWARD CONSIDERATION window is now open. All MWSA authors may submit their books until June 15. The cost is \$40 per book.

The process details are listed on the website at <http://www.mwsadispatches.com/awards>. To submit your book via our online request form, you must be a member in good standing. Be sure to read the "Fine Print" page before submitting your book. If you wish to submit an eBook, read the appropriate directions.

Make sure you check your submission and provide a working link to a website where visitors can purchase your book. We use this link to find your book's cover, which we'll use for our website listing. You choose the review genre, which determines the scoring criteria our reviewers use to evaluate your book.

It has taken a while, but we've finally uploaded all books and MWSA reviews for our 2015/2016 Season. As a reminder, books submitted for that period were combined into one awards season.

We're happy we were able to recognize many of the award winners from last season in a joint awards banquet, which was held in San Antonio, Texas this past September 2017.

A list of the award winners for this past season has been available on our website for some time. Now, you'll also be able to learn more about each book and read our MWSA review

for each one.

Also, if you have a book listed on our website, please be aware that we updated the website and some of the URLs (or link addresses) were inadvertently changed. If you've set up a link to your book on our site from some other website or location, you'll have to update your listing to reflect the change.

How do you do this?

Go to our online library

Find the search block near the top of the page, and enter your book title or author name to find your book.

Once your book comes up, click on the title, which will bring you to your book's individual listing on our website

The new address will be visible in your browser's address block... that's the new address

Copy and paste the new address wherever needed

Sorry for any inconvenience this update caused our members!

If you have any questions, please contact our Awards Directors.

Thank you, and we look forward to your submissions in 2018.

LADY TIGER Continued from page 4

about the children and nuns huddling in caves to escape the unceasing bombs.

She was one of twenty-three women arrested and who would join the Tiger Death March. They joined fifty-eight civilian men and the 700+ military personnel who had also been arrested. More than half would die during their imprisonment.

During the first ten days after their arrest, the North Koreans interrogated them, constantly trying to intimidate them. The guards took them by train to Pyongyang, arriving on July 29. There, they were housed in a school building. Throughout the travel and camps, the lack of food and water remained a consistent hardship.

From September 5 – 11, they traveled by train.

"We were packed together on the floor like sardines... There were no toilet facilities, and we had to travel this way up to the 11th, passing the day in the homes of farmers along the way.

"It was at this time that I saw American prisoners. They boarded the train we were on. Their sick arrived in trucks. They seemed to us to be already quite worn out, and yet we were only at the beginning of our misfortunes."

They arrived in Man-po and spent the next days traveling from one place to another. They soon realized that the American army was the reason for their constant movement. The Tiger showed the prisoners no mercy. He marched them at a fast pace and those who couldn't keep up, suffered the consequences. Often they were shot.

Shorty Estabrook, founder of the The Tiger Survivors, called the twenty-three women prisoners 'Lady Tigers.'

"I think they suffered more than the men did. They were forced to march like the men, endure the freezing cold, sleep out in frozen fields with little cover, endure beatings and malnutrition and suffer the lice and other illnesses — just like the men. No special privilege was afforded to these brave ladies. Two of them had children with them they had to care for. Little privacy was available for them and they had to deal with the natural things related to a female. Despite all this many survived this terrible ordeal."

Sister Eugenie tried to care for the other prisoners. There was little she could do other than offer comfort and share what little food she received. Her superior, seventy-six-year-old Mother Beatrix, suffered from illness for four months as they moved from camp to camp. When she became too weak to continue, the guards shot her. Sister Eugenie witnessed the death of one after another of her fellow prisoners. Many times, the sick were left behind and never seen again.

In Man-po, the North Koreans separated the civilians from the soldiers and they spent the rest of the Korean War in prison camps. Sister Eugenie was released on March 26, 1953, nearly three years after her capture. She returned to France.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower awarded her the Medal of Freedom for her outstanding service to other prisoners during her captivity.



RESISTANCE TO CHANGE

Joe Campolo Jr.

Posted 29 March 2018 in *The Written Word of Joe Campolo Jr*

LIKE MANY OTHERS THESE DAYS, I enjoy the benefits of high technology. Cell phones, computers, GPS, Smart TV's and other technological marvels have all made my life easier, if not more frustrating at times.

And although I use the stuff, and certainly benefit from it, (for the most part) I'm not one of those that immediately recognizes the benefits of or embraces new technology. It usually takes me a while to cozy up to a new idea or device. I guess I take after my dad in that respect.

Moving on to High Technology

Now when it comes to technological advancements in the workplace, I of course, have an edge on Dad & Grandpa, as the electric typewriter was probably the most advanced marvel they had ever seen. Machine tools and construction equipment did not really change much from the 1930's until the 1970's when Computer Numerically Control Machinery made its entrance.



An Unlikely Refuge

I, on the other hand, have been exposed to computers ever since my days in the Air Force, when the Univac-1050-2 hummed away on many large military facilities. As big as a freight car, the Univac's controlled materials, manpower, payroll and any other number of tasks for Uncle Sam. If you worked on a large military installation in Vietnam and were assigned to the computer department you enjoyed cool crisp air conditioning in a building designed to withstand attacks from 80-millimeter mortars and Soviet built 122 rockets. Our barracks and hootches had no such protection or degree of comfort so we often fabricated reasons to enter the privileged compound. We were usually ushered out unceremoniously after ten minutes or so, but we enjoyed every second of our brief respite while it lasted.

Entering the workforce after military service I again found the computer a nearly worshipped entity, this time in American industry. The large IBM central processing unit, though not as big as the Univac, took up the better part of a large room. Enclosed by walls of glass it hummed away happily like "Hal" in the movie 2001 A Space Odyssey. Red, green and blue lights all over the monstrosity blinked on and off in quirky patterns; processing information gleamed from keypunch cards spirited in from all over the manufacturing facility.

Serious looking men and women marched in and out of the laboratory like confines adjusting the controls and gathering the reems of paper which flowed out of the device like water over a dam. The serious looking men and women

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MWSA, GOODREADS, THE INTERNET, AND GROWTH

John Cathcart ~ Awards Director

Most MWSA members are already well aware of the [Goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com) website. Whether you're an author or a reader, we highly recommend that you take a few minutes to browse that website and consider creating your own author page as a way of interacting with your readers.

Based on a recent MWSA initiative, a quick update on Goodreads is in order. Although MWSA has had our own presence on this website for some time now, we recently finished updating our page. We are now copying all our submitted books to our page on Goodreads. For at least the remainder of the 2018 season, we plan on adding books as soon as they're submitted by our authors. In addition, we've added prior seasons' books and our MWSA reviews going back to 2016.

Not surprisingly, we're already starting to get feedback from our authors, and this newly-expanded Internet presence is almost certain to help "spread the word" about MWSA to a wider audience.

Whereas Goodreads had just under 46 million unique viewers in the past 30 days, our main website ([MWSADispatches.com](http://www.mwsadispatches.com)) had 978! Although our website traffic is up 20% from last year, it's obvious that we still have room for improvement. So, if you get a chance, please visit our MWSA page on Goodreads and friend us or follow our reviews. Each time you do, you're strengthening our online presence and helping us grow.

<https://www.goodreads.com/MWSA>

Like everything else, this initiative will likely be much more successful if everyone who can, volunteers to chip in and help out. If you'd like to do more than "friend" or "follow" our page, by helping out with the "care and feeding" of this page, please let me know.

John Cathcart
Awards Director

MWSAAwardsDirectors@gmail.com

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.

CHANGE Continued from page 8

spoke in hushed tones and referred to everything as a “program”. They discussed languages called “Basic” and “Fortran” that used strange hieroglyphics and nobody else seemed to have any clue as to what the hell they were talking about. But even more important serious looking people constantly marched in and out of their enclave proving that they indeed, ruled the day.

Starting out in the factory in Quality Control, I had limited interaction with the Gods of Computerworld, however after moving up into Engineering my star unwittingly became attached to the whims of the IBM Central Processing Unit, along with the many others held captive in it’s large domain. I learned to feed the monster and gather the produce it put out in the form of giant computer reports which we obediently put in large green binders that were so thick a .50 caliber bullet could not pass through them.

We would wield these computer reports like a weapon, citing it to anyone who challenged the information we provided. “It’s in the computer!” We would say, which was usually enough to cause any challenger to cower. “Oh...Ok.”



After years of serving the IBM Central Processing Gods, I became very comfortable and secure laboring under it’s umbrella, when suddenly the chain moved again. The central processing unit was replaced with small processing units

NEW MEMBER RESOURCE DIRECTORY

AS A SERVICE to its members, MWSA has created new member resource directory page on our website.

Click on image to go to our new Member Resources Directory page.

The page is meant to provide information and contact details for organizations offering services to writers and veterans.

We encourage all MWSA members to offer (or recommend) services to other members-whether their own services or those of other private or governmental organizations. The page includes an easy-to-use online form to submit a new organization or company.

In order to list your own services, you must be an MWSA member in good standing.

MWSA is offering this page as a service to our members. We are not specifically endorsing any company or organization listed on that page.

<http://www.mwsadispatches.com/member-resource-directory>

which were now located at each work station. The large CPU was removed and the cavernous room now sat naked and ugly; used only to store old key punch cards and dusty office furnishings which were no longer in use. The formerly untouchable computer staff was now reduced; and dethroned. The survivors in the department wondered around looking like the deer in the headlight for months after the cataclysmic event.

Within just a few years, the small processing units by each work station were removed and replaced with personal computers; PC’s. We were familiarized with floppy discs and given access to a central printer. Within another couple of years the central printer gave way to small personal printers attached to the PC’s. The once mighty Information Systems empire was now reduced to one or two consultants in a cubicle.

While all of this was going on the “downsizing” trend which started in the eighties exploded all over America as factories were shut down or sent overseas. I moved from company to company during this time, dodging plant shut-downs and relocations like the Mario Brothers dodging laser bullets and darts.

I managed to survive all of the technological barrages until I eventually retired and left the workforce. Retirement didn’t save me from the onslaught of technological change, however as I soon bumped up against cell phones, GPS’s and the explosion of the internet.

I resisted getting a cell phone until my wife and I sat watching our truck, camper and boat burn up on the side of a highway one year. (Ref my earlier blog: The Fire) Fortunately bystanders who stopped to help called it in for us. And when I did finally get one it was a flip-phone which I held onto until the numbers wore off;

after which I reluctantly advanced to a “smart” phone.



Help!!

Since writers in this day and age must do most of their own marketing I have embraced the technology known as social media. I use Facebook to showcase my books as well as this website which fortunately, has been crazy busy.

My children often help me get through the technological challenges I butt up against, and now my grandson is teaching me computer games, so I have plenty of “consultants” available.

I have my little toe in *LinkedIn* but I don’t twitter, tweet, huff or puff. I’m guessing I’ll have most of my dad and my grandpa’s tools till I float off to that big technology center in the sky. My son will inherit most of the stuff at that time, and who knows...they may end up in the hands of my grandson.....if he’s lucky!

Read Joe’s entire blog entry at: <http://namwarstory.com/2018/03/resistance-to-change/>

COME TO CHARLESTON

Joe Epley

COME TO CHARLESTON November 8-11.

It is the number one destination city in America. And what a historical city—a story under every cobblestone. The ghost of soldiers from the Revolution, the Civil War, to current day conflicts. From Patriots Point to Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumpter. It's the location of the Military Writers Society of America annual meeting and conference



Seminars and workshops to help us be better writers, the award dinner to honor those members whose works are judged the best, and the congenial visit with peers seeking to enhance their careers in the world of writing are just a few of the reasons to come to South Carolina low-country.

Get your registration in before July 1 to take advantage of the early bird special of \$195. That's a savings of \$20 over the regular price of \$ 215.

Our hotel, the Hilton Garden Inn of Charles-

ton-Mount Pleasant if offering a special price of \$125 a night that can be expected several days before and after the conference. Make reservations directly with the hotel at 1-843-606-4600. Just tell them you are with the MWSA.



Located across the river from historic Charleston, the hotel is a stone's throw from Patriot Point where the Yorktown and other famous planes, submarines and destroyers of World War II, Korea and Vietnam form a living museum. Visit the Medal of Honor Museum and the Viet Nam Experience Museum. Cross the Ravenel Bridge and take a boat ride to Fort Sumpter. Shop the three blocks long Charleston market for local crafts including Sweetgrass baskets, take a carriage ride past the antebellum houses and churches in Charleston's old town, feast on the culinary delights famous the world over, absorb the Gullah culture and visit the plantations and gardens of a different era.

Wrap your Charleston vacation around the MWSA conference in Charleston November 8-11. It will be an experience you don't want to miss.

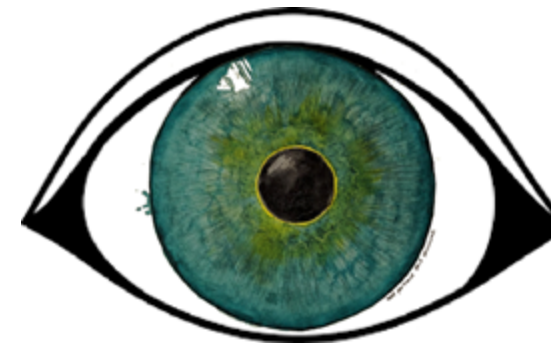
PROOFING PLUS: PART II: POV ~ WHO SAID THAT?

Sandra Miller Linhart

I BELIEVE GOOD WRITERS have superpowers mere mortals don't possess. Well, not really. But close.

When you dig deep into a book by your favorite author, he or she guides you down paths of intrigue, romance, and fear... which sometimes lead to worlds yet unknown to you, the reader.

A decent writer has more than one character, usually, therefore has more than one perspective of the situation he or she is creating from thin air. Yes. We are gods. Gods who are not to be taken seriously.



Consider point of view for a second. Let's use a snippet from my life as an example. Consider a story about 'The One Who Got Away'—when I was in my twenties. And say I recounted a specific memory from my personal experience and point of view. I have no earthly idea how he—the object of my story—felt about our situation. Truth be told, he might have despised me. Who knows?

He does. ...Or, did. We're not even sure if he remembers me, are we? He and I almost happened nearly thirty years ago.

From my perspective, he and I had the beginnings of a happily ever after. What went wrong? No idea, but does it matter? If you're going

to write a book about my failed relationships, you'll more than likely want to have me be the main character and use my point of view when writing. You'll start with my thoughts and memories as they pop up from time to time—but only the good ones because humans don't like to remember the bad stuff. Maybe that's just me.

So, first person narrative, maybe? You start out in my head, writing my thoughts, smelling, seeing, tasting, sensing the world through my eye-filters, processing information through my limited brain. You quite literally write from my perspective. You can't imagine or discover what another character is thinking or feeling or seeing. You have no omniscient knowledge that isn't already present in my brain. You can't see any emotions or reactions on my face—unless you have me, as your character looking in a reflective glass of some sort. You can hear but you can't see anything or anyone coming up behind me—nothing that isn't directly in my field of vision.

That's why you need to know "me" top to bottom, inside and out. You need to figure out why I'm a single woman of fifty-five who lives alone without cats. Do relationships scare me and do I have trust issues? Why would I rather do things myself than ask for help? If you don't know me personally, that's okay. This is why we call it fiction. But in order for you to write about me, you need to feel you know me better than you know yourself. You may want to put some of your own fears and insecurities in the mix to make it easier to connect with the writing.

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A CONVERSATION WITH MWSA MEMBER & AUTHOR

JAMES GARRISON

JAMES GARRISON GREW UP in Statesville, North Carolina, and graduated from the University of North Carolina with a B.A. degree, majoring in history and English. He was drafted into the U.S. Army after his first year at Duke Law School and served in Vietnam for over a year—half of it as a military policeman in the Mekong Delta. He arrived home from Vietnam on Christmas morning in 1970 and returned to law school the next month.

Over the next thirty years, he practiced law, first with a small law firm in Fayetteville, NC, and then for almost twenty-five years with Texaco Inc. and its affiliates, giving him the opportunity to visit such exotic places as Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia, and Port Arthur, Texas. Following

a corporate merger in which he was paid to go away, he decided to stay home for the kids—one living in Berlin, Germany, the other in Delaware—just in case they called. And they did call. That's when he started writing *QL 4*, which he had been mulling over for years.

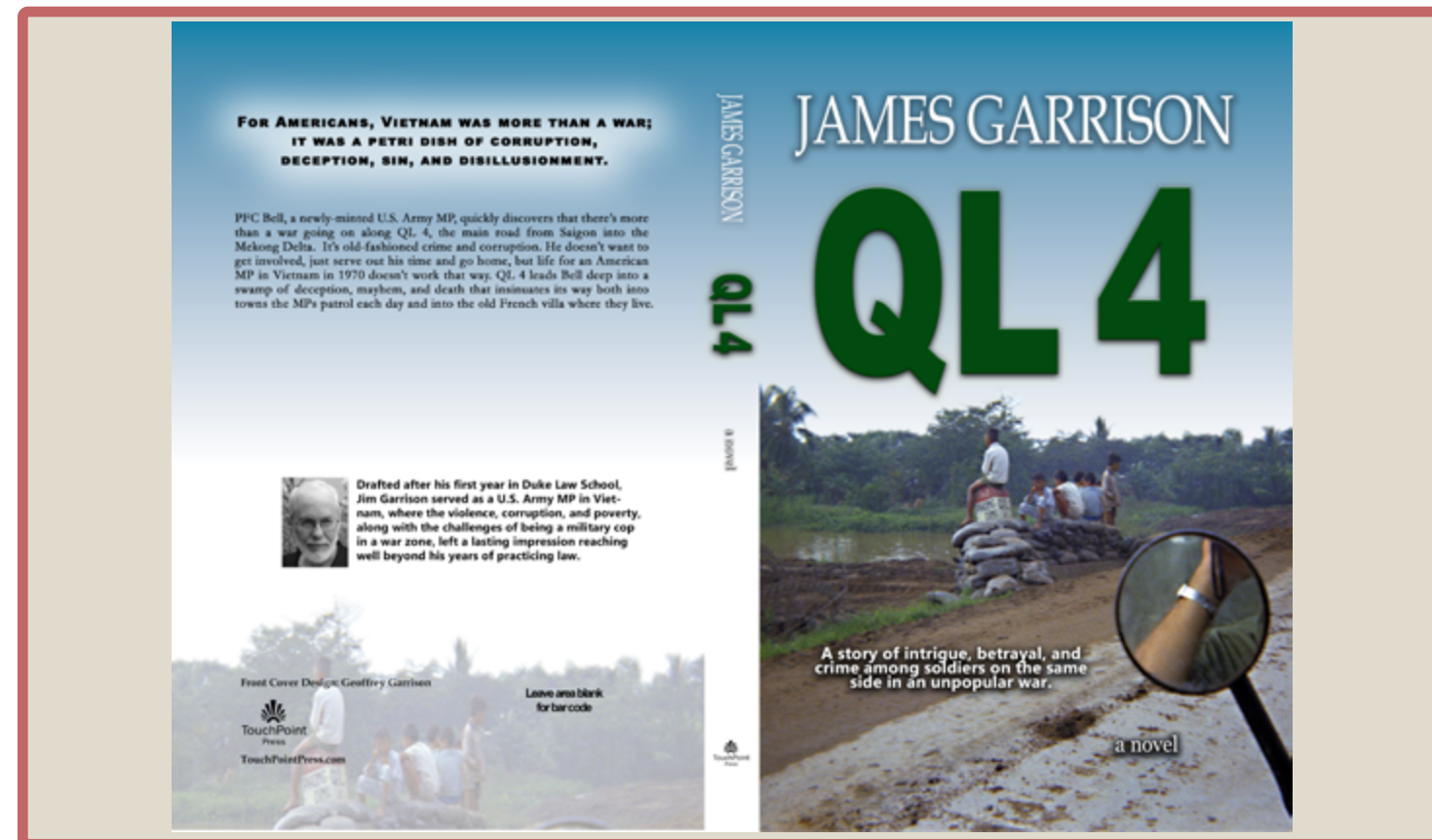
MWSA: What are some of your other interests?

JG: My non-writing interests include travel, exercise, and good food. My wife, June, is a clarinetist and clarinet teacher, who would have preferred I not stay home for the kids.

MWSA: Why did you become an author in the first place?

JG: As long as I can remember, I've enjoyed

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A SPECIAL “THANK YOU”

John Cathcart

EONS AGO, while attending the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, California; we had a guest lecturer in one of our classes: MG Bernard “Burn” Loeffke. Our regular professor had been called to Washington unexpectedly, which kept him away from the NPS for a couple of weeks. General Loeffke (at that time, taking a short hiatus from his duties as Director of the Inter-American Defense Board) *took over*, in every sense of that phrase.

In addition to being a dynamic and interesting lecturer, I will always remember how he interrupted the regular flow of one particular lecture, so that we could do a special exercise. Although at the time, the interruption in our “regular programming,” seemed like another example of the General’s *eccentricity*, this particular 10 or 15 minutes sticks with me even today, 26 years later.

General Loeffke, in his typical, high-energy way, outlined a list of activities to which we should all commit ourselves on a regular basis. In addition to the “usual suspects:” reading, exercising, community service, etc., the General pointed out that all of us should also take a break from the normal hustle and bustle of our lives and devote a minute or two to *thank* someone. He said that we should remember to do this every day, because there was always someone worthy of gratitude in all our lives. Failure to keep this fact in mind, the General warned, would inevitably lead to hubris at best, and failure, at worst.

Loeffke then handed each student a single sheet of paper and a blank envelope with a first-

class stamp affixed. As he placed these items in front of us, he said that our assignment was to thank someone... *anyone*: parents, perhaps an outstanding teacher that started you off in the right direction, one of your superiors or subordinates in the military... *anyone*.

We all glanced at the blank sheet of paper, at each other, and at the General, who continued pacing around the classroom. All of us were wondering what would happen next—none of us could see what this exercise had to do with our class: *The History and Culture of Latin America*.

“Go ahead; start writing!” he bellowed, still strutting energetically around the classroom. “I don’t care what you write, or to whom you send this letter; but I want you to write it *now!*”

I wrote my thank you letter to my uncle, as he had had a very positive impact throughout my life. By the way, I remember getting a long response back from my uncle several weeks after I put that short note in the mail. My “no-notice” correspondence led unexpectedly positive response.

Why am I sharing this story with you?

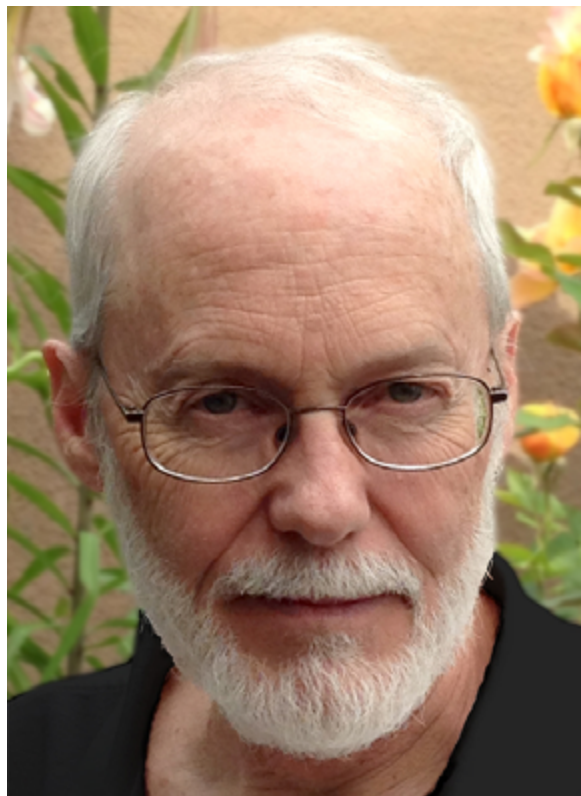
Over the past several weeks, I have been copying and pasting MWSA books and reviews from past seasons (as far back as 2004) onto our website. During this process, I skimmed through all the books and reviews.

One thing became obvious while looking at the earliest three seasons (2004 through 2006).

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GARRISON Continued from page 14

reading (starting when I spent weeks in bed with Rheumatic fever as a kid), and I studied literature and creative writing in college, as well as publishing some poetry even before that. I loved how writers created worlds and placed the reader in them, or the good ones did, and I always wanted to do that, as well. But my real effort to become an author was sparked by my son, who suggested I write a novel after he did an art project at Cooper Union based on an interview I did for him about my experiences in Vietnam. He even gave me a book on how to write your first novel. So rather than moving on to another legal position after the corporate merger, I started researching and writing *QL 4*, which went through perhaps a dozen drafts before it was published by TouchPoint Press in 2017.



MWSA: When and why did you join MWSA?

JG: I first joined the MWSA in November 2015. Almost immediately after accepting *QL 4* for

representation, my literary agent suggested I join the MWSA as a community of like writers and recommended that I submit my book in the MWSA’s annual awards contest, once it was published.

MWSA: Why did you choose to work in this genre?

JG: For *QL 4* I would say the genre chose me. It was the first book I wanted to write, and the subject—Vietnam and the War, the characters, the events, almost everything in the book, had been gestating in my mind for over thirty years. While my role in the war would not justify a memoir, and there have been many good ones written, I wanted to tell a good tale drawing on my experiences as an MP and write a novel like those I enjoy reading: mysteries, suspense, and most of all something of literary interest.

MWSA: Will you briefly list your other books for us?

JG: When I decided to become a writer (in addition to staying home for the kids), I made up my mind to write four complete novels before my mind retired from conscious thought. So while I flogged *QL 4* to agents, I wrote three other novels, a dozen short stories, and forty or so poems. I’m currently seeking a publisher for a legal thriller (*The Safecracker*), a noir fiction novel set on the Texas Gulf Coast (*What Seems True*), and a speculative fiction work (*The Salvation of Buster Adams*).

MWSA: Tell us a little bit about this book, *QL 4*.

JG: *Quan Loc 4* was a highway in South Vietnam. In 1969, anyone going south from Saigon into the Mekong Delta would follow this national route. Squat, red-and-white concrete posts marked the highway as “*QL 4*.” These concrete

Continued on page 24

MWSA FY 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| • Membership Dues | 15,525.00 |
| • Book Review/Awards | 3,523.95 |
| • Conference | 8,740.00 |
| • Donations/Stickers/Other | <u>700.00</u> |
| Total | \$28,488.95 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| • Administrative Management & MWSA <i>Dispatches</i> | 12,294.00 |
| • Book/Review Awards | 2,809.12 |
| • Conference | 8,201.86 |
| • Annual Board Meeting Expense | 811.40 |
| • Website Hosting & Maintenance | 614.27 |
| • Renewals, Licenses Misc. | <u>1,645.85</u> |
| Total | \$26,376.50 |

Note: More detailed breakdowns of actual expenditures are available for review upon request. The above is a reflection of actual income and expenditures.

THANK YOU Continued from page 15

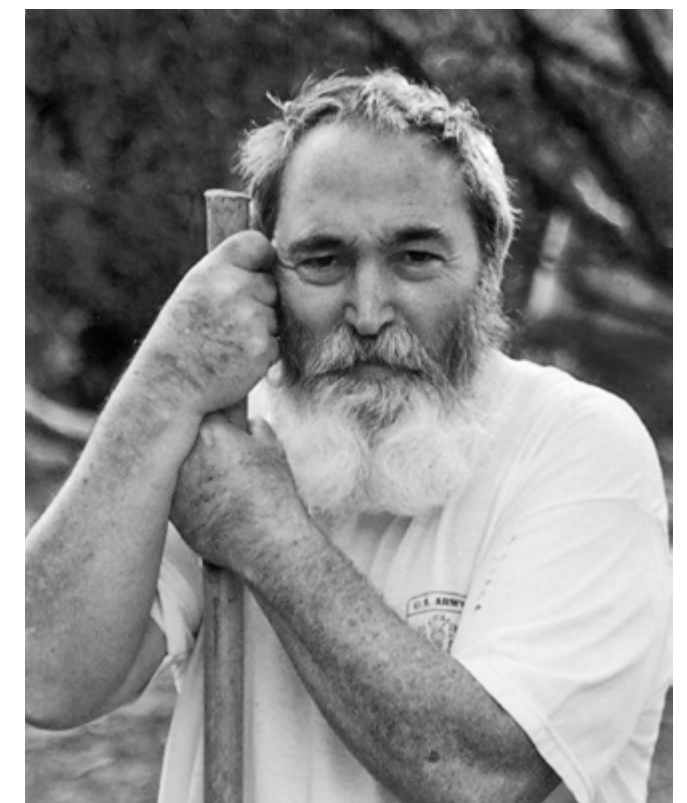
Pretty much all the reviews had been written by one person: Bill McDonald, MWSA’s founder. It was a reminder of just how much this organization represents the tangible results of one person’s inspiration, commitment, and hard work.

Most of us leave only a small hint of our existence on this planet—both while we’re living, and after we’re gone. Others, leave a larger and more indelible trace.

Bill, I’m glad you’re still with us, leaving lasting and positive traces as you go. The Military Writers Society of America exists today in very large part because of your efforts and perseverance... and to my way of thinking, that absolutely warrants a “thank you.”

I could have opted to send you a personal note but decided that this more public “thank you” was in order.

Thank you, Bill!



PLEIN AIR ARTISTS

Pat McGrath Avery

I RECENTLY TAGGED ALONG on an outing of three plein-air artists. Plein air “open air” painting, became a respected art form by the French Impressionists of the 19th century. Claude Monet, the father of Impressionism, strove to capture nature’s light in his paintings.



Donna Gordon

Shirley Hawthorne, Donna Gordon and Eleanor Seabrook share the same goal today. As members of the Laguna Madre Art League in Port Isabel, Texas, they enjoy frequent outdoor adventures. The area, with the Laguna Madre Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, offers almost endless moments to capture a memorable scene. With natural light’s constant change, both opportunities and challenges exist.

Three artists see the same scene from their own unique perspectives. Even their position and viewing angle offers a different view. This

particular day, a gusty wind and ever-changing clouds added an additional challenge.



Eleanor Seabrook

“There are no rules,” they all agreed when I asked the question. They paint what they see. In a picture, the photographer often can’t avoid telephone wires, electrical boxes, dumpsters and other less-than-desirable components. However, the plein-air artist has the freedom to choose the image as she sees it. Watching the light play on the palms as the wind blew spurred the creative thinking. Donna and Shirley chose to paint a palm-tree scene while Eleanor focused on the canal that bordered our location.

Added into this mixture of personalities, styles, lighting and landscape, each artist chose a different medium; Donna in pastels, Shirley in acrylic and Eleanor in oil.

Despite the wind blowing papers and supplies, each artist settled into her work. Their contemplation fascinated me. Donna used her pencil to measure perspective, Shirley sat quietly absorb-

Continued on page 21

MWSA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE ~ NOVEMBER 8-11, 2018

Charleston, S. Carolina

ALL MEMBERS OF MWSA are reminded that this year’s membership meeting and conference will be held in Charleston, SC, Nov 8-10. It’s a great opportunity to network, learn from others, and be involved with the future of the Society.

The Awards Banquet will be held the evening of November 10. Your conference fee will cover your attendance at the Banquet. Guests are welcome, but please note if you bring a guest there will be an additional charge.

We plan on putting on a free, one day writing course at the VA clinic in Charleston on the 8th. Any members in the area on the 8th are invited to attend. Additional specifics will be made available in the future.

Please annotate your calendars to save the date. The registration form is available on our website <http://www.mwsadispatches.com/events/2018/11/8/2018-mwsa-general-membership-conference>. Early bird registration saves you money and will run through June this year, since the conference is in November.

As a reminder, we will honor cancellation refund requests until the last minute possible, however, once we have to lock in meals, etc. with the hotel, refunds will not be possible. This usually happens around a week before the start of the conference.



If you have a topic you’d like to see discussed, want to participate in a panel, or would like to make a presentation, please let Bob Doerr know. He can be contacted at rddoerr@cs.com.



MWSA Recommended Reading List – Spring 2018

By 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. From a compilation of books by our members, we've selected the following as our 2018 Spring Recommended Reading List:

[My Daddy Is a Sailor by Tahna Desmond Fox](#)

[My Dad Got Hurt, What Can I Do? by National Academy of Neuropsychology](#)

[Jacqueline by Jacki Minniti](#)

[Love, Sweet to Spicy by Corrales Writing Group](#)

[Uncommon Bond by John House](#)

[Tiger Bravo's War by Rick St. John](#)

[Hal Moore on Leadership by Harold G. Moore](#)

[Syllables of Rain by D.S. Literas](#)

[Marcel's Letters by Carolyn Porter](#)

[Heart of Gray: Lt Raymond "Iggy" Enners by Richard Enners](#)

[Diary for 1849 by Elihu and Barrett Beard](#)

[Soft Target by John Trudel](#)

[Lighthouses of America by Tom Beard](#)

[Bradley vs. BMP: Desert Storm 1991 by Mike Guardia](#)

[Through My Daughters Eyes by Julia Dye](#)

These books reflect the works of those reviewed so far in this awards cycle. While it does guarantee that any will get an award, it does imply that they are good to read! I know many of you might be thinking about digging out of the snow, but why bother? More snow and cold are on their way despite this being April. Crazy, isn't it. I'd much rather be reading a good mystery, some historical fiction, someone's stories about their experiences in conflict, (heck, I can read most anything) than going outside to fight Mother Nature. Didn't someone once say that reading was our most valuable pastime? Someone should have. If you're looking for a good read, just look at this list. More info about the books and authors in MWSA can be found at www.mwsadispatches.com.

PLEIN Continued from page 19

ing the scene and Eleanor took out her sketching pencil. An occasional comment or shared memory broke the silence as they worked. I asked too many questions but they patiently answered, probably thankful I'm not with them every trip.



Shirley Hawthorne

As a nature photographer, I understood their penchant for the outdoors, the natural lighting we can never replicate and the constant change as the clouds and sun move across the sky. I marveled that they could keep a perspective in their minds as the wind flung shadows across the palm branches. As I stood behind Eleanor, I watched nature play upon the water. They each faced challenges.

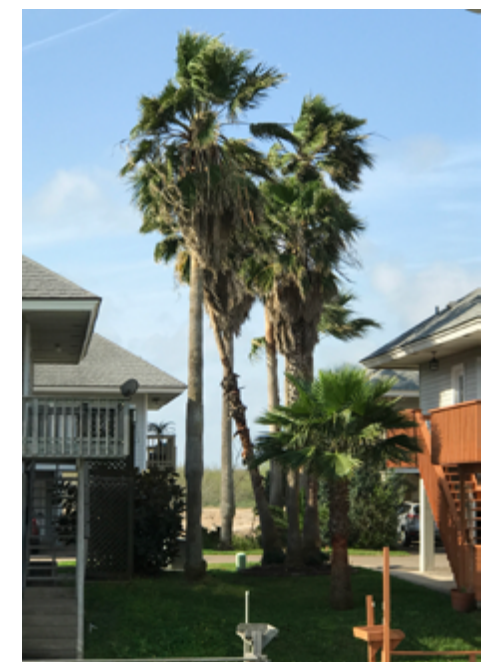
We spent a couple of hours. Shirley and Donna finished a rough draft of their work and within a couple of days sent me a finished painting. Elea-

nor is still working on hers and I look forward to the final picture.



Eleanor's View

I could spend hours watching them work. People's imaginations and talents amaze me. Thank you Shirley, Donna and Eleanor. You created beautiful paintings and you gifted me with enjoyable memories.

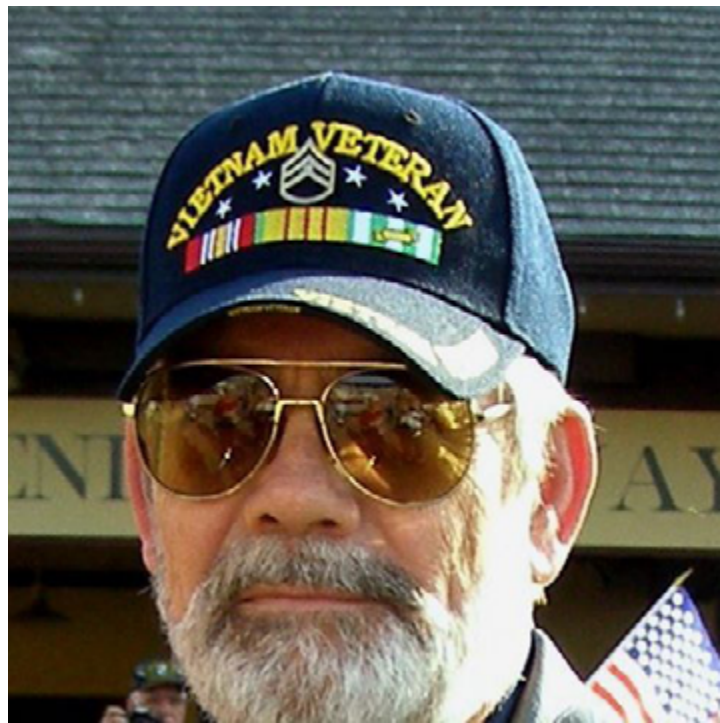


Shirley & Donna's View

A SAD GOOD-BYE

Joyce K. Faulkner

A SAD GOOD-BYE TO OUR OLD FRIEND and MWSA member Lloyd A. King. I hadn't seen him in a long time...not since the death of his wife Paula several years ago from lung cancer. Lloyd was a talented artist who wrote and illustrated an extraordinary book of poetry, *From 'Nam with Love*.



Like many of our veterans Lloyd continued to give back to his community over the years while dealing with intense physical pain. He also struggled with the meaning of his time in Vietnam. Both proud of his service and angry about it, night after night, he poured his heart into a computer file that grew enormous ... so large that publication would be expensive.

Someone gave him my name and he called me out of the blue one day. It turned out that he'd spent those years simultaneously writing both a novel and pages and pages of poetry. The novel manuscript was over 1800 pages and

Lloyd couldn't bring himself to edit it down to a publishable length. Each word was important to him. He described his emotional anguish in his work...especially in his blunt and painful poetry. It was unlike any I had ever read before. I remember being both moved and deeply saddened by a poem describing the first time he killed an enemy soldier in the deep jungle. He sat with the body...absorbing the enormity of the experience. Then he buried the man and prayed at the grave...for the soldier and for himself. I had seldom seen such bravery in the many authors I have worked with...and I told him how much that particular poem resonated with me and weighed on my mind and heart...but was he sure he wanted to publish it?

He was very sure.

I admire such honesty.

I hope Lloyd finds peace in heaven. He was deep and angry and tender and sad. I hope he finds a joyful place where he can party hearty with his beloved Paula.

Rest easy Lloyd.

<http://www.thedailynewsonline.com/bdn03/lloyd-arlon-king-jr-20180404>:

Lloyd Arlon King Jr

LLOYD ARLON KING JR. passed peacefully at home in Kimberling City, Mo., on March 27th. Lloyd was born March 26, 1944, to his Oakfield, N.Y., hometown parents, Lloyd A. King, World War II Army Air Corps and Alice R. King. Graduating from high school in 1962 in Sweetwater, Texas, Lloyd attended college at Philadelphia

College of Art majoring in Industrial Design and Fine Arts.

Lloyd served during 1968 and 1969 in Vietnam as a non-commissioned officer, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was a highly decorated and ultimately disabled Vietnam veteran soldier, having received the Silver Star for gallantry in combat, the Soldier's Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, two Purple Heart Medals, two Air Medals, and nearly a dozen other medals and ribbons including The Republic of South Vietnam's highest award, the Gallantry Cross with Gold Star.

Following his service Lloyd worked over 30 years in various fields focusing on safety and training roles in the oil and gas industry. A life-long Boy Scout participant and supporter, he was Scout Master for a troop based in Lafayette, La., that produced 16 Eagle Scouts during his tenure. Lloyd again enlisted in the US Army in 1987 and served in the Finger Lakes region as a recruiter for six years.

As an author, Lloyd's book, *From 'Nam with Love*, was the recipient of the 2006 Gold Medal for Best Book of Poetry, awarded by the Military Writer's Society of America, as well as the 2010 Gold Medal in the Stars and Flags Annual Book Contest. A second book, *Kings of the Green Jelly Moon*, also received a Gold Medal.

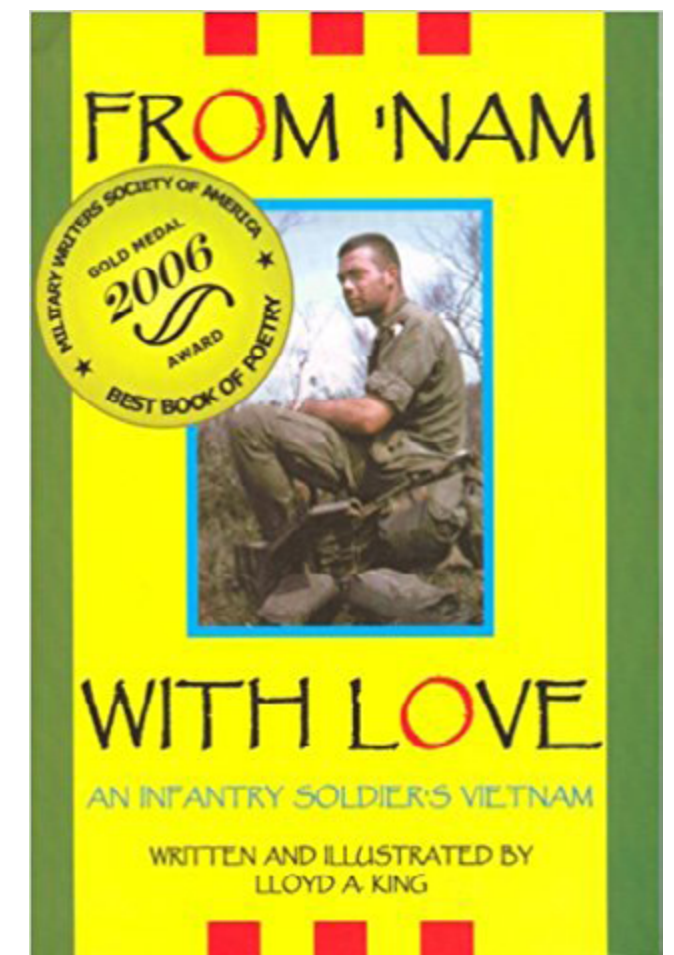
In later years Lloyd dedicated himself to furthering many causes as life member in numerous veteran support organizations such as the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Working tirelessly with members of the US Congress, local associations, his comrades, and the medical community, Lloyd pushed for more awareness and support for key health issues he and so many other Vietnam veterans face, such as the results of Agent Orange, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and ultimately Lloyd's final health

impact – Cholangiocarcinoma or Bile Duct Cancer which has been linked to in-country ingested parasitic river flukes.

Survivors include stepson, Grant Garrett; daughter, Mary Alice (King) Leary; sister, Stormy Strauss; sister, Shirley Jean Curtis; brother, James A. King; nieces, nephews, aunts, uncle, cousins, and many "brothers" and their spouses from his beloved Bravo Company, "No Slack" 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division-Airmobile.

Lloyd was preceded in death by his wife, Paula (Breux) King; son, Jeffrey Elliot King; his brother, Jeff King; and his parents.

No services will be held at this time as burial is being planned for Arlington National Cemetery. Memorials can be made to the service organization of your choice.



GARRISON Continued from page 16

markers—old and battered and faded—mimicked those on the country roads of France. As a newly-minted U.S. Army MP following in the footsteps of the French soldiers before him, PFC Bell needs only a few hours on QL 4 to discover that there’s more than a war going on here—and in the old French villa where he and his fellow MPs live and work. It’s old-fashioned crime and he doesn’t want to get involved, just serve out his time and go home. But life on QL 4 doesn’t work that way. QL 4 leads Bell deep into a black-market swamp of corruption, intrigue, and violence where he must confront not only the usual hazards of a war zone, but also ethical and moral challenges that require him to make hard choices.

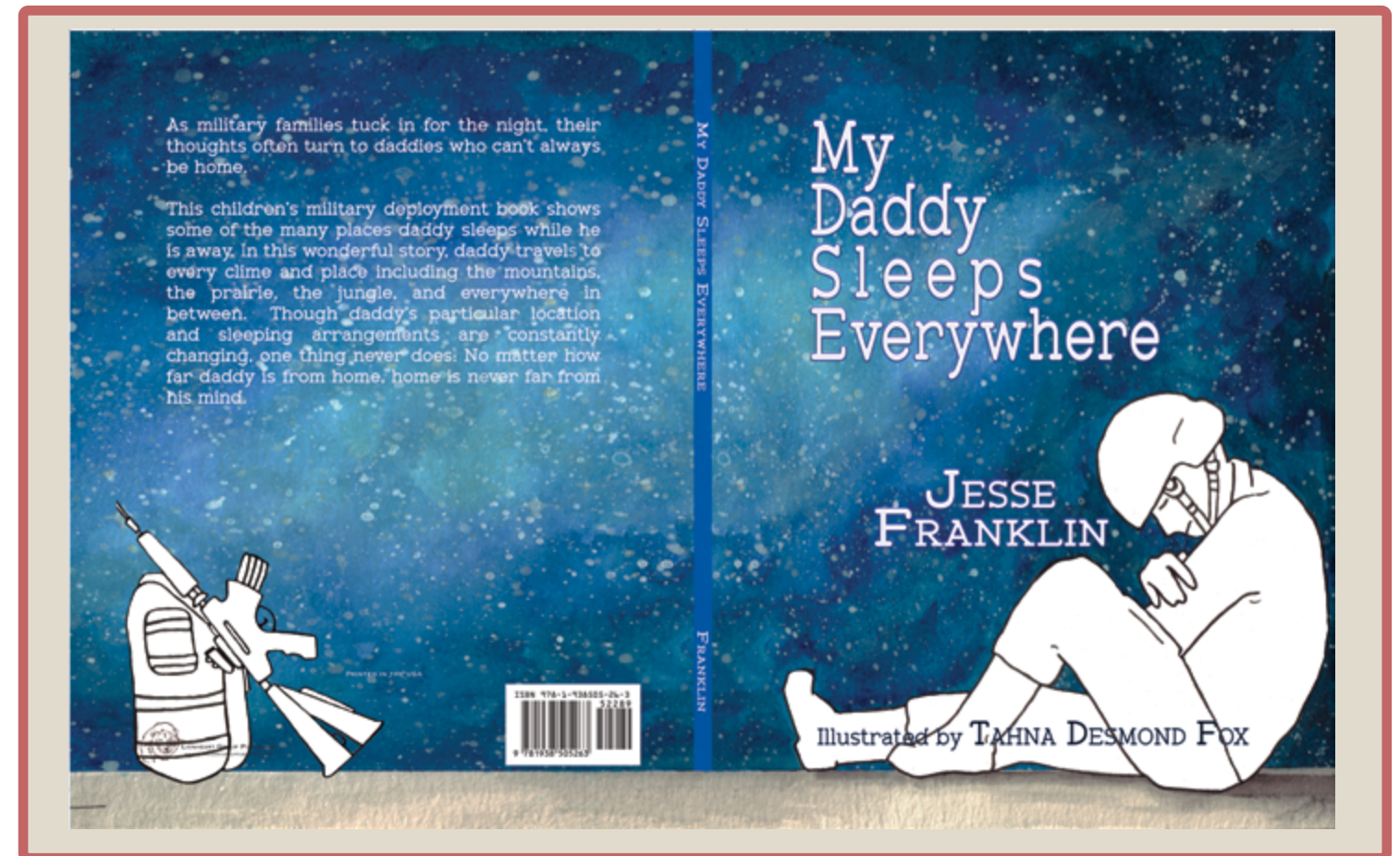
MWSA: What made you interested in writing a book on this particular topic?

JG: For me, as for many others, Vietnam was a life-changing event (if it didn’t end it) and the entire experience was an education I would never have received in my books. Much of what I wrote about was seared in my memory—and sometimes showed up in my dreams, so that writing this novel was a cathartic and liberating exercise. I also look back at Vietnam and the sixties with awe, that we survived it all and carried on, as the English say, and we actually won the Cold War in the end, despite the obstacles. I wanted *QL 4* to reflect this era: the racial and cultural conflicts and tension; the corruption that war brings in its wake; the dangers of a long, unpopular conflict in which the bulk of the American population was not invested; the perception, or the reality, that the draft was unfair or as my mother would say going back to the Korean War, “a rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight;” and that there was no clear goal “to win.” There was no light at the end of the tunnel that we could see. There was only a daily, discourag-

ing slog that was played out on national television, in color, with a weekly body count.

MWSA: What makes this particular book special to you?

JG: When I returned home from Vietnam, I experienced no revulsion or mistreatment from anyone, anywhere, and I wore my uniform on a number of occasions, flying across the country, driving up the east coast to NYC from Fort Bragg to visit a friend. What I did experience was indifference—when I returned home and in the rarified environment of Duke Law School. And that indifference continued for many years even as I and my fellow Vietnam vets lived out our lives in ordinary ways—and some fell by the wayside with PTSD, drugs or alcohol. It was like everyone wanted to forget about Vietnam and the men and women who served there, until the Wall brought some recognition and politicians periodically invoke our names for political points. I don’t want the War or Vietnam vets (or the Vietnamese people who cast their lot with us or even those who opposed us and suffered) to be forgotten. The story of Vietnam and the War still needs to be heard, from many different perspectives, until the last veteran of the war is gone.



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

2016 MWSA ANTHOLOGIES

Pulaski County, Missouri Inspirations
2016 Anthology

[HTTPS://WWW.AMAZON.COM/DP/194326743X](https://www.amazon.com/dp/194326743X)

Gettysburg Inspirations 2016 Anthology

[HTTPS://WWW.AMAZON.COM/DP/1943267340](https://www.amazon.com/dp/1943267340)

Two volumes of collections of short fiction, historical pieces, poetry, and songs written by members of the Military Writers Society of America. Be sure to get your copies before they're gone.

POV Continued from page 13

Now you have to ask yourself, do you want to write a story strictly from my point of view? ::Yawn:: So, you have a secondary character. Let's say TOWGA is our SC. I've not really told you much about him, but let's give him the moniker, Erik. We can only see Erik from my POV. We can hear what he tells me and see what he does in front of me. We can feel his strong, yet gentle arms around me. We can feel his velvet lips as they press into mine, and how they linger over parts of my body; his shallow, warm breath as it momentarily cools the places his tongue touches. We can feel how his skin brushes mine, causing goosebumps to grow under his heat. We can smell his cologne and sense how it ignites my desire...

But what we can't do is know what he's thinking or feeling. We can't hear his inner dialogue. Unless we write, also, from his POV—first person narrative. Now, what you absolutely don't want to do is scramble the eggs, here. IF you're going to write from his POV, too, you'll need to separate the brains—he's not going to be privy to my inner dialogue, etc., unless it's divulged within the story. For instance, maybe write each POV in a different section or chapter. Make it obvious to the reader that the POV has changed from one head to the other—the camera has moved from my brain to Erik's.

One of the best movies to tackle change of POV (in my humble opinion) is [He Said, She Said](#), in which the POV is dramatically shifted by a flying coffee cup slamming into Dan's forehead.

This post could probably go on for days because there are multiple POVs from which to choose. I've barely scratched the surface. Point of View, aka perspective, can make or break your novel. If you don't get it down, and down right, your audience will fall off your wordy merry-go-

round dizzy as all get out. Instead, here are a few good resources to get you headed down the right path:

[The Fiction Writer's Toolkit](#) by Bob Mayer (I think he has a newer version out—*The Novel Writer's Toolkit*—but I've not read it).

[Characters & Viewpoints](#) by Orson Scott Card

[Stein on Writing](#) by Sol Stein

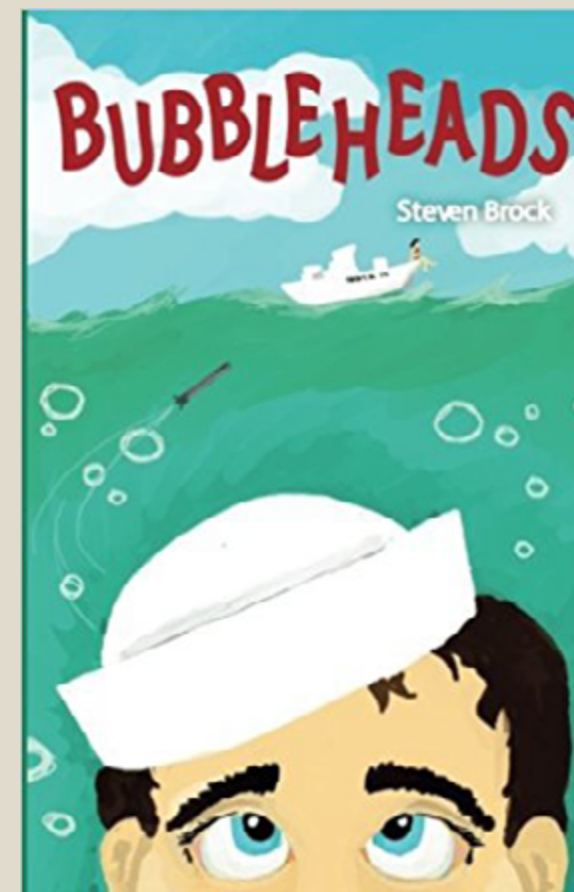
Respect your readers by giving them their money's worth. Learn your craft, love what you do, and others will love it, too.

Cheers!

www.sandstarbooks.com

Article edited and reprinted from:

<https://smlinhart.blogspot.com>



BUBBLEHEADS: THE MED RUN

BY STEVEN BROCK

Author's Synopsis:

Join the crazy antics of the crew of the USS Lapon SSN 661 as they deploy on a five month Med Run in 1981.

Genre(s): Fiction, Historical Fiction

Format(s): Soft cover, Kindle

ISBN/ASIN: 978-0692900109

MWSA ONLINE WRITERS EDUCATION FORUM

Jack Woodville London

THERE'S MORE TO DISPATCHES than just *Dispatches*. MWSA Award Director, John Cathcart and Director of Education, Jack London have opened a writers' education forum on the MWSA website at: <http://www.mwsadispatches.com/writers-education-forum/>

How does it work and what does it do? Log in to Dispatches and click on the **Resources** button to reach the site menu. Then click on the menu key '**Writers Education Forum**,' and open the site.

The site lists posted topics and replies. The goal is for us to be able to raise a writing question and share the question and the answer on the forum. The topic might be editing, grammar, revisions, or any subject that would interest the writing community.



Once on the site, you can open the topic or the reply, or you can post a topic or a reply, or add to a reply.

Here's a sample of what MWSA's Writers Education Forum looks like. A recent topic was about **dangling modifiers**.

This is the topic post:

"The most readily noticed editing problems our reviewers see are straightforward: typos and wrong words (passed/past, it's/its, great/grate, etc.), capitalization, punctuation, etc. Other mistakes are sometimes harder to catch: subject-verb and antecedent-pronoun agreement, repeating words, chronology, and consistent names and dates, etc.

With that in mind, I thought it might help our members by looking at a specific editing problem every now and then—maybe once a quarter. By reminding our authors of specific problem areas, perhaps we'll all be able to catch some of these problems in our own writing, rather than rely on sharp-eyed editors (or worse, an MWSA reviewer) to find them!

*I'd like to start with **dangling modifiers**; and have everyone take a quick look at the Purdue OWL web page below.*



<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/597/1/>

One thing that jumped out at me, while reading the above web page, was that many of the dangling modifiers also included—and made worse by—the use of passive voice (another thing authors should normally avoid "like the plague")."

Here is the reply to the topic:

"Dangling modifiers are great tools to get someone to read what you've written and share it with others, all of whom will have a good laugh at your expense and reject what you wrote. Why? Because dangling modifiers obscure what the writer means to say and, usually, say something unintentionally

funny, such as 'The boy walked by the house in the green pants.'

Good sentence*: *After we had been sitting in our seats for an hour the train started to move.*

Bad sentence: *After sitting in our seats for an hour, the train started to move.*

The **modifier**: *'sitting in our seats for an hour.'*

The **dangle**: *In the bad sentence, the modifier appears to refer to the train but in fact does not refer to anything. In the good sentence, the modifier refers to <we.>*

The difference: A modifier has to modify something, a subject, usually a noun. If it modifies a phrase that has no subject, it is a dangling modifier, and on careful reading is unintelligible.

*How do writers get into this mess? Usually there are two beasts at play. The **first** is that we know what we are thinking and assume when we write something that others also will know what we mean. Do not think that: do not let your muddled thinking become muddled writing.*

*The **second** is that most dangling modifiers appear in sentences*

Continued on page 30

FORUM Continued from page 29

written in the passive voice, the form of expression in which the subject is acted on by the verb.

Active voice sentence: The driver started the car.

Passive voice sentence: The car was started by the driver.

Notice that active voice sentences often use a form of the verb 'to be' in the past participle: 'is acted on' <was started by.> While there are occasions when the active voice is appropriate, this is not Picasso: write clearly in the active voice; avoid writing in the passive voice. In doing so, you will avoid most invitations to write dangling modifiers.

A **third** problem arises when the modifier is in the wrong sequence: <The boy walked by the house in the green pants> is cured by re-sequencing the modifier so that the sentence reads <The boy in the green pants walked by the house.> Putting extra nouns or pronouns between the subject and modifier can confuse which subject is being modified.

I suggest you read the article in Owl's Purdue Online Writing Lab, owl.english.purdue.edu — It is both helpful and full of funny dangling modifiers.

Hope this helps."



And that is how the post looks today, there for you to add, comment, or post your own. Do log in and give it a whirl. It's one more way and reason to use your membership.

One of my favorite expressions is 'We're all just walking each other home.' I believe that with all my heart and believe that it is an unspoken agreement among the members of MWSA. We share, we help, and we should be ready to ask each other for thoughts and suggestions. So, use the forum, share your own wisdom, and help all of us to be better writers.

MWSA DISPATCHES IS LOOKING for member submissions. We have 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) to be showcased in *Dispatches* every quarter. If you'd like to write a feature article, or have further questions, please email me at sandstar62@msn.com. Thanks.

Attention Members of MWSA:

We are offering another benefit to members of Military Writers Society of America. If you are launching a new book, send us the good news and we will introduce it to our MWSA audience. The first three submissions each quarter will receive a 1/3 page ad (\$100 value for non-members) in *Dispatches*. On submission, you will be told if your book will appear in the magazine. If you miss the magazine, you can request an announcement in the monthly email blast.

In addition, each issue of *Dispatches* will feature one two-page spread MWSA author interview which will include cover art, author headshot and bio. The interview will be limited to the first request each quarter.

Here are the rules:

- ✓ You must be a member in good standing of MWSA.
- ✓ Your book must be published, complete with an ISBN. We will not accept ARCs or manuscripts.
- ✓ Your date of publication must be no more than twelve months before requested date of ad in.
- ✓ Your book must comply with the rules specified by the Awards Program, i.e., no pornography, must be respectful of the government of the United States of America and the United States Military.

Here's how to submit:

- ✓ Submit your cover art (jpg), genre and subcategory, a summary, and where your book can be purchased.
- ✓ The quarter you would like your ad to appear in.
- ✓ If you would like a staff member to interview you for a full article about your book, please indicate that in your submission. Only one interview per issue, so first come first serve.
- ✓ Send to patavery@gmail.com

BECOME AN MWSA REVIEWER

If you'd like to help out and become one of our MWSA reviewers, we'd love to have you join us!

All it takes is about 45 minutes to an hour of training via video conference—or over the phone.

- * You'll get to read a wide variety of books
- * Books are assigned on a volunteer basis—you pick what you read.
- * After submitting your review, the books are yours to keep

Reviewers evaluating a minimum number of books (exact number varies) will receive a small Amazon gift certificate acknowledging their contribution. The more books you review, the larger the certificate.

Most importantly, you can "pay it forward" by helping out a fellow MWSA author!

If you'd like to get more details or volunteer to help out, please use our [Contact Form](#)

THIS IS A POEM my father wrote in 1944. The U.S. was at war with Germany, Italy, and Japan. He was in the U.S. Army. This was written in New York City. ~ Shirley Harrison

BLACKOUT

HERE AT THIS MOONLIT MIDNIGHT,
 AT THE TIP OF THE VAST STEEL FINGER
 OF A MANHATTAN SKYSCRAPER,
 THE WATCHER CATCHES THE COSMIC SPIRIT OF LOFTY PLACES;
 THE NOCTURNAL MELANCHOLY MOOD THAT ENTHRALLED SOPHOCLES
 FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT OVER THE AEGEAN,
 AND ARNOLD AT DOVER BEACH,
 AND JEFFERS ON THE GRANITE CLIFFS OF CARMEL.
 BELOW, THIS BLACKED-OUT GENERATION MEETS
 BEHIND CLOSED DOORS; NO SIGN REVEALS
 THE SMOTHERED REVELRY WITHIN THE NIGHT CLUBS; CREPE CONCEALS
 THE LIGHTED WINDOWS FROM THE DARKENED STREETS.
 OUT IN THE HARBOR, A GREAT GRAY SHIP
 SILENTLY FEELS ITS WAY ALONG TO SEA,
 AND TUG-BOATS PUFF ABOUT IMPATIENTLY
 FROM PIER TO PIER WITHIN THE HARBOR'S TIP.
 BUT WERE IT NOT FOR THE COLD MOON
 WHICH MAN WOULD BLOT OUT IF HE COULD,
 ONE COULD NO LONGER SEE
 THE LADY WITH THE TORCH OF LIBERTY,
 STANDING FAR OUT IN THE HARBOR,
 WAITING, WAITING, FOR THE LIGHT TO BE RE-KINDLED,
 AND WONDERING, "HOW LONG WILL IT BE?"

Pvt. Joe Butrum

1944

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John Cathcart

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- 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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A HISTORY OF THE M.W.S.A.

From the MWSA Website

IN 1998, VIETNAM VETERAN AUTHOR, Bill McDonald built a website presence for his old Army unit in Vietnam (The 128th Assault Helicopter Company) that also honored all facets of the Vietnam War. That original website started off with just his poetry and prose that he had composed while on his "tour-of-duty" in South Vietnam. That website was named "*The Vietnam Experience*." It began as a humble reservoir of his war memories that eventually expanded to include dozens more of his brothers in arms.

The first six months online the website traffic had increased to over 17,000 visitors a month. Eventually peaking at close to 275,000 a month after he participated in the making of the war documentary film (from Arrowhead Films) called "[In The Shadow of The Blade](#)". **The Vietnam Experience** website eventually surpassed the 30 million total visitors in 2008. They no longer track the total.

Those early contributors to that website whose prose and stories were posted for others to read, were the foundation of this organizations membership. However, in 2000 McDonald created the author organization "*The American Authors Association*." That organization has



grown to over 2,500 author members. It is open to all forms of genre and to all American authors. This organization was the beginning of the formation of the MWSA.

The first military genre event was the early fall of 2003 in Austin, Texas. The film "*In The Shadow of the Blade*" was being premiered at the University of Texas to a standing room only crowd of over 1,500 people. There was a party and weekend celebration event with the crew of the helicopter and the film crew along with over 900 guests at a local recreation center in Austin. As part of that big party I decided that a dozen of my military authors should have a presence there with their books. McDonald was asked by the local media what this group of veterans was called; and that is where he came up with name *The Military Writers Society of America*.

This was the first official MWSA event and presence.

In short order McDonald made it officially an organization and for the first several years of its existence he paid for everything related to the organization including awards, and website costs. He also personally reviewed every book submitted by members. Some years that total would reach well over 300 to 400 books. He was the webmaster, event planner, treasury and organizer. He was the heart and soul of the MWSA.

The early goals of the MWSA were not too complex, provide a safe community where military writers and veterans would be welcomed and appreciated. He did not restrict it to just veter-



ans but opened it up to any and all writers. You were automatically considered if you were a veteran or part of a military family regardless of the genre you wrote. A military veteran could write about anything they wished; there were no restrictions to genre.

Part of this was McDonald's desire to help PTSD veterans through the artistic expression of their prose, story telling, memoir writing, or poetry.

In 2005 McDonald helped produce and create a PBS TV Show called "*The Art of Healing*". He also wrote a program for the VA in Michigan that was eventually implemented nationwide on how to use not just writing but all the arts for the healing of PTSD veterans. He donated that program and his time and now it is being used in various forms all over the VA system.

It was around this time that McDonald decided to break fully away from the AAA and make the MWSA a stand-alone organization. So it went from being a part of the AAA to being its own functioning organization. Which meant that he was now funding and doing all the work of both organizations. There were no dues and no funding other than his own resources. In 2005 and

2006 his health took a heavy toll on him. He had several heart attacks and other health issues that actually put him at serious risk of death. He needed help and assistance to keep things going and around this time Maria Edwards came into the picture to volunteer and help out with both time, work, reviews, website help but also with some of the finances.

It was not too much longer that the MWSA had its first conference in San Diego, California. This was the first real gathering of the many diverse authors and writers in the group. Bill actually showed up from his "death bed" and even though great ill was there for the full event and meeting everyone. Those we attended that first conference remember that Bill was able to speak about everyone's books from memory as he had read all of them. That began the new era of the MWSA. From that group of around 70 members grew a supportive network of volunteers that gave this MWSA new life.

In time, Bill's health issues were just too much of a burden and he needed to focus more and more of his attention on taking care of his life.

Continued on page 36

HISTORY Continued from page 35

He made the decision to give the leadership of the AAA to Maria Edwards and to turn over the MWSA to a small group to organize it into something bigger and better. He selected Vietnam veteran Tony Lazzarini to head up the new organization and get it rolling.

Tony established the board of directors and gave the MWSA real structure. It went from a one-man operation to a collective of actual members running it. This new organization had real energy and gave the MWSA greater status and focus. This was a real turning point in the growth of the society. Tony served as the first President of the newly formed MWSA. Bill was able to take care of his own health issues knowing that it was now in good hands.

Those first years found ways to fund the activities of the MWSA by asking for membership



dues. It also established elections, formal ways to review books for awards and set up more formal conferences and events.

The second President of The MWSA was Joyce Faulkner who began the second phase of improvements and membership growth. Her administration had some very successful writer's conferences as well. She passed the leadership role over after two terms to author Dwight Zimmerman. Under Dwight's leadership the MWSA has now been granted a non-profit status by the government.

Bill McDonald the founder has slowly reemerged and is working in the background on the board of directors but is limited by his own health issues to take too active a part in weekly operations of the MWSA. He is currently working with a new Webmaster and is behind the scenes working on membership issues as they effect the society.

Currently the MWSA is expanding its membership and looking for more ways to serve the military community. Each year the MWSA has donated books to the VA hospitals and veteran organizations. In 2014 the MWSA donated over \$18,000 worth of books to the VA Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona. The MWSA has helped various youth programs and schools over the last decade to help promote writing and patriotism.

We now publish a quarterly magazine—*The Dispatches*—and an annual anthology written by members. Members' books are reviewed posted and there are annual awards given. The most prestigious of these awards is **THE FOUNDER'S AWARD**.

Read more about your MWSA organization at:

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

A CONVERSATION WITH MWSA MEMBER & AUTHOR

RICHARD MARCOTT

CAPTAIN RICHARD MARCOTT finished his Coast Guard career in 1986 as the commanding officer of a major training center where 2000 young enlisted men and women a year learned technical petty officer skills. Previously, he had designed the leadership training program for the entire Coast Guard and was the first Coast Guardsman to teach at the National Defense University. Like many in the service, his career was launched by the desire to get an education and see the world beyond his small hometown in Western Pennsylvania.

His military career began when he accepted an appointment to the Coast Guard Academy in 1953. In his first book, *The View from the Rigging: Memoirs of a Coast Guard Career*, Marcott details his indoctrination at the academy, sailing the tall ship Eagle to Europe, Panama, the Caribbean, and pre-Castro Cuba, where cadets attended a swank party at the home of the American ambassador and had a run-in with Ernest Hemingway. His early career included harrowing sea rescues, boarding Jacques Cousteau's exploration vessel Calypso and wry stories of training missions gone slightly amiss. A year as the commanding officer of an electronic navigation station in Okinawa, Japan, left him with charming stories of cultural differences.

In mid-career, he served as the executive officer on the cutter Resolute, which patrolled the Bering Sea to enforce fishing treaties. Marcott learned of the moon landing from Russians while boarding their vessel and survived vodka-laden meetings with his communist counterparts. He later was commanding officer of the cutter Chilula.



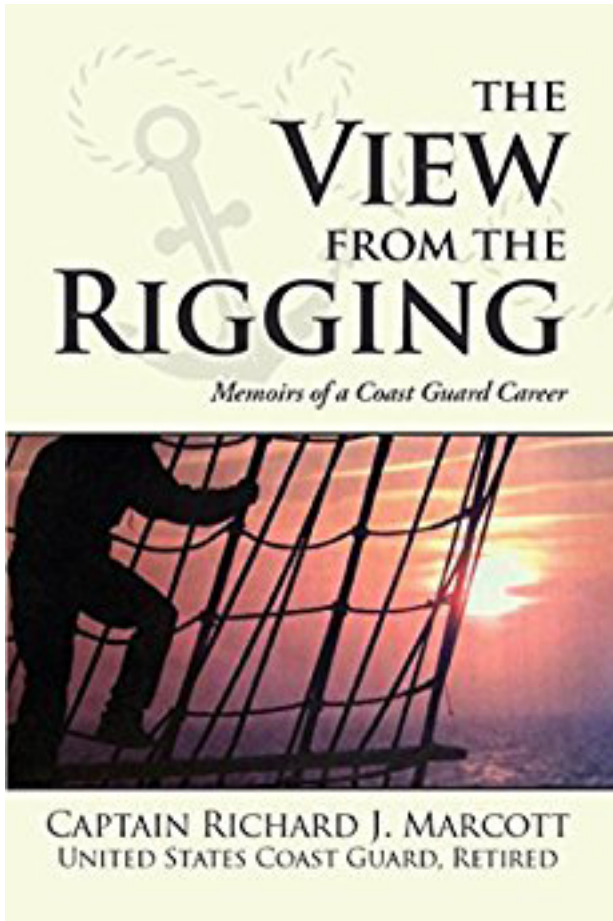
Marcott capitalized on his extensive service experience in training assignments as he transitioned into the civilian world at the Bank of America and the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. He returned to his hometown of Bradford, PA, where he lives with his wife of 59 years, Carol, and enjoys time with his daughter, Kimberly, and her family. He published *The View from the Rigging* when he was 81.

MWSA: What do you think are the main benefits of being an MWSA member?

Richard Marcott: I feel validated as an writer/author. Excellent feedback from relatives and friends, while nice, is not the same as being selected for an award by a national organization of professional writers. I am absolutely encouraged to continue writing.

MWSA: What prompted you to write your memoirs?

RM: I had been fortunate to have a number of interesting assignments that lent themselves to great stories. I admit I love telling stories. After hearing them many times, my daughter kept prodding me to 'write those stories down for the grandchildren.' I suspect many memoirists start that way.



MWSA: What was your process?

RM: I worked at this for nearly six years. Of course, that included considerable time to learn how to write. I took a writing course at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford that introduced me to creative nonfiction. The campus literary magazine published my first story, which was about a sea rescue. I was hooked. I did not start to write a book, but wrote one story at a time. After a few years, I began to see how they could evolve into a book.

MWSA: How have people reacted to your book?

RM: I am surprised at the number of readers who have written me a letter or sent an e-mail to comment on my stories. Complete strangers, and members of all branches of services have had experiences similar to mine. When they tell me that my book prompted them to sit as a family and share their stories--I have to feel good about that. There were quite a few people, too, who had no connection to the military world who said they were fascinated by it. That surprised me.

MWSA: Were any stories harder to write than others?

RM: Most of them were lighthearted and fun to write, but there were specific scenes that writing made me relive a moment that was painful. One was about a day trip my dad took with me when I commanded a rescue cutter, and I could see how proud he was of me. It made me miss him again. Another was when we nearly lost our infant daughter in surgery. That was a tough day to remember.

MWSA: Did you do much research?

RM: Yes. A lot of people ask me, 'How did you remember that?' Sometimes I didn't. I wanted to be accurate and researched a lot of details. Train schedules, history of commercial jet flights, routes and mileage between cities, historical dates, that sort of thing. Also old post card photos of our honeymoon motel, and year-book photos. I made every effort to be accurate. Research enabled me to be more descriptive.



*Join us in Historic Charleston, South Carolina
for the MWSA 2018 Member's Conference -*



- the #1 destination city in America. And, what a historical city it is: a story beneath every cobblestone, ghosts of soldiers from the Revolution, the Civil War, to current day conflicts - from Patriot's Point to Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumpter.

Charleston, South Carolina is the location for the 2018 Military Writers Society of America's annual meeting and conference. This definitely will be an experience you won't want to miss. ~ Joe E.