

**I'D WALK WITH MY FRIENDS IF I COULD  
FIND THEM**  
BY **JESSE GOOLSBY**  
**HIGHEST TOTAL SCORE**  
**HIGHEST TECHNICAL SCORE**  
**OF ALL BOOKS REVIEWED IN FALL OF 2015**



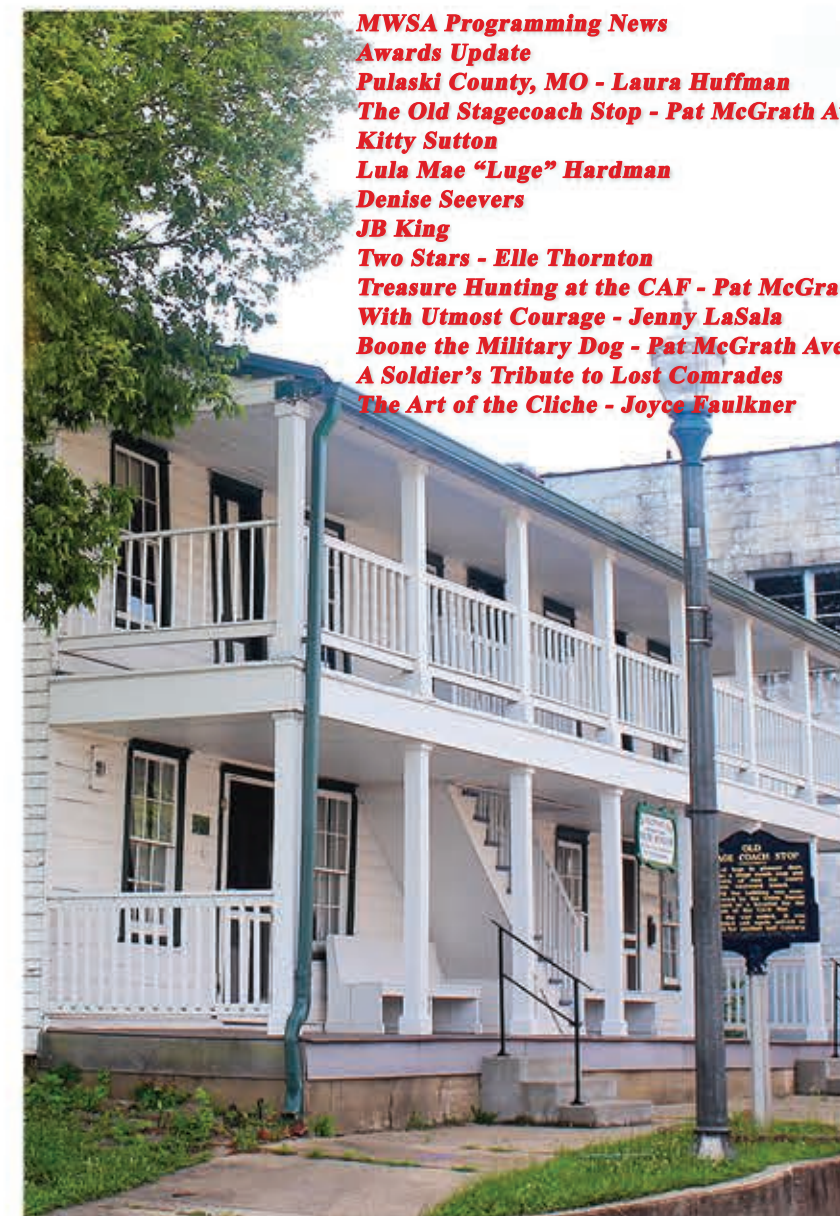
# DISPATCHES

MILITARY  
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WINTER 2016



**MWSA Programming News**  
**Awards Update**  
**Pulaski County, MO - Laura Huffman**  
**The Old Stagecoach Stop - Pat McGrath Avery**  
**Kitty Sutton**  
**Lula Mae "Luge" Hardman**  
**Denise Seevers**  
**JB King**  
**Two Stars - Elle Thornton**  
**Treasure Hunting at the CAF - Pat McGrath Avery**  
**With Utmost Courage - Jenny LaSala**  
**Boone the Military Dog - Pat McGrath Avery**  
**A Soldier's Tribute to Lost Comrades**  
**The Art of the Cliche - Joyce Faulkner**



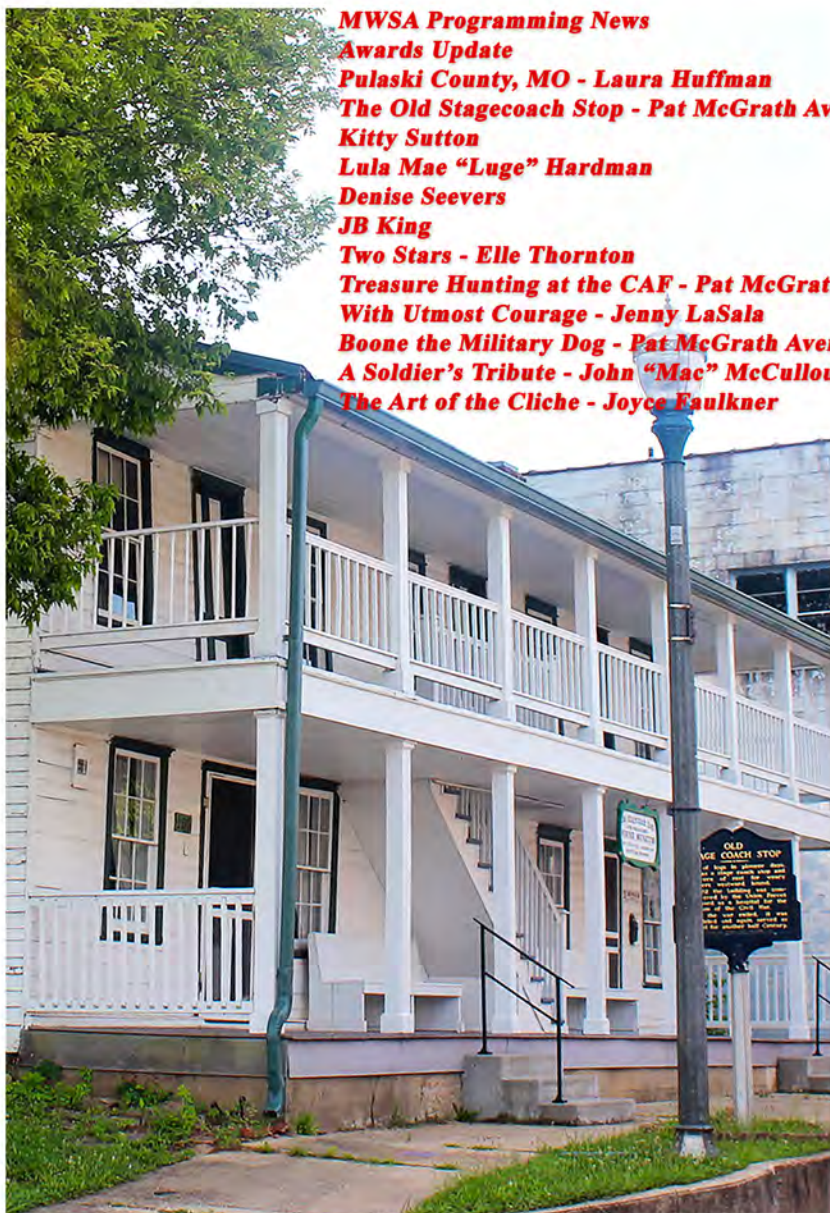
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## **MWSA Programming News**

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## Letter from the editor

We are eager to start the new year and enjoy new beginnings. As writers, we constantly challenge ourselves to grow in our knowledge, our craft and our ability to reach others.

MWSA brings two exciting new options to 2016 in the hope of helping writers achieve their goals. Be sure and read the president's message for all the details.

We announced the first event for the year in the fall. The Gettysburg Retreat is filled to capacity and we are anticipating the energy that will flow from our speakers and attendees throughout the event and through many writings thereafter.

With this issue, we're pleased to announce the second event, the Pulaski County History Crawl, in southern Missouri. Pulaski County has a diverse and exciting role in history as our country developed west of the Mississippi. Smack dab between St. Louis and Springfield, the beginnings of western expansion passed through the county. Transportation played a major role as the stagecoach connected St. Louis, Springfield and Ft. Smith, AR. The telegraph followed the same route and Waynesville became a major stop along the way. When the government forced the Cherokee to leave their land and head west, the northern route to Ft. Smith followed the old stagecoach road. Waynesville, on the banks of the beautiful Roubidoux Springs, was a natural stopover for the beleaguered Indians.

In 1941, the US government chose the southern part of the county as the home of Ft. Leonard Wood. The fort trained troops and became a prisoner-of-war camp for captured Italians and Germans. In addition to its training role, today the fort houses three major museums.

The famous Route 66 passes through the county and original locations are now tourist destinations. Read the articles that give the details and sign up today because the number of attendees is limited. A \$100 deposit will hold your space.

Elle Thornton's touching story resonates with children of troubled parents and relationships. Molli Oliver is dedicating her life to enhance the relationships of military working dogs and their handlers.

Jenny La Sala gives us another of her meaningful interviews: Ed DuBose remembers his dad, Edwin.

Check out some of the treasures I discovered in the Commemorative Air Force archives in Brownsville, Texas.

## Staff

**Editor - Pat McGrath Avery**

**Columnist - Dwight Jon Zimmerman**

**Columnist - Bob Doerr**

**Columnist - Joyce Faulkner**

**Feature Writer - Jenny LaSala**

**Feature Writer - Elle Thornton**

**Feature - Laura Huffman**

**Layout and Design - Joyce Faulkner**

**Photography - Pat McGrath Avery**

**Photography - Joyce Faulkner**

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# President's Message

## Happy 2016, everyone!

This year marks some new and exciting member benefits and opportunities. Last month an email blast was sent out announcing some changes. To recap: to pay for services like the electronic election, polls, and for programs and services you said you'd like the organization to do, we have reorganized our membership dues structure. As of January 1, 2016, dues will be an annual flat rate of \$75. Though you can make a multi-year payment if you want, there will no longer be a multi-year discount. Also, to help us budget for programs and services, we have reorganized the annual term of membership to be the same as the calendar year, January 1 - December 31. Individual invoices will be issued soon via email and fees will be pro-rated to reflect status and dues payments made prior to January 1. For example, if your membership expires on June 30, 2016, the invoice would be \$37.50 (July 1-December 31). These invoices will come from MWSAPresident@gmail.com through PayPal which will allow you to pay with a debit or credit card...or your PayPal account, right then and there. If you prefer to pay by check, please make out to Military Writers Society of America and put "2016 Dues" in the notation field. Send to MWSA, PO Box 1763, Cranberry Township, PA 16066. We have tried to make this transition as simple and smooth as possible, but if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at MWSAPresident@gmail.com or Treasurer Pat Avery at patavery@gmail.com.

In the past we had one big event, the annual national conference which, in addition to presenting book awards, was an opportunity for our far-flung members to meet. This year we kick off a new experiment that is not just one, but two events and puts more emphasis on writing and the writing experience. Thanks to the hard work of Program Committee Chairperson Joyce Faulkner and her team Beth Underwood, Bob Doerr, Jack London, Don Helin, Joe Campolo, Jr, Pat Avery, Kathy Rodgers, Dale Throneberry, and Mike Mullins. I'm happy and proud to announce two new events: The first MWSA Gettysburg Retreat May 24-26, and the Pulaski County MO History Crawl September 30-October 2. Details about them can be found elsewhere in this issue. In future years there will be more regional events as well as national programs. We still will do the annual awards; it's just that presentation will be done differently. Once we have the details worked out, we'll let everyone know here in *Dispatches*.

Also, our quarterly magazine *Dispatches* will now pay \$25 for up to four feature submissions per issue. In addition to putting a little money into a member's pocket (always welcome) this gives members an opportunity to add to their writer's resume when seeking work from other publications and websites.

And finally, our annual anthology will be available as a pdf for every member of the organization although paper copies will still be for sale only. We are also working on the launch of a new website sometime early in the new year. I hope all of you and your loved ones have a happy and successful 2016!

**Dwight Jon Zimmerman**

**President, Military Writers Society of America**

## MWSA Leadership

Founder/Board Member - William McDonald

President - Dwight Jon Zimmerman

Vice President Bob Doerr

Treasurer - Pat McGrath Avery

### Board

Sandra Linhart

Farrell Chiles

Mike Mullins

Valarie Ormond

Kathleen M. Rodgers

Joe Epley

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#### Programming

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Bob Doerr

Pat Avery

Beth Underwood

Kathy Rodgers

Jack London

Don Helin

Joe Campolo, Jr.

Dale Throneberry

Mike Mullins

#### Review Process Audits

Betsy Beard - Chair

Joyce Faulkner

Carolyn Schriber

Bob Doerr

Sandra Linhart

#### Web Design Committee

Bill McDonald

Betsy Beard

Maria Edwards

Consultant – Maria Edwards

## Reviews and Awards Update

*Betsy Beard, Committee Chair*

For the last three months, the **Reviews and Awards Committee** has researched best practices and looked over the entire MWSA process for reviewing books and awarding medals to qualifying books each year. We have made some exciting changes to the system to incorporate the judging into the initial reviewing. Not only does this streamline the entire process, but it corrects the fatal flaw of having only one reviewer recommending a book for an award. This means each book will get the benefit of three complete scores as well as a confidential critique to the author in addition to the marketing review. The review, as always, will be posted to the website and can be used by the author in any way he or she sees fit.

The program for the 2016 Review and Awards Program will open for submissions on January 15, 2016, and the deadline will be July 15, 2016.

More information will be forthcoming on the website.

### Change in Intra-Cycle Recognitions

Beginning this month, we will no longer be recognizing author of the month and book of the month. We are moving to a single recognition that synchronizes with the quarterly publication of *Dispatches*. The recipient of the Book of the Quarter will be the book that was reviewed in the quarter leading up to publication with the greatest combined overall score and highest technical score.





# PULASKI COUNTY HISTORY CRAWL

As writers, we constantly search for story ideas and research opportunities. We are happy to announce the Pulaski County History Crawl in the fall of 2016 (Sept 30-Oct 2) in Waynesville, MO (off I-44 midway between St. Louis and Springfield, MO).

The area offers history in several areas:

- ✓ the Trail of Tears,
- ✓ the Wire Road and stagecoach routes west connecting St. Louis to Ft. Smith (AR),
- ✓ Route 66,
- ✓ the Civil War west of the Mississippi,
- ✓ Ft. Leonard Wood and its museums,
- ✓ the railroad and plenty of untold stories.

Attendees will meet a former sheriff who will share his many years tracking criminal cases as well as his passion for the Civil War in Missouri, area historians and museum curators, Route 66 experts, an author of several books on the "Trail of Tears," and the curator of the Ft. Leonard Wood museums.

From the mayor to the panel of experts, Pulaski County is laying down the red carpet to bring writers to the area. Pick your particular track of interest and sign up today:

## Civil War

JB King will offer a half-day session on the Civil War in Missouri and Arkansas. JB is the author of several books including *The Tilley Treasure*, which tells the story of the Civil War in Pulaski County.

## Missouri Criminal Cases

JB King is also a retired sheriff of Pulaski County. In his career, he

worked on many well-known and not-so-well-known crimes. He will share several cases in a half-day session.

## Trail of Tears

Kitty Sutton, author of the Trail of Tears series, will visit the Trail of Tears Memorial at Roubidoux Creek with participants and share the results of her research. <http://kittysutton.weebly.com/>

Mayor Luge Hardman will also share her special interest and research in the Trail of Tears. The Cherokee camped on the banks of the Roubidoux Creek as they traveled the northern route of the trail.



## Ft. Leonard Wood

Ft. Leonard Wood is home to five museums. The WWII museum consists of a number of the original buildings in use during the war. An outdoor military vehicle museum is a great find for photographers. The John B Mahaffey Museum Complex houses three indoor museums: the Military Police, US Army Engineer and the Chemical Corps. Dis-

plays range from the Revolutionary War to the present.

The WWII barracks showcase the era, the history of the Fort and the life of General Leonard Wood. Did you know that both German and Italian prisoners were housed at Ft Leonard Wood during WWII or that chemical warfare spans nine centuries?

Troy Morgan, curator of the Engineering Museum, will lead this track. You will need a photo ID to enter Ft. Leonard Wood.

## Museums

Several museums trace the history of the area. Jan Primas will guide you through the Old Stagecoach Stop Museum, which has served as a stagecoach stop, a post office, a hotel and a Civil War hospital before its preservation as a museum.

The Old County Courthouse: Curator Denise SeEVERS will lead a tour of the museum. Exhibits include wars from the Civil War through Korea, Route 66, regional history and pioneer days.

## Route 66

Terry Primas will lead a tour of the historic Route 66 through Pulaski County.



Three hundred miles of the famous road crosses Missouri, with thirty scenic miles in Pulaski County.

Participants will visit Devils Elbow, home of the 1923 Devils Elbow truss

bridge that crosses the Big Piney River, the remains of the town that was on the original road, and the Elbow Inn, originally the Munger Moss Sandwich Shop. Across the river, a scenic overlook has a great view of the 1941 US Army trestle railroad bridge.

When Route 66 was realigned due to increased traffic to Ft. Leonard Wood, the new road cut through the small town of Hooker. The Hooker Cut, an engineering marvel at the time, was the deepest road cut in the US.

## Weaving the Stories

Laura Huffman, historian and storyteller, weaves together a series of historical events certain to light the imagination of any author. Whether it's the story of the poor souls lost in the County Poor Farm, the towns/people displaced by the building of Ft. Leonard Wood, or the tie lumberjacks trying to navigate Devil's Elbow (the sharpest bend in the Big Piney River), she knows the stories. Attendees will lunch at the Elbow Inn and have plenty of time to chat with the owner, who is also a biologist, former game warden and storyteller.

The fee will be \$360 and includes two-nights stay at a local hotel. Because of the multiple tracks, tours and lectures, the total number of participants is limited. To make a reservation, contact Pat Avery at [patavery@gmail.com](mailto:patavery@gmail.com) and she will invoice you — \$100 to hold your spot due immediately, the remaining \$260 due by August 1, 2016.







# Pulaski County, MO





# The Old Stagecoach Stop

A lot can be learned from old historic buildings and the Old Stagecoach Stop is a prime example. From architectural style to owners and purposes, a building speaks for itself.

Located on the square in Waynesville of I-44, the building is the oldest remaining building in Pulaski County and has a long and varied history.

William Walton McDonald purchased the land in 1854 with the intent of building a hotel for the St. Louis to Springfield stagecoach route. Built in sections, the building became a double pen log structure.

Starting as a single pen - a one-room log cabin with a door in front and an exterior chimney on one side - the building then became a double pen structure when another pen was added next to it. Over the years, owners added a second story and an extension.

During the Civil War, Union troops built a fort on a hill above Waynesville and commandeered the stagecoach hotel for a hospital.

After the war, the railroad came to the Ozarks serving other towns nearby. Waynesville lost its importance as a stopover when the stagecoach disappeared. However, a string of owners kept the hotel open over the years.

Saved by the building of Route 66, the area once again became a travel stopover. The hotel remained open and at one point, part of the building housed a dentist office. Then in

1941 and the building of Ft. Leonard Wood, the hotel became home to construction workers and army personnel.

The hotel remained open until the 1960s. After twenty years of abandonment, the city of Waynesville condemned the structure, but thanks to caring citizens, the building was purchased and restored.

Today it serves as a museum where Pulaski County volunteers treat it with loving care and will gladly share its story with anyone gifted with curiosity or a love of history.



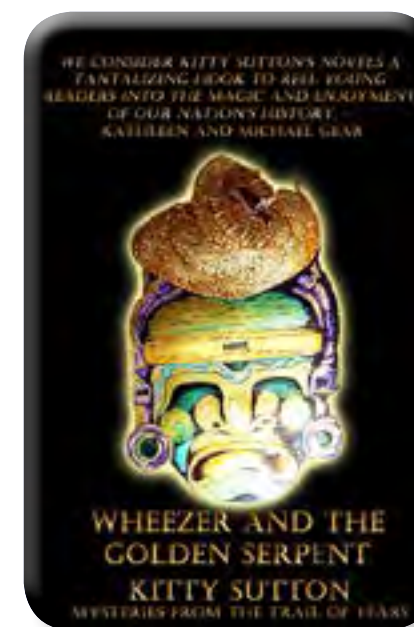
# Kitty Sutton

Kitty Sutton was born Kathleen Kelley to a Cherokee/Osage/Irish family. Both sides of her family were from performing families in Kansas City, Missouri and Kitty was trained from an early age in dance, vocal, art and musical instruments. Her father was a Naval band leader. During the Great Depression, her mother helped to support her family by tap dancing in the speakeasys even though she was just a child; she was very tall for her age but made up like an adult. Kitty had music and art on all sides of her family which ultimately helped to feed her imaginative mind and desire to succeed.

Kitty married a wonderful Cherokee artist from Oklahoma, in fact the very area that she writes about in her Wheezer series of novels. After raising her family, Kitty came to Branson, Missouri and performed in her own one woman show there for twelve years. To honor her father, she performed under the name Kitty Kelley. She has three music albums and several original songs to her credit and is best known for her comical, feel good song called, It Ain't Over Till The Fat Lady Sings. Kitty has been writing for many years and in 2011 Inknbeans published her historical Native American mystery.

Each of Kitty's books are based on actual events and history that has been lost, deep in archives, unknown to the American public. Each book takes one to two years of research to produce.

First in a line of stories featuring Wheezer, a Jack Russell Terrier and his Cherokee friend, Sasa, it is called, *Wheezer And The Painted Frog*. Following that first book she came out with *Wheezer and the Shy Coyote* and has named her series, *Mysteries From the Trail of Tears*. Her third book, *Wheezer and the Golden Serpent* was released in 2015. Kitty lives in the southwestern corner of Missouri near Branson with her husband of 42 years, one rescued cat and her three Jack Russell Terriers, one of which is the real and wonderful Wheezer.







## The Pulaski County (MO) History Crawl

*Laura Huffman*

The Ozark Mountains hold an almost mysterious allure that can be traced back to the earliest days of westward expansion. In Pulaski County, in the heart of the Ozarks, place names like Devil's Elbow, Bloodland, Colley Holler, the California House, Wildcat Hollow, Poor Farm, Bear Ridge, and Boiling Spring pique the interest of the curious. Route 66 quickens the pulse of those with an interest in Americana, cars, and highways. The now silent whistles of the Frisco Railroad tempt those who yearn for days when railroads cut their swath across the United States and travel was both an event and an adventure. Civil War buffs seek out Pulaski County for its Old Stagecoach Stop and its strategic importance on the Old Wire Road. Military historians visit the archives at the three U.S. Army branch museums (Chemical, Military Police, and Engineer) on Fort Leonard Wood. Ghost towns such as Big Piney, Humboldt, Hancock, Ozark Iron

Works, Helm, and Arlington call to the lovers of the abandoned and forgotten. The Big Spring on the Roubidoux River in downtown Waynesville and Portuguese Point on the Gasconade River have drawn artists and photographers for as long as can be remembered. Inspirational locations are around every corner.

Pulaski County has had many events that defined the area. The Civil War is still visible when looking at what is now the BNSF Railroad. Before the "War of Northern Aggression" the railroad was scheduled to be laid in the southern part of the county. After the war it was rerouted to follow troop trails that were pioneered across the northern part of the county. Interestingly this led to less population in the rugged southern part of the county - which opened the door to the building of the Seventh Corps Training Area, now known as Fort Leonard Wood. World War

II is still visible on Fort Leonard Wood as well. The open-air museum includes barracks and churches from the earliest days of the training installation. Beautiful stonework still adorns culverts and other areas on the military base — these were created with the labor of prisoners of war during the Second World War.

Pulaski County is the perfect place to meet and develop your next main character. The gentleman at Starbucks could very well be a soldier who recently returned from the Middle East. The bartender serving up an ice-cold beer at the local watering hole could well be a retired U.S. Navy Seabee. Everyday heroes walk amongst us in Pulaski County. Our history pages unveil characters as well — the tie-rafters on the Big Piney at the turn of the 20th century, the Swedish immigrants who took a chance on a wide spot on the railroad to make their fortune, the Italian immigrants who took that same chance on a nearby wide spot and became the first to develop the grape and wine culture in Missouri. We have stores and farms with stories to be told. The H.E. Warren Store in Richland has served its clientele continuously since it first opened its doors in 1869. Three businesses in Crocker have their beginnings established over 100 years ago. Eighteen farms have been recognized as Missouri Century Farms- including one with the second oldest ranch brand in the country.

Much like JB King's book, *Tilley's Treasure*, many of Pulaski County's greatest stories are still waiting to be discovered and told. They are waiting for your voice, your pen, and your vision.

Editor's Note: Leading up to the Pulaski County History Crawl Laura will be posting information in a private facebook group for everyone who puts down their desposit to hold their place. She will also be available to tickle a writer's creative fancy with unique story ideas during the event and will be a presenter/leader for our History Crawl.



## Laura Huffman

Laura Huffman is the Social Media Coordinator and Content Creator for Pulaski County Tourism Bureau. She has actively pursued the history of Pulaski County and surrounding areas for more than six years and is one half of the two-person team behind the Encyclopedia of Pulaski County. She is the author of the majority of posts for the Tourism Bureau's blog and in 2014 she started [www.Population91.com](http://www.Population91.com) — a travel, history, exploration, and discovery blog that she creates content for as time allows. She is a lifetime member of the Pulaski County Museum & Historical Society, a member of the Old Stagecoach Stop Museum & Foundation, a board member of the newly formed Ozark Quilt Trail, and a founding member of Roubidoux Grotto — a National Speleological Society affiliated caving club based in St. Robert. In her spare time she can be found floating Missouri's rivers, wandering down dirt roads looking for ghost towns, cemeteries, and other relics of the past, hiking, or playing Ingress.





## Lula Mae “Luge” Hardman

A native Arkansan, Luge Hardman moved to Waynesville in 1971 to teach history. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Henderson State University in Arkansas and a Master of Science in Education from the University of Central Missouri. She taught American history for the Waynesville R-VI School District and retired after 30 years in 2001. She was an adjunct professor for over 20 years for Drury University.

Mrs. Hardman has been honored as a “Teacher of Merit” by the Missouri Historical Society, “Social Studies Teacher of the Year” by the Missouri Council for the Social Studies in 2001 and “Missouri’s American History Teacher of the Year” by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 2001.

In 2003, Mrs. Hardman was elected to the Waynesville City Council and began a new career in local government. She has been active in revitalization projects in the community, including the downtown renovation of sidewalks and lighting. She led the successful campaign with the National Park Service to add the Trail of Tears encampment at Laughlin Park as a site on the National Historic Trail. In 2012,

Mrs. Hardman was elected to a four-year term as mayor of Waynesville and continues working to improve the quality of life in Waynesville.

Married to Paul Hardman for 42 years, the couple has two children: a daughter, Ryann, who lives in Denver, and a son, Trey, who lives in Harrison, AR. They boast seven grandchildren.



## Denise Seevers

Denise Seevers serves as the current President of the Pulaski County Museum and Historical Society, co-curator of the Pulaski County Museum and Vice-President of the Ozark Quilt Trail. She is a lifetime member of the Pulaski County Museum and Historical Society and a member of the Royal Neighbors of America. She is past treasurer of the Pulaski County Museum & Historical Society; a past member and officer of the Phelps County Genealogical Society; past officer of the National Federation of Federal Employees; and a past field agent for RNA. She has worked in the banking industry, as a civil service employee at Fort Leonard Wood, as a clerk in Transportation and as Post Check Control, in the accounts payable at Independent Stave Company and supported the International Students and others at Ft. Wood by typing and editing their thesis papers and other similar documents.

Denise is a wife, mother and grandmother; her husband is retired from the US Army. She is a genealogist with over 25 years of experience, specializing in cemetery research. She is a life-

long resident of the Missouri Ozarks residing in Phelps, Dent, Laclede and Pulaski counties. Whenever spare time is available you can find her walking through old cemeteries with her husband and her camera or relaxing with her three dogs.





# JB King

My father was a World War II and Korean War veteran who retired from the U. S. Army after 22 years of service. Dad settled our family in Salem, Missouri, and as a result I am a 1965 graduate of Salem Senior High School. I attended the School of the Ozarks at Pt. Lookout, Missouri and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Sociology in August of 1969. I entered the Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy immediately after college on Sept. 16, 1969. Upon graduation from the MSHP Academy I was assigned to the Waynesville/Ft Wood Zone of Troop I in December of 1969. Pulaski County has been my home since then. My career with the Patrol resulted in many commendations and I am one of a very small group of Troopers who have been awarded the Medal of Valor by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. I retired as the local zone sergeant in June of 2001. Shortly after retiring I became a reserve officer for the Waynesville City Police.



In 2004, I ran for the elected office of Sheriff of Pulaski County. (Be careful what you run for you may be elected.) I won the first race and I was reelected for a second four year term in 2008. The eight years I spent as Sheriff of Pulaski County presented me with more challenges and difficulty than I had ever faced before. I like to think I did a good job in office especially in view of the problems I faced. I retired as Sheriff on 12-31-2012. The following week I became a deputy serving under our new sheriff. I am currently assigned to the detective division as

a reserve (read no pay) officer who specializes in cases of financial exploitation against older adults. In 2016, I will start my 46th year in active law enforcement.

I am married to the former Cheryl Ann Moore of Dixon, Missouri and I have one son Taylor. I am a past president of the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation. I have written two books about the American civil war in Missouri. These books are *The Tilley Treasure* and *Justice*. They both contain material on Pulaski County history. I am generally regarded as one of the best experts on Pulaski County history and have written many newspaper articles on local history along with other special Missouri based publications.

At present I am considering a third book and am struggling to understand the world of online book publishing and online sales efforts. I now have some time to continue my lifelong interest with the events of World War II and other military history in general.





# BOONE, A MILITARY WORKING DOG, RETIRES

*By Pat McGrath Avery*

“You might be interested in this story,” Laura Huffman messaged me in early October. I met Laura, from Pulaski County (MO) Tourism, last summer. She collects historical facts and information like I collect beautiful shells on the beach - and prizes them just as much.

“Molli Oliver stopped by the Visitors Center today with Boone,” the message read.

“She is delivering Boone, a soldier IED-trained dog, to be reunited with his first handler, Marine Sgt. Andrew Mulherron, who will return from his deployment later this month.”

I contacted Molli and she graciously consented to an interview.

A flight attendant with United Airlines, Molli seems to possess endless energy and commitment to her goals. For years, she has been involved with rescuing Labrador Retrievers.

In 2015, she acquired one more hat – that of military working dog rescuer.

A new law requires that military working dogs be returned to US soil when they retire. This is important to the veterans who need them as well as to the dogs. While the new policy is a step forward, there is still no government provision for actually reuniting the dogs with their handlers. Private organizations have stepped forward to fill the void.

“There is a disconnect between what the public knows and what the government does,” Molli Oliver explained. “How do we do this? What if a handler is deployed?”

Molli met Andrew Mulherron on a military transport flight in Europe last year. They struck up a conversation and he told her about Boone, a dog he had been deployed with in Afghanistan.

Although no longer with Boone, Andrew had kept track of him and knew that the dog was nearing retirement. He wanted Boone to live with him, but Andrew was being deployed again and wouldn’t be released until the spring of 2016.

“I’ll help you,” Molli offered. From that moment, Boone and Andrew occupied her mind.

Andrew and Boone had served their first tours together in 2010. Staff Sgt. Boone was an IED dog. Then separately, Boone served another tour and Andrew three more. Boone was currently stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood.

During the summer, Molli visited the military dog unit and made plans to get Boone home to Andrew’s parents after his retirement. Before she left, the kennel master told her about Gordo, another dog that needed to be reunited with his handler, Seth Rodenberger. Molli said she could arrange that reunion also and flew with Gordo to his new home in California.

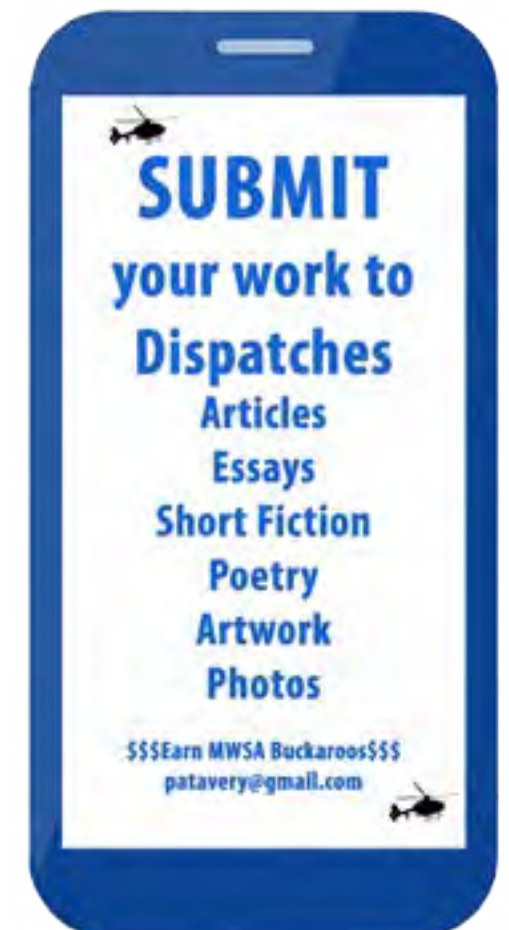
She made it happen again. In October, Boone retired and she picked him up, took him to St. Louis and flew him to California. Andrew’s parents met her and gave Boone a home until Andrew finishes his service commitment.

Andrew came home from his fourth deployment and Molli had arranged a special event to reunite him with Boone. The emotional reunion was the beginning of their life together.

Molli wants to continue her work with military dogs and has set up a non-profit corporation, Mums Dogs, to help with her work. She has recently facilitated the cross-country transport of more than forty rescue dogs. Her goal is to reunite MWDs (military working dogs) with their handlers and to give rescue dogs happy forever homes.

The American Humane Association estimates each military dog saves the lives of up to 200 servicemen and women by detecting IEDs and hidden weapons caches. It is fitting that Molli Oliver and other organizations assist in providing them with a happy retirement.

For more information on Molli’s work, check out her Facebook page at Molli Oliver. She invites writers to contact her at Molli@mumsdog.org. Her website is under construction.





# TWO STARS

BY ELLE THORNTON

He had two loves: the Marine Corps and his wife. A graceful man who drank too much Scotch, he read Shakespeare, the old King James Bible, and smoked too many unfiltered cigarettes. In his official photo, single stars shine on either shoulder above the dark globe with eagle and anchor fixed to his lapel. His hair is shorn above the ears. His face is etched by World War II, Korea, his commands, family cares. His eyes—blue washed with gray—look out of the photo at things he would not want others to see. The stack of official documents covering a thirty year career tell a story in bureaucratic language, in outline: of duty assignments, medical conditions (hearing in his left ear was imperfect, and at one time he was underweight), medals, and an undisclosed “unfavorable matter” when he was still in his twenties. Whatever it was, his misdeed was not enough to prevent him from rising through the ranks, a career that took off when he graduated from the Naval Academy and signed up with the Marines: “You are hereby detailed to duty” as a Student Naval Aviator. The year was 1929.

It is hard to imagine this now, but in the 1930s radar was not in use, and so the pilots who made the first night landings aboard aircraft carriers were especially daring. He flew with Scouting Squadron 15M aboard the USS Lexington. On pitch black nights when there was no horizon, a

destroyer was positioned in front of the Lexington, with another destroyer positioned astern. The ship lights were used as a guide. One night in thick fog off San Diego, plane 1586 went down. He spent the night clinging to wreckage until he was pulled from the cold sea the next day.

In 1941 before the United States entered World War II, he was sent as a Naval attaché to London and Cairo where he studied the powerful secrets of the Royal Air Force’s fighter direction techniques and equipment: the secret of their precision was radar. With a master’s in radio engineering from UC Berkeley, he was the right marine to champion the use of radar and to organize and develop Marine aviation’s Night Fighter and Air Warning squadrons. During the early years of the war, “Colonel Dyer personally sponsored and advocated the development of the Air Warning and Night Fighter programs. His untiring efforts in closely observing the methods used . . . [in] this new phase in aviation, and his judicious dissemination of this highly technical information, made it possible for him to organize, equip, and establish training standards for all Night Fighter and Air Warning squadrons of Marine Aviation.” (Citation from James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy). He received a Bronze Star for his work.

Among the first Marines to train as a helicopter pilot, he called for their use by the Marines despite naysayers: it was said that helicopters were unstable and unreliable, machines without a future, a waste of money that would detract from fixed-wing budgets. Despite opposition from many fronts, he organized, developed and commanded the first Marine helicopter squadron from 1947 to 1949, known as HMX-1 (for Helicopter Marine Experimental and “1” for the first). A delegation of visiting Congressman was suitably impressed when in May of 1949 Marine pilots under his leadership flew HO3S-1 Sikorsky helicopters off the USS Palau to the North Carolina coast and Camp Lejeune, demonstrating how helicopters could be used in an amphibious attack. “Your professional interest, originality and initiative resulted in an impressive and convincing demonstration, not only of the importance of helicopters in an amphibious attack, but of the fact that the Marine Corps is giving continuous attention to the further development of tactics and techniques of amphibious operation.” (Memo from Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., commandant of the Marine Corps Schools).

In Korea with the First Marine Aircraft Wing, he directed close air support for the 10th Army Corps during Inchon-Seoul and Wonsan operations. He was operations officer with the First Marine Aircraft Wing in North Korea when Chinese Communist Forces poured across the border into North Korea and attacked our troops at the Chosin Reservoir. He was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Korean Service Medal with four Bronze Stars for his service during the North Korean and CCF aggression.

His career ended in 1959 when he was passed over for promotion to the two-star rank of major general. He died in January of 1975 at the age of 68.

Mental illness is a cruel affliction for its victims and a heavy burden for their families and friends. In the 1950s, no one spoke of mental illness in the civilian world much less the closed hard world of the professional military. The unspoken attitude was this: A man who is unable to control an unstable wife is unfit to command other men.

She was square-shouldered and sassy, her mouth bright red, her eyes sharp blue, a classic beauty with 1940s movie-star looks. When he took her on fishing trips or picnics to the beach, she became a blushing schoolgirl in tennis shoes and shorts, her dark curly hair tied back with a kerchief.

She glittered at cocktail and dinner parties, beautiful in gowns and jewels, and desperately ill with nowhere to turn and no relief from her torment for too many years. Toward the end of her life she was diagnosed with bi-polar disorder and given lithium to stabilize her wild moods.

He knew very well how to fight visible enemies but not invisible ones like those that besieged his wife. She was a lost soul, able to hold it together until a fixed look came over her and she mocked him and lashed out.

Her swings in behavior worsened over time. Through his wife’s repeated hospitalizations, electro-shock treatments, and humiliating public displays, he stayed with her and kept his family together. After work, he came home to hellish scenes that spun on well past midnight night after night. When he knew he was dying, he made sure the woman he loved would be well cared for to the end of her days.

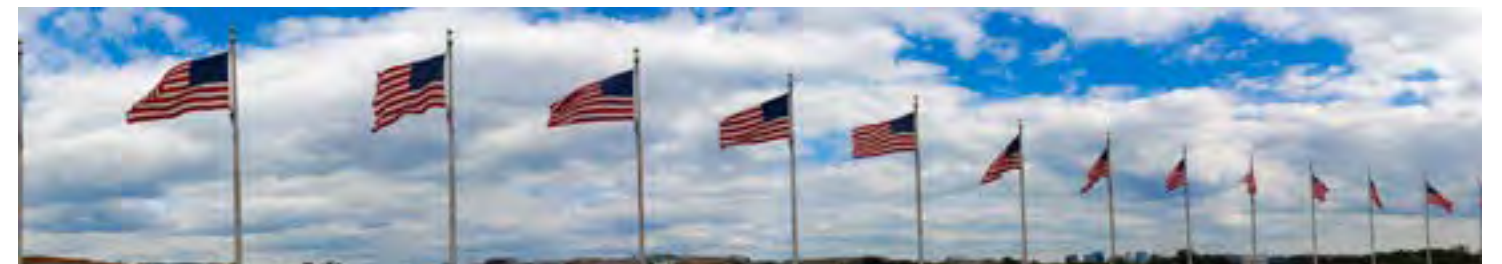
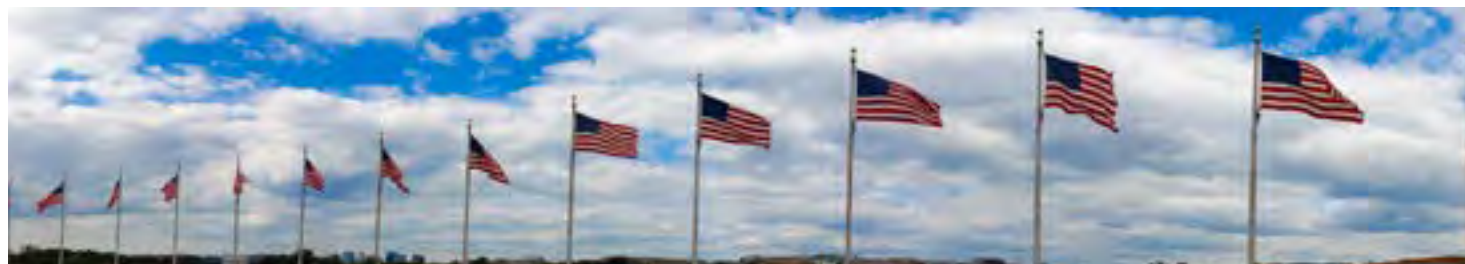
They are buried side-by-side in Arlington National Cemetery.

I like thinking of them as flying together high in a clear blue sky, free of the pain, the suffering in their lives here on earth. I like to think of them en route to Hawaii for a fishing trip, for picnics on the beach, and splashing in the waves. They are flying and laughing, and they are holding hands. I see them turn to one another with radiant, loving faces.

In my mind they are stars for one another now.

And forever.

Ellen Thornton is the daughter of the late B. Gen. Edward C. Dyer, USMC, and Frances H. Dyer.





# WITH THE UTMOST COURAGE AND DETERMINATION

*Jenny LaSala*

Edwin Anthony DuBose III was my Dad and Hero.

He served in WWII and Korea. In WW2 he was a Lieutenant in a squadron of PT Boats. He received the Navy Cross for his service there. He was also awarded the Silver Star and took great pride in his service. You can view his awards by visiting <http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php>

Dad received the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession while serving as Commander of a Division of Motor Torpedo Boats, engaged in operation against enemy coastal traffic off the West Coast of Italy in March and April 1944. In cooperation with British Coastal Forces, he led his units on several night missions against enemy convoys attempting to maintain supply lines to Axis armies in the Rome, Italy area. He skillfully and with the utmost courage and determination disposed of his forces on these operations to seek out the enemy and screen the main attack group from destroyer and E-boat attack.



The first picture is of Dad and was taken by a LIFE Magazine photographer in Bastia Corsica, Italy. Here is also a picture of a WWII PT Boat. The group photo shows some of the

men from his crew and another with Douglas MacArthur on his boat. There are many stories to share. He liberated the very first part of Italy in WWII, The Lipari Islands. He did it without firing a shot! He put a white flag on his PT boat and sailed into the harbor. He told the officer in charge to get the women and children out of town, because a battleship was just off the coast and it was going to begin firing at the town. The commander surrendered! There was no battleship. It was a “bluff!”

There was another time when he went out one day to rescue a downed fighter pilot who had parachuted into the sea. He found him. It was his college roommate!

Dad passed away in 2003. I wish that I had learned more from him about his service. But like many from that generation, he didn't like to talk about it. My sister and I are planning a short book on what would be his 100th Birthday. After the war, my father went on to become a successful businessman at 3M, which is what brought us to Minnesota. He loved his family more than anything. He was one of the most generous and kind people I have ever known.

I still miss him to this day.

~ Ed DuBose

This is one of hundreds of Veteran's stories collected and featured by Jenny La Sala on her Veteran tribute page, Comes A Soldier's Whisper <https://www.facebook.com/ComesASoldiersWhisper/>

Jenny is proud to be a part of the editing team of National Geographic's publication, Veteran's Voices: Remarkable Stories of Heroism, Sacrifice, and Honor due in May 2016. You can also see Jenny's other work by visiting [www.JennyLasala.com](http://www.JennyLasala.com)

# MWSA PROGRAMMING NEWS

In the fall of 2015, President Dwight Zimmerman asked for more member participation activities with a wider range of options. So Programming Chair Joyce Faulkner established a team to focus on local, regional, and national events — and more virtual activities like radio interviews and podcasts.

The first order of business was to design a standardized way to plan MWSA activities so that they can be easily evaluated, priced, and approved. Three person teams will now plan and manage retreats, seminars, radio shows, podcasts, banquets, conferences, workshops, and tours. We will try to mix experienced planners with those who haven't ever planned events in the past.

We have some activities that can be performed around the country and at different times like Jack Woodville London's "Writing Your Story" class which is designed for beginning and intermediate writers. If you are interested in such a class coming to your area or to your VA, contact us at [MWSAPresident@gmail.com](mailto:MWSAPresident@gmail.com)

We want to provide programming for advanced working authors and for folks who are contemplating their first book now. We want activities for specific genres — history, memoir, fiction, and children's books, for example. We want opportunities for folks who are willing to travel and seminars in local areas for those who have limited budgets or health issues. We want online forums and teleconferences which are informative and respectful of the time constraints of members. And finally, we want both affordable workshops and more upscale retreats.

To do all of this, we need volunteers to help plan and manage these programs. Even if you are nervous about planning and managing an event, you will be part of a three-person team where we try to combine experience and new ideas so that you will be supported in your first efforts. If you are interested, contact us at [MWSAPresident@gmail.com](mailto:MWSAPresident@gmail.com).

Our goal for 2016 is to have two regional events — a writers' retreat in Gettysburg PA in May of 2016. Here is the link to the electronic brochure where you can find details. <https://slate.adobe.com/cp/kYB90/>

We have already filled up the Battlefield B&B and all but two rooms in a second B&B, the Lightner. This event is aimed at working authors, photographers, bloggers, historians, and educators. It will be especially interesting for those of you who are exploring your ancestry and who might have an ancestor who fought at Gettysburg.

The event is designed for a maximum of thirty participants and we will encourage small group discussions and visits to places of interest in the area. The fee includes a two-night stay in one of two historic bed and breakfasts, two pre-breakfast lectures, two sit-down breakfasts served in period dress at the Battlefield B&B, a talk by Dale Fetzer — historian and battle adviser for the 1993 movie, Gettysburg, a talk called "The Two First Ladies" by historical clothing expert Maggie Abbot, a talk about Dwight D. Eisenhower's World War I activities in Gettysburg by licensed expert Judge Gerald Eak. There will be two or more tours, talks/discussions with experts on the battle and the town, period clothing displays, hands on research, ghost stories, and opportunities for meditation at various locations in the area. There will even be an opportunity to shoot an antique musket. Participants are encouraged to make the experience their own and to come to Gettysburg with a goal in mind.

A second event planned for 2016 is the Pulaski Country History Crawl. It is also location focused and offers a variety of tracks — Route 66, the Cherokee Trail of Tears, Fort Leonard Wood Museums, The Stagecoach Inn, Crime fighting, and most interesting for those who participated in the Gettysburg Retreat, the other side of the Civil War — the Border Wars in Missouri and Kansas. This event is exciting because there is so much to see and learn. Also, this event was designed with an eye for those looking for a less expensive experience. The fee includes two nights stay at area hotels, tours, lectures, and a dinner.

After both of the 2016 events, there will be opportunities to publish articles, short stories, poems, photos or other short pieces in either the MWSA Anthology for 2016 or here in *Dispatches*.



# TREASURE HUNTING AT THE COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

Pat McGrath Avery

How do you pique a writer’s interest? Tom Santos, the Rio Grande Valley Wing Commander of the Commemorative Air Force knew the answer to that question.

“I really need someone to go through all the old files with me,” Tom paused a second. “You can have access to anything we discover.”

He held out a letter signed by Franklin Roosevelt. “This came from the files. Some of our members want to throw everything out and save space.”

ing and enjoying old letters and articles. We found photos of Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart landing at the Brownsville Airport on their mail routes to and from Mexico, where the Rio Grande Valley Wing is now located. I held letters signed by Jimmy Doolittle, Chuck Yeager and Neil Armstrong. I saw a culture change within the 50-plus years of the organization. The role of women changed. For years the organization remained a good old boys club but membership is now open to anyone interested in aircraft history.



Well, Tom reeled me in hook, line and sinker. Together we spent a couple of months in the winter of 2015 perusing, cleaning out, discard-

The Commemorative Air Force started in 1957 when Lloyd Nolen and a group of south Texas ex-service pilots bought a P-51 Mustang. They formed an organization and pooled their money to buy and maintain the plane. As they searched for a second plane, they defined their goal of collecting one of every aircraft used in WWII. The group realized that preservation of aircraft was low on the list of priorities for the military. In 1961, they established the Confederate Air Force nonprofit corporation to fill that need.



For years, the CAF headquartered in the Texas Rio Grande Valley, first in Mercedes and then in Harlingen. Since then, the CAF has grown into one of the world’s largest air forces with

members around the globe. In 2002, the organization changed its name to Commemorative Air Force. When the headquarters moved to Midland, Texas, packers left many old and dusty files behind. These became the property of the Rio Grande Valley Wing and for years, Shirley Maxwell preserved correspondence and collected news clippings.



Those old file cabinets now contain a “Who’s Who” of names all history lovers recognize.

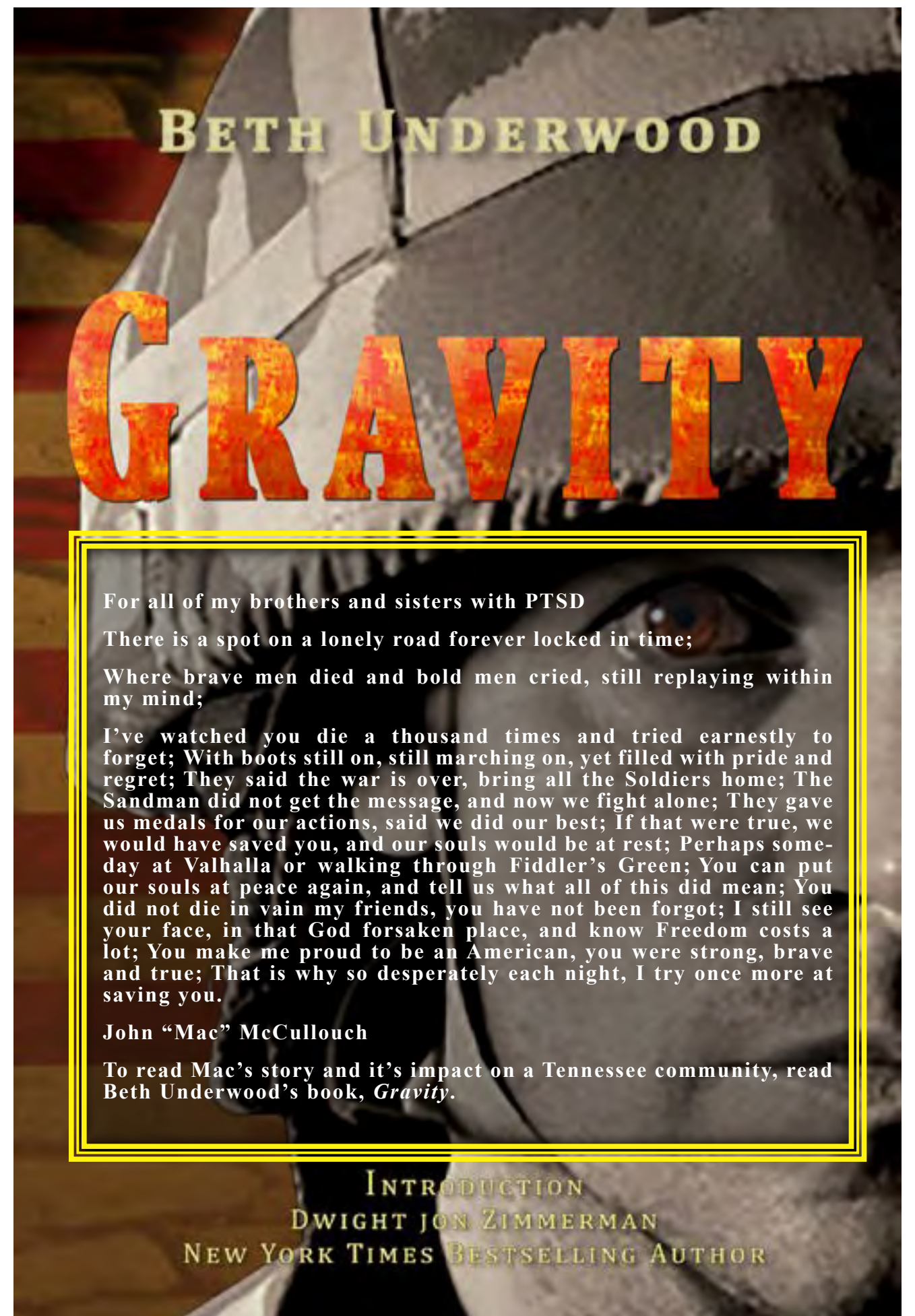


Most of what I found was in early-to-mid stages of decay but that made it all the more poignant. Names like Jimmy Doolittle, John Wayne, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Chuck Yeager, Joe Engle, Alan Shepard and Neil Armstrong popped up time after time. Photos and information about different aircraft were thrown in the same folders as historic planes for sale and donation receipts.





Over the years, the CAF morphed from old Southern hospitality to modern society but has kept its original mission of preserving history. The Rio Grand Valley Wing, and most wings, share much of the organization's history in their museums.



For all of my brothers and sisters with PTSD

There is a spot on a lonely road forever locked in time;

Where brave men died and bold men cried, still replaying within my mind;

I've watched you die a thousand times and tried earnestly to forget; With boots still on, still marching on, yet filled with pride and regret; They said the war is over, bring all the Soldiers home; The Sandman did not get the message, and now we fight alone; They gave us medals for our actions, said we did our best; If that were true, we would have saved you, and our souls would be at rest; Perhaps someday at Valhalla or walking through Fiddler's Green; You can put our souls at peace again, and tell us what all of this did mean; You did not die in vain my friends, you have not been forgot; I still see your face, in that God forsaken place, and know Freedom costs a lot; You make me proud to be an American, you were strong, brave and true; That is why so desperately each night, I try once more at saving you.

John "Mac" McCullough

To read Mac's story and it's impact on a Tennessee community, read Beth Underwood's book, *Gravity*.

INTRODUCTION  
DWIGHT JON ZIMMERMAN  
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR



# The Art of the Cliché

Joyce Faulkner

A cliché or cliché (/ˈkliːʃeɪ/ or /ˈkliːʃeɪ/) is an expression, idea, or element of an artistic work which has become overused to the point of losing its original meaning or effect, even to the point of being trite or irritating, especially when at some earlier time it was considered meaningful or novel.

In high school, we were taught that clichés were the super villains of the writing world. I remember red slashes through whole sections of my papers with “hackneyed” scribbled in the margins. Then in college, I got into philosopher authors who warned about the dangers of “thought terminating clichés” which are commonly defined as folk wisdom used to quell further questions. Essentially we become so used to hearing these sayings that we accept them as absolute and as a result, they stop further conversation. For example, “Why? Because I say so,” which was my parents’ favorite, or the currently popular “Whatever!”

Dr. Robert Jay Lipton was a post World War II and Korean War author who studied the psychological causes of war. He explored how clichés/propaganda contributed to mindsets that made war crimes like the Holocaust and the mistreatment of Korean War POWs possible. In the mid-80s, I read his book, *The Nazi Doctors: Medical Killing and the Psychology of Genocide*, and it reinforced something we boomers learned from parents who were terrified of potential communist threats — it was possible to be brainwashed. Now my folks had visualized me being brainwashed by a teenaged sven-gali who would lead me into the biggest cliché of all — drugs sex, and rock and roll.

However, boosted by the enthusiasm of youth, I became fascinated with the whole concept of brainwashing when I learned about Goebbels’ Principles of Propaganda in the late 1960s. They were so devious and so obvious — and so successful.

First, like any kid, I had to know whether I was responding to facts or something else. Ultimately, I accepted the darkest premise and

went to war with stereotypes in general — re-examining every folk wisdom I’d previously accepted without question and challenging anything that I couldn’t prove.

This mania extended to writing — and I spent a big part of my edit time throwing out any word or phrase that might be labeled “overused” or “trite.”

That is the challenge in discussing cultural reactions to technique with earnest new writers. They always over react. Perhaps that is part of the learning process — labels become rules and rules define right and wrong — and no one wants to be wrong. For example, when asked to speak to new writers, I often say, “The semi-colon is a symptom. When you find you need one, it could be that your sentence is too long.” And inevitably, some one will raise his hand to ask, “So we should never use a semi-colon?”

So, back to the cliché, should one NEVER use them? Well, the point of being a writer is to show readers new perspectives. To offer them fresh ideas bundled in old sayings seems like punting to some. For example, in-depth conversation can be a challenge these days with many resorting to bumper sticker speak. “Guns don’t kill people, people kill people” or “Home of the Free Because of the Brave” are big important topics. But these seven and eight word memes have been around a long time. By themselves, they have lost their power to teach or change minds. They are position statements now. People use them to express their passion for the subject — but like thought terminating clichés, they often kill conversation rather than eliciting it. Over time and with over use, these clever ‘turns of phrase’ evolved into slogans that divide people into those who agree and those who don’t. At that point, what’s to talk about?

An author works together with her readers. Certain language soothes. Language-created imageries can engage and enrage. Some stories make us feel romantic and others make us sad.

Understanding all of that allows a writer to use clichés with discretion. Here are several ways they can enhance your work.

They could be used in dialogue to develop character. Might not two people initially express

their differences with didactic proclamations — and then over the course of a book or short story — grow enough to start exchanging ideas in a more sophisticated manner?

Real people think inside their cultural frames of reference and dialogue that doesn’t include some folksy slang might not seem authentic.

Symbolism is based on shared history and shared realities. Aristophanes’ *Lysistrada* is funny not because we all have Greek ancestry but because the battle of the sexes transcends country and culture — and that tension is filled with cliché. Women withholding sexual favors in order to get men to do or not do something makes people laugh around the world.

There are certain characterizations that have become ubiquitous. Can you imagine a cowboy who is not lonesome? Or a prostitute who isn’t kindhearted? Are there really cops who don’t like donuts? Creating characters who go against the stereotype can be both fun to do and read. Indiana Jones got a lot of mileage out of being an archeology professor who goes on wild adventures. For good measure, Indy the growling, whip-cracking hero is afraid of snakes.

My mother used to say that an expression becomes a cliché because people view it as statement of truth. I already believe that beauty is defined by societal norms. So when I hear, “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” it sounds right — and I use it again and again. It becomes a verbal short cut for a much more complex concept. Might not I use the cliché and its underlying meanings as the theme of a book? Fables and cartoons do that blatantly — what else are works like *The Wizard of Oz* and *Cinderella* but stories illustrating “There’s no place like home” and “Some day my prince will come?”

What about humor?

Comedians like Mark Twain, Rodney Dangerfield, Erma Bombeck and Lily Tomlin, use clichés if only to make fun of them.

“Age is a matter of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.” Mark Twain

“My dog’s favorite bone is in my arm.” Rodney Dangerfield

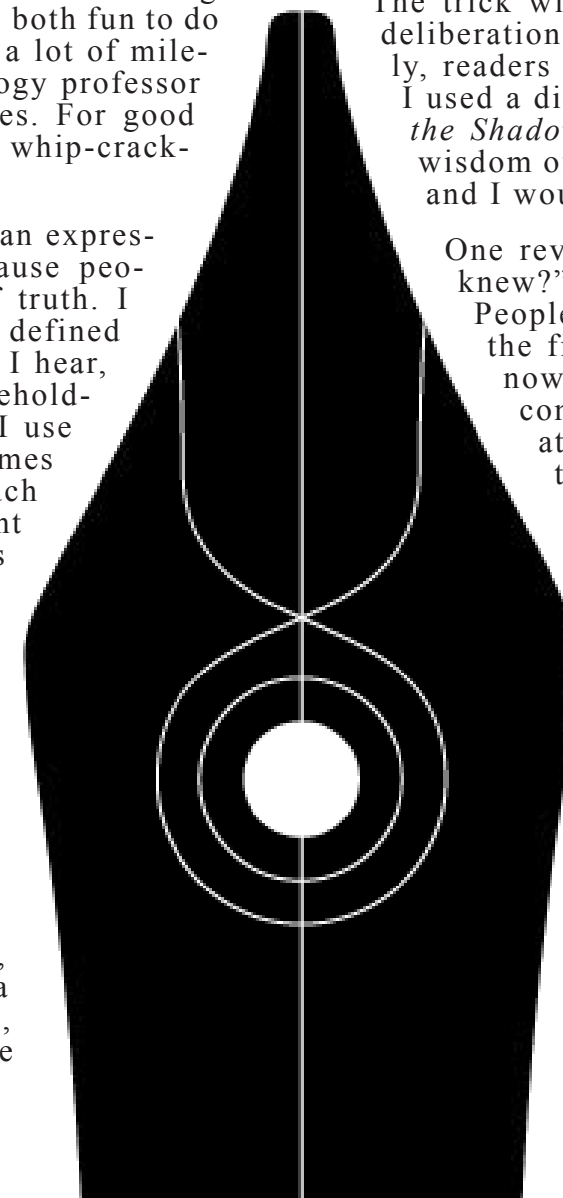
“Seize the moment. Remember all of those women on the Titanic who waved off the dessert cart?” Erma Bombeck

“The trouble with being in the rat race is that even if you win, you are still a rat.” Lily Tomlin

The trick with clichés is to use them with deliberation. When they show up willy-nilly, readers will snort and reviewers snarl. I used a direct quote from my father in *In the Shadow of Suribachi*. I pondered the wisdom of it, but decided it was his story and I would tell it his way.

One reviewer said, “War is hell? Who knew?” And of course, she was right. People have been comparing war to the fiery pit for several generations now. In retrospect, should I have conjured up something more creative — say, “War is like a giant tea party gone mad?”

Naw, given that it was in dialogue — and given it was repeated often by the participants of that war and by just about every Marine who fought on Iwo Jima that I interviewed, I think my father’s character would have used the cliché — at that moment, nothing more sophisticated would have come to his mind.





# Highest Scoring Book of the Winter Quarter - 2015-2016

## I'd Walk with My Friends if I Could Find Them

by Jesse Goolsby

*Literary Fiction*

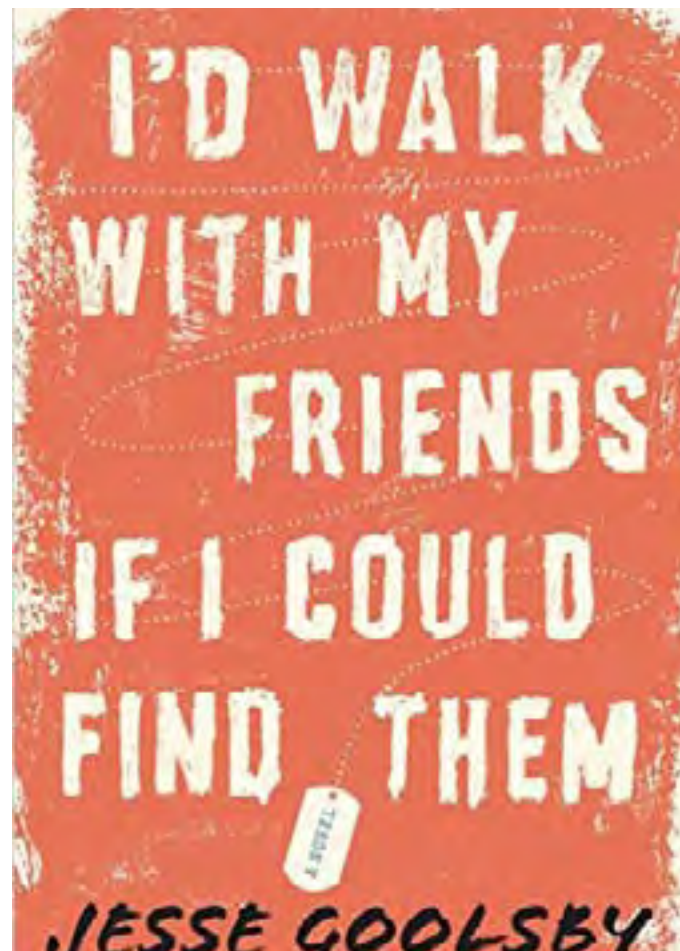
### REVIEW:

Three soldiers are brought together by the war in Afghanistan, and after one fateful event, none can erase it from memory. Wintric, Dax, and Torres struggle to return to normalcy in the country for which they fought.

In his novel, *I'd Walk With My Friends If I Could Find Them*, Jesse Goolsby depicts the lives of three men fighting personal demons after their return from war. Goolsby pens flawed, loathsome, and lovable characters who burrow their essence into the reader's mind, and become more real than neighbors. His story spans decades, weaving through time and place, and comes out on the other end as a satisfying read; one which haunts far after the last page is turned. Even now, I find myself wondering about the characters, wishing for their peace, and missing them.

*I'd Walk With My Friends If I Could Find Them* is a heart-wrenching narrative of revenge, redemption, and release. The tale is all too real and relatable by generations of soldiers who've returned from the battlefield, and their families who witness the battles still raging within. I enjoyed this book, title and all. I found it to be one of the best of its kind. I look forward to reading Jesse Goolsby's next book.

Sandra Miller Linhart



## MWSA Recommended Reading List Winter 2015-16

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 book reviews, we've selected the following as our 2015-16 Winter Recommended Reading List:

*Her Own Vietnam* by Lynn Kanter

*Klinger* by Betsy Beard

*The Man Called Brown Condor* by Thomas Simmons

*Into the Land of Darkness: A Bombardier-Navigator's Story* by Arthur Haarmeyer

*No One Else to Kill* by Bob Doerr

*Eyes Over the Delta* by Hank Collins

*Fields of War: Battle of Normandy* by Robert Mueller

*Windshift* by Joyce Faulkner

*All Gave Some : MWSA 2014 Anthology*

*Da Nang Diary* by Tom Yarborough

*Murder is for the Birds* by Pat McGrath Avery

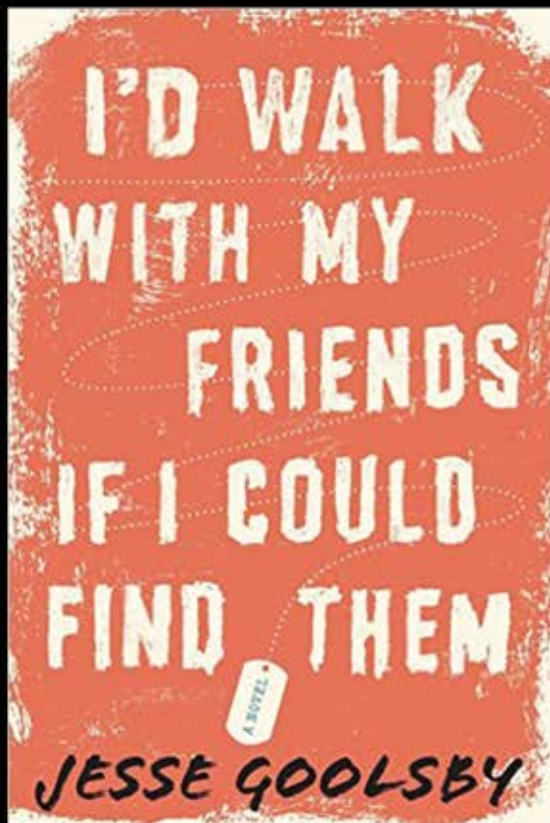
*Uncommon Valor* by Dwight Zimmerman

I don't know about where you are, but here it's starting to get cold, real cold. Staying in the house and trying to avoid chores are two of my major goals right now. I'm putting off trying to lose weight until it gets a little warmer. I do some productive things around the house, despite what my wife claims. I also read – I enjoy reading and hopefully you do, too. Entertain yourself today with a book you haven't read before. That's right. Settle back with your Kindle, Nook, iPad, or an old fashioned book. 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](http://www.mwsadispatches.com).

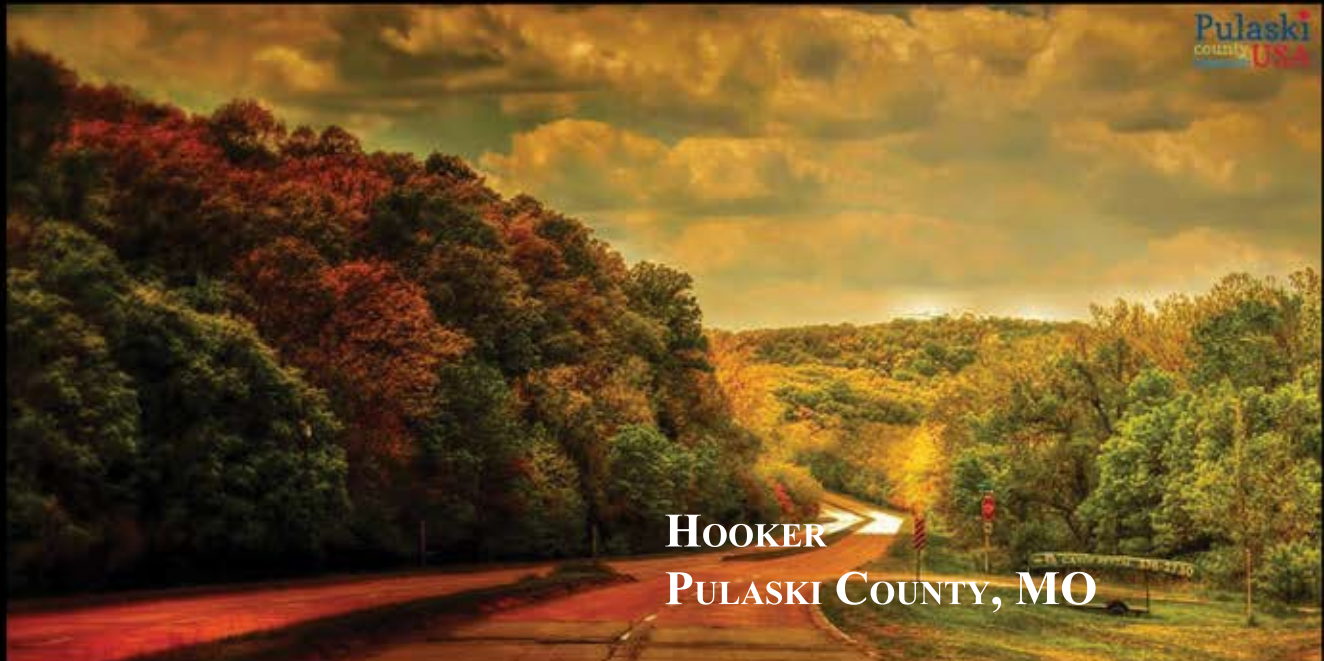








**I'D WALK WITH MY FRIENDS IF I COULD  
FIND THEM**  
**BY JESSE GOOLSBY**  
**HIGHEST TOTAL SCORE**  
**HIGHEST TECHNICAL SCORE**  
**OF ALL BOOKS REVIEWED IN FALL OF 2015**



**HOOKER**  
**PULASKI COUNTY, MO**

