

THE EPOCH TIMES

LIFE &

TRADITION

COURTESY OF HERO'S BRIDGE



The Virginia-based organization Hero's Bridge, which was founded in 2016, is keen on recognizing veterans for their service, then and now. Above, Vietnam veteran Ed DeNeale poses for his Honor Guard photo.

Hero's Bridge Connects Elderly Veterans With Care

For Molly Brooks, making sure older veterans are looked after is personal

Molly Brooks, CEO and founder of Hero's Bridge, shares her story during an interview held at the Deja Brew coffee house in Warrenton, Va. The non-profit organization celebrates its five-year anniversary this year.



ANITA SHERMAN

TIMELESS WISDOM

Why the Founders Said You Should Study History

JOSHUA CHARLES

If there is anything the Founders constantly repeated, certainly one of the most important was the importance of studying history. After all, humanity has been around a lot longer than any of our lifetimes. Our species has thousands of years of ex-

perience under its belt. It stands to reason there's a lot of wisdom to be learned by studying it. That's what our Founders did, and it's why they insisted that future generations must do the same in order to preserve our institutions.

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ANITA L. SHERMAN

Molly Brooks wasn't at her father's side when he died in 2016.

It's a memory that continues to haunt her.

A 23-year career military retiree and Vietnam veteran, Raymond Gustin USMC, MSgt, suffered from the effects of Agent Orange exposure. He was 71 when he went to sleep for the last time in one of his favorite recliners.

"I never got to say goodbye ... I never got to thank him for his service to this country, his dedication, how much it meant to me," she said during a recent interview.

That same year, Brooks launched Hero's Bridge, a nonprofit organization specializing in providing services to elderly veterans, particularly those who are at higher risk for experiencing various diseases and disorders as a result of their service.

This year marks their five-year anniversary and Brooks remains energized and more motivated than ever to continue her mission.

"Five years ago, I decided to do something about all the older veterans struggling in so many ways," said Brooks, who remains forever grateful for those who have shared her vision.

"There is finality in everything we do at Hero's Bridge. We know that we are serving these veterans in their final moments. In some cases, even their twilight years have passed and they are simply waiting to pass away."

In a newsletter recently released by the organization, Brooks explained how Hero's Bridge is designed to ensure other veterans have someone there for them as they near death.

"It isn't easy to accept. In the five years since Hero's Bridge was formed, we have said goodbye to many veterans. Some we knew well, while with others we were just at the beginning of our relationship."

Reaching Veterans

Hero's Bridge has six defining programs.

The Battle Buddy program is at the heart of their efforts. Who better to understand the needs of a veteran than another veteran? Trained in the rapidly growing

community health worker philosophy, younger veterans are paired with older ones to provide direct in-home services.

Brooks, a registered nurse with many years of experience in hospice care under her belt, is particularly focused on the needs of the elderly.

"Maybe it's not always another test, another pill ... that's needed to ease their suffering," she said.

In the Battle Buddy Program, a thorough quality of life assessment is performed and a customized frequency of visits is established. Referrals can be made to other Veteran Affairs (VA) benefits, other programs of Hero's Bridge, or community partners to "bridge" that veteran to a healthier and happier life. Perhaps it's helping find a new refrigerator to replace a broken one, shopping for groceries, or finding a shower chair.

Hero's Bridge is anchored in Warrenton, Virginia, an area in the Piedmont region of the state noted for its lush, rural rolling countryside. Volunteers are eager to take veterans to experience the ambiance of local farms. During 2020, 260 annual visits were made by Battle Buddy staff.

Sadly, many aging veterans returned home with little or no gratitude for their service, particularly those who served in Vietnam—a war that was so vehemently opposed. The Honor Guard program provides many services, such as replacing lost medals and creating shadow boxes, finding lost comrades, recording life stories, or hosting veteran socials. Whenever possible, Hero's Bridge involves the community's youth, particularly scouting organizations to assist in these activities.

"We want to bring joy into their lives," Brooks said. "We live in one of the wealthiest counties in the country ... no senior should be living in substandard conditions."

During 2020, Hero's Bridge performed 44 interventions as part of their Home Front program, assisting with housing payments, home repairs, utility assistance, and lawn maintenance. Homes that veterans live in may have served them well years ago, but now need grab bars or wheelchair ramps as they age.

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Break Out the Red, White, and Blue: June 14th Is Right Around the Corner

JEFF MINICK

June 14 is a national holiday. Neither the banks nor the federal government will close their doors on this day. The post office will deliver the mail, and the stock market will do business. Though this year the holiday falls on a Monday, the event won't bring a long weekend. There will be some parades and speeches, but no fireworks and likely no network news coverage of the day's activities. Though the official commemoration of this day is more than a century old, Americans may fail to recognize the significance of the date or remember to honor the occasion.

Years ago, comedian Rodney Dangerfield's signature line was: "I don't get no respect."

The same might be said for June 14, otherwise designated as Flag Day.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson officially proclaimed June 14 as Flag Day. In 1949, during the Truman presidency, Congress established National Flag Day, keeping the same date. Although not an official federal holiday, Americans have long celebrated Flag Day as a special occasion to honor the American flag.

So what's the significance of June 14? Why pick that particular date to honor the flag?

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress resolved that "the flag of the United States shall be 13 stripes, alternate red and white" and that "the Union be 13 stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation."

June 14 marks the birth of the flag of the United States of America.

Some Background and Stories

In her online article "What Is Flag Day?" Jennie Cohen gives us a brief history and some facts about this special day. Like so many of our national holidays, Flag Day grew from a grassroots movement first launched in 1885 by a Wisconsin teacher and dentist, Bernard Cigrand, who promoted respect for the Red, White, and Blue for the rest of his life.

From Cohen, we also learn some bits and pieces about the Flag Code—the flag should never be allowed to touch the ground, for instance, "meaning that rugs and carpets featuring the Stars and Stripes are barred by

We might also look at that flag as a promise, a symbol of liberty and progress, a map of our struggles to find and follow the path of righteousness.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of home-schooling students in Asheville, N.C. He is the author of two novels, "Amanda Bell" and "Dust On Their Wings," and two works of non-fiction, "Learning As I Go" and "Movies Make The Man." Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Virginia. See JeffMinick.com to follow his blog.



Flags on display at the 2020 Orange Field of Valor, in Handy Park in Orange, Calif., on Nov. 9, 2020.

the Flag Code," and that a worn flag should be destroyed, preferably by burning. Cohen also reminds us that though we give credit to Betsy Ross for sewing the first official American flag, historians still debate that claim.

One fascinating story Cohen shares regarding the design of Old Glory has to do with the addition of two new stars to the flag in 1959. Cohen introduces us to a high school student from Ohio named Bob Heft, who, for a school project, designed a flag with 50 stars, celebrating the entry of Alaska and Hawaii into the country. He submitted it to his history teacher, who gave the student a B- for the project. Heft also sent his project to his congressman, who in turn presented it to President Dwight Eisenhower. The federal government accepted Heft's design, and he eventually found himself standing alongside the president when the new flag was first raised. As Cohen tells us, Heft's teacher changed his grade to an "A."

Pledging Allegiance

Many of us have recited the Pledge of Allegiance in school or with organizations like the Boy Scouts. Just in case you missed memorizing this pledge—and since we're taking a look at Flag Day—here's the pledge in full:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Let's take a quick look at a couple of points in this single sentence.

First, we should note that we're first promising our loyalty to a flag—not to a government or a leader—and to the republic that the flag embodies. Dictatorships often create similar vows, but with political parties or despots as the object of the pledge. Our pledge is to a symbol and an ideal.

Next, we may miss the profound impact of "with liberty and justice for all," a simple phrase that sums up the history of our country and its continuous attempts to balance freedom and fair play. To try to ensure for all citizens both liberty and justice involves the ongoing dialectic that is the core of our past and of our present.

The point here is that we make this pledge to our flag and our republic, giving us one more reason to celebrate Flag Day.

Popular Culture

Certainly, we have often celebrated the flag in song and verse.

Like the Pledge of Allegiance, Henry Holcomb Bennett's poem "The Flag Goes By" recognizes that the flag is more than a piece of cloth: "Hats off!/The colors before us fly;/But more than the flag is passing by." At DiscoverPoetry.com, there are 24 similar Flag Day poems, and many more if we search the internet.

Songs have also honored the American flag. After all, our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner," focuses on the flag

flying above Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. The rousing tune and lyrics of George M. Cohan's "You're A Grand Old Flag" reminds us: "You're the emblem of/the land I love/The home of the free and the brave." Singers and songwriters like Dolly Parton, Billy Ray Cyrus, and Charlie Daniels have all produced patriotic songs about the flag. This Flag Day, Johnny Cash's "Ragged Old Flag" should have special meaning for some of us. After the song's narrator recounts a history of the flag and the battlefields over which it has flown, he looks at Old Glory today and finds hope:

"And the government for which she stands
Is scandalized throughout the land
And she's getting threadbare and wearing thin
But she's in good shape for the shape she's in
'Cause she's been through the fire before
And I believe she can take a whole lot more.
So we raise her up every morning
We take her down every night
We don't let her touch the ground
And we fold her up right
On second thought, I do like to brag
'Cause I'm mighty proud of that ragged old flag."

There's More Than Fabric to a Flag

Like the man in Cash's song, if we pause a moment and reflect when we see an American flag, we might find some special mean-

ing in those Stars and Stripes.

We might think of the six American flags our astronauts have deposited on the surface of the moon. We might remember the famous World War II photograph of Marines planting a flag atop Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima. We might remember other warriors who fought and died for our country in desolate spots and on forgotten battlefields.

We might remember Americans like Booker T. Washington, Amelia Earhart, Jonas Salk, the Wright Brothers, and thousands of other celebrated figures who helped build this country. We might also recollect all of those millions of anonymous men and women whose blood and toil now allow the average American to have a better quality of life than the kings and queens who once ruled Europe.

We might also look at that flag as a promise, a symbol of liberty and progress, a map of our struggles to find and follow the path of righteousness, and a constant reminder of the American Dream.

Near the end of his novel "Freddy and Fredericka," Mark Helprin has the British Freddy address an American audience during a political convention. At one point in that speech, he says:

"You seem to have forgotten that your original principles arose in a land that was carpeted with virgin stands of trees, and that the principles by which you lived—immortal and bright, ever-enduring—grew up just as strong and fresh. Return to them. They are waiting for you, as are reserves of honor as vast as the stands of trees that once spread without end."

The flag is our reminder of those principles and reserves of honor.

Time to Unfur the Flag

From my front porch, I can see four of the houses in my neighborhood. Of those homes, two are displaying American flags, with one banner flying from the conventional pole fixed to a column on the front porch and another hung from the wall by the front door.

We Americans like our flags. We fly them from our homes, and from banks, fast-food restaurants, and post offices. Around the country, some guys deck out the beds of their monster-pick-up trucks with American flags, and a good number of folks have formal flag poles in their yard with lighting and well-tended gardens to add to that beauty. Some auto dealers out on I-81 sport flags that look as big as basketball courts.

So by all means, let's show the flag. Let's put out the flag as a sign that "the Republic for which it stands" is still here. And if you're looking for special ways to celebrate this occasion, especially with the young ones, go to HomegrownLearners.com for some tips, or simply Google "ways to celebrate Flag Day." But the best way to honor Old Glory this June 14 is simply to look at her and remember what she means to us.

Hero's Bridge Connects Elderly Veterans With Care

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Working through the system to get help can be a challenging process. That's where the Hero's Bridge Resource Scouts program comes into play. They consist of a team of veteran service officers, social workers, and other concerned individuals who help provide rides, assist with medical bills, groceries, medications, emergency shelter, respite care, and clothing.

During 2020, 632 home-delivered and ready-to-eat meals were arranged through the nonprofit group.

Operation Cupcake

Additionally, Hero's Bridge understands the healing power that animals can provide to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. Whether it's dog walking or pet boarding when a veteran is hospitalized, they're there to help.

When U.S. Army veteran Ray Dodson casually mentioned that he would like to adopt a cat, Operation Cupcake went into action. Dodson's request didn't go unnoticed by the coordinator of the Hero's Bridge Paw Patrol Program, Kayla Johnson, who immediately reached out to the Fauquier County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to let them know Hero's Bridge would like to sponsor an adoption.

It didn't take long for the local SPCA director, Devon Settle, to respond that they would be happy to cover the costs of the adoption.

Within a week, Dodson welcomed Cupcake into his home.

National Reach

One of the latest innovative programs that Hero's Bridge has developed is TeleHero. Particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, this exciting initiative places senior-friendly tablets into the homes of veterans throughout the country. This serves as an easy way to give medication reminders, health tips, educational videos, and most importantly, on-demand video visits that connect that veteran to a Hero's Bridge Battle Buddy.

"We can reach veterans anywhere with these tablets," said Brooks, who looks forward to creating training centers in different parts of the country to help coordinate the expansion of this program.

Hero's Bridge actively serves Virginia's Fauquier, Culpeper, and Rappahannock Counties and takes their programs to where veterans live. With TeleHero, their reach has gone national.

The Biggest and Most Beautiful Bridge

The work of Hero's Bridge has become the focal point of Brooks's life. To that end, while still a registered nurse, Brooks has left her full-time career to devote herself exclusively to the work of Hero's Bridge.

She's done so at a time when the organization is working on its most ambitious plan—the building of a village where no vet will be left behind.

"When my father died, I started to look at elder veterans in a different light," Brooks said. "For some, their experience forgets them. They become leaders in their communities. For others, it weakens them. They're never quite the same. Retirement, illness, the loss of a spouse can send them spiraling."



The planned Hero's Bridge Village will be modeled closely after the Eden Village (above) in Springfield, Mo., a tiny home community serves homeless individuals.



Veteran Bill Hadden (L) and career Air Force Veteran Paul Infeld (R) were presented with shadow boxes housing replaced medals and awards as part of the Hero's Bridge Honor Guard program. Warrenton, Va., Eagle Scout Bryce Brooks (C) took part in the event.

Prior military service, especially in combat, has shown to greatly affect the aging process.

During the past five years, Hero's Bridge has received numerous calls from hospitals, social services, emergency rooms, churches, and other organizations asking for help to assist an elderly veteran. Brooks is outspoken when it comes to serving the elderly community. "They are being fleeced in many instances, charged exorbitant amounts of money," she said.

A video on the Hero's Bridge website tells the heartbreaking stories of veterans living and dying in horrible housing conditions.

For Brooks, the time is long overdue for something to be done about it.

They need a village.

Hero's Bridge Village is her current vision and dream. "There is no other project that we are aware of that will serve veterans in this way," said Brooks of the tiny home enclave that she hopes to see birthed in Fauquier County, Virginia.

It will lift aging veterans out of substandard living conditions or homelessness or social isolation into their own gated community, complete with a community center, laundry room, and library. The pocket community will have a garden, workshop, neighborhood store, walking trails, a bird sanctuary, and outdoor grills.

"I would live in one of these," beamed Brooks, who is exhilarated over the prospect of the village and all it will do for elderly veterans in need. "I can't wait until we put our first house in place."

Designed to accommodate 24 small homes, planning is underway to have Hero's

Bridge Village located near Vint Hill, a former Army base in Virginia.

Brooks estimates the cost of the village at \$2.8 million. Fundraising is ongoing with much of their support coming from foundations. Donations are always welcome and appreciated.

So far, Hero's Bridge has served 300 veterans with 126 volunteers and staff.

While many people pay particular attention to our military at special times of the year, such as Memorial Day, Hero's Bridge recognizes and attends to the needs of veterans throughout the year.

"As the daughter of a Vietnam veteran, military recognition days are on my radar," Brooks said.

"With another Memorial Day recognized, let's continue to honor and show our respect for all of our fallen heroes throughout history. Let's continue to also show our respect for the men and women who came home a different version of the person they were before their war years."

"It's been such a dark time for this country," she mused. "We need something like this. It's a feel-good project. We will prioritize wellness, not profit... this will be a place of peace and healing."

"This is my way of telling my father how much he meant to me and to let him know that I will continue to help other veterans like him. There is no place in this country that doesn't need a Hero's Bridge."

Hero's Bridge is personal for Molly Brooks. Its success will be her serenity.

Anita L. Sherman is an award-winning journalist who has more than 20 years of experience as a writer and editor for local papers and regional publications in Virginia. She now works as a freelance writer and is working on her first novel. She is the mother of three grown children and grandmother to four, and she resides in Warrenton, Va. Anita can be reached at anitajustwrite@gmail.com

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF HERO'S BRIDGE



Vietnam veteran Irving Hanback enjoys his Paw Patrol "volunteer."

How Can You Help?

Hero's Bridge is dedicated to serving elderly veterans, aged 65 and older. They bridge senior veterans to a better quality of life through their age-specific and innovative programs. These services are available to our heroes wherever they call home, at no expense to them or their families.

Do you know a veteran who needs help? Call Hero's Bridge at 540-341-5378, email info@herosbridge.org, or visit HerosBridge.org to learn more.

Let's Look at the Numbers

- 6.2 million Vietnam War veterans
- 1.2 million veterans who served in the Korean War
- 348 World War II veterans are lost every day
- 58 percent of veterans have never been enrolled in VA health care
- 10 million U.S. veterans are over the age of 65

SOURCE: HERO'S BRIDGE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

TIMELESS WISDOM

Why the Founders Said You Should Study History

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James Madison, for example, called history "an inexhaustible fund of entertainment and instruction." Indeed, he, along with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, drew from this "inexhaustible fund" in their great work, "The Federalist Papers." It was from that "inexhaustible fund" the Founders drew when they designed our Constitution, and the reason it remains the oldest living written Constitution in history.

John Adams, likewise, insisted on the importance of studying history. Countless quotes could be offered as proof, but one that is often overlooked comes from his early days. He was writing in the voice of the early Puritan governor of Massachusetts, William Bradford, a man he deeply admired.

In his voice, he summarized the sort of knowledge he believed his New England ancestors possess, and which all generations must possess, in order to be free: "The history of nations and of mankind was familiar to us; and we considered the species chiefly in relation to the system of great nature, and her all-perfect author. In consequence of such contemplations as these, it was the unwearyed endeavor of our lives, to establish a society, on English, humane, and Christian principles."

It was for reasons such as these that Adams's Puritan ancestors established such institutions of higher learning as Harvard University, and why countless generations had done the same in Europe under the auspices of the Catholic Church.

Thomas Jefferson, when explaining the institutions, laws, and culture of his native state of Virginia, focused a great deal on the importance of educating the young, particularly on the topic of history.

"History, by apprising them of the past will enable them [students] to judge of the future," he wrote. "It will avail them of the experience of other times and other nations; it will qualify them as judges of the actions and designs of men; it will enable them to know ambition under every disguise it may assume; and knowing it, to defeat its views. In every government on earth is some trace of human weakness, some germ of corruption and degeneracy, which cunning will discover, and wickedness insensibly open, cultivate, and improve."

In other words, history not only disclosed the lessons of practical politics, but would alert citizens to the approach of tyranny.

Benjamin Franklin likewise emphasized the importance of history. "If History be made a constant Part of their Reading," he said of the young, "may not almost all Kinds of useful Knowledge be that Way introduced to Advantage, and with Pleasure to the Student?"

Reading good history, he said, would "fix in the Minds of Youth deep Impressions of the Beauty and Usefulness of Virtue

of all Kinds, Public Spirit, Fortitude." It would also "give Occasion to expatiate on the Advantage of Civil Orders and Constitutions, how Men and their Properties are protected by joining in Societies and establishing Government." It would also teach them lessons about economics, and how "their Industry [is] encouraged and rewarded, Arts invented, and Life made more comfortable."

When it came to the virtue that was so necessary for holding free societies together, Franklin observed that history would show the young "the Advantages of Liberty, Mischiefs of Licentiousness, Benefits arising from good Laws and a due Execution of Justice, etc. Thus may the first Principles of sound Politics be fixed in the Minds of Youth." Likewise, it would "afford frequent Opportunities of showing

the Necessity of a Public Religion, from its Usefulness to the Public; [and] the Advantage of a Religious Character among private Persons."

And in his Farewell Address, George Washington appealed to the lessons of history when he implored his countrymen to remember that "reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." And before appointing a man as attorney general of the United States, he inquired as to "what is his depth in the science of politics, or in other words his acquaintance with history."

In short, our Founders knew that we could only remain a free people if we learned the lessons of history. The human species didn't begin with us, and (God willing) it won't end with us.

As I have said many times, we shouldn't limit ourselves to ourselves. But that is precisely what we've done throughout our educational establishment. It has never been easier to access and study the great classics of human civilization. It took our Founders a lifetime and a small fortune to obtain theirs—we could have ours in a few clicks, thanks to the internet. Far from revering the lessons of history, our children are often taught to despise them—or even worse, ignore them.

If we wish to remain a free people, the serious, sober, and, yes, fascinating study of history must once again have a prominent place in American classrooms. Let our children read the great classics of Greek, Roman, Chinese, Arab, Medieval, and other civilizations. Let them ponder human nature by absorbing the experience of so many other humans across so many other times and places.

Along the way, let them learn the humility that such a study necessarily inculcates. They'll learn that oftentimes, the latest ideas are iterations of the worst ideas—often tried, often failed. They'll learn to be suspicious of demagogues who attempt to convince them that the problems of the world could be solved by an ideological syllogism, and a utopia is in reach if only those people got out of the way. They'll learn that moral boundaries exist for a reason, and that while "there is a way which seems right to man," it often "ends in death." They'll learn what happens when societies demolish moral constraints whose purpose they didn't even bother to understand—and the disaster that invariably results.

Finally, they'll learn that human nature hasn't changed one bit over

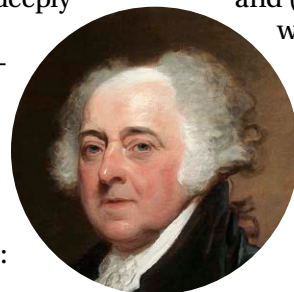
the thousands of years of recorded history. They'll learn the wisdom that has frustrated countless idealists and revolutionaries, but continually comforts the wise, that "there is nothing new under the sun."

That's why classics are classics after all. They resonate despite the centuries or even millennia-wide gap between writer and reader. Such would not be possible if human nature could be

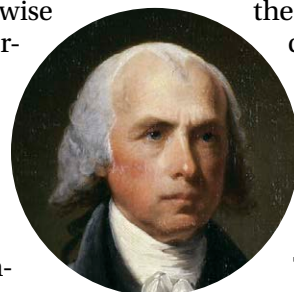
history remade by fanatics. The lessons of history ground us. They enlighten us. And most importantly of all, they humble us, and thereby hinder that precipitous fall which unavoidably results from that mother of all vices, that ruin of all individuals and all societies: pride.

These are the sorts of lessons of history our Founders enjoined us to remember and study. The survival of our Republic will depend on whether or not we do.

Joshua Charles is a former White House speechwriter for Vice President Mike Pence, a No. 1 New York Times best-selling author, historian, columnist, writer, ghostwriter, and public speaker. Follow him on Twitter @JoshuaTCharles or see JoshuaTCharles.com



Portrait of John Adams by Gilbert Stuart, c. 1800-1815. PUBLIC DOMAIN



Portrait of James Madison by Gilbert Stuart, c. 1805-1807. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Telling the Stories of World War II Veterans: ‘Time Is of the Essence’

An interview with filmmaker Tracie Hunter

DUSTIN BASS

Tracie Hunter is an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker who, for the past five years, has focused her film skills on telling the stories of World War II veterans. Through her organization WWII Beyond the Call, Hunter and her team of volunteer filmmakers have been seeking out and capturing the harrowing stories of soldiers from history’s greatest conflict. Her latest work “A Rendezvous With Destiny,” about the last three surviving members of the 101st Airborne Division “Screaming Eagles,” premiered on May 29 at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio.

Hunter took the time to answer a few questions about the new release and the importance of capturing these historical moments of heroism and sacrifice.

Dustin Bass: How and why did you become interested in creating documentaries about World War II veterans?

Tracie Hunter: A few reasons. I was born into a family with a long line of military service, with my father serving in the Army for most of my life. Growing up on bases and in this environment, I gained an understanding and appreciation of the sacrifices of our veterans. My grandfather served in the Army as well, during World War II in the European theater. He was a Purple Heart recipient and also a POW of Stalag 9B. I felt that by creating documentaries based on the experiences of our World War II veterans, it could help not only bring understanding to this critical piece of our human history, but also offer a safe platform for our veterans to share their stories.

Mr. Bass: What is “A Rendezvous With Destiny” about?

Ms. Hunter: “A Rendezvous With Destiny” is centered around the last remaining 101st Airborne Division “Screaming Eagles” featuring Toccoa original Jim “Pee Wee” Martin, Dan McBride, and Dick Klein. The film focuses on the history of the 101st Airborne Division and the three veterans’ shared experiences through D-Day, Operation Market Garden, and the Battle of the Bulge.

Mr. Bass: How did “A Rendezvous With Destiny” come about?

Ms. Hunter: Back in 2019, I was approached by Dutch author and veteran LTC. Jos Groen. He wrote a wonderful book called “Three of the Last WWII Screaming Eagles” that tells the biographies of each of these veterans. His hope was that our team at Beyond The Call could bring his book to the big screen. I remember making my first phone call to Mr. Dan McBride to set up an interview for this. After only a few minutes on the phone, I knew I could not pass on helping to share this part of history.

Mr. Bass: What has it been like interviewing and spending time with veterans of one of the most famous divisions in World War II history?

Ms. Hunter: My time with these men has been priceless. In documentary filmmaking, you really dive in and get to know the film subjects and their families. Something we really try to focus on at Beyond the Call is our relationships with the veterans and making sure they feel cared about and heard long after the cameras turn off. I think for me one of the most fascinating parts of my time with these men was getting to know what they did with their 75-plus years after the war. Dan McBride built his own planes and was a train conductor. Dick Klein married the love of his life, June, and Mr. Jim “Pee Wee” Martin still continues to jump! They are just incredible individuals that have truly made the most of their lives.

Mr. Bass: You actually parachuted during the shooting of this documentary, correct? What was that like?

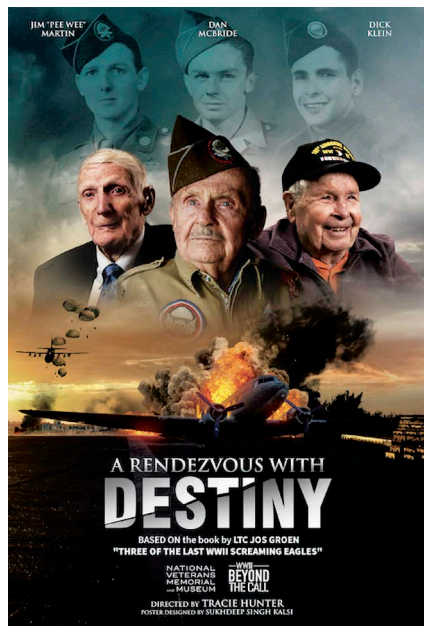
Ms. Hunter: [Laughs] I did! Through this process, Dan McBride and I have become great friends. He told me I ought to try jumping some time. I couldn’t really say



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF WWII BEYOND THE CALL



▲ Filmmaker Tracie Hunter earns her wings.



▲ A poster for the documentary “Rendezvous With Destiny.”

no to an original 101st Veteran on this recommendation. So this past March, I joined up with Liberty Jump Team and did my five static line jumps required to earn my jump wings. Dan was waiting for me below to welcome me in from the drop zone. It was a pretty remarkable experience. One of the coolest parts of this was that my last two jumps were out of an original World War II C-47 plane.

Mr. Bass: Did the veterans parachute as well?

Ms. Hunter: During my week at jump school, no. However, for Jim “Pee Wee” Martin’s 99th birthday, I had the pleasure of watching him jump with the Round Canopy Parachuting Team down in Palatka, Florida.

Mr. Bass: How did it feel to parachute and earn your wings?

Ms. Hunter: What was happening didn’t really sink in

until that door opened to the first plane I jumped out of. There is no tandem jump in this so you have to have a lot of faith in your instructors and also in yourself to get you down to the ground safely. Dan McBride was there for my training and jumps. He told me, with a big belly laugh, that he had “worked all the kinks out” back in 1942 when it was all experimental and that I would be just fine. He also told me if I made it through the jump school course he would personally pin my wings on me at the ceremony. That’s one of the best feelings in the world to know your personal hero believes in you. Jumping for me was one way I could gain a better understanding and get a very small taste of what these men went through.

Mr. Bass: How do you feel the documentary turned out? And is there a sense of

“The film focuses on the history of the 101st Airborne Division and the three veterans’ shared experiences through D-Day, Operation Market Garden, and the Battle of the Bulge.”

Tracie Hunter, filmmaker

relief or sadness or both that the project is completed?

Ms. Hunter: This has been one of the most difficult yet rewarding projects to date. Working with World War II veterans, you always feel the clock is ticking. Time is of the essence! At the time of the pandemic and COVID outbreak, we had only filmed with Dan. Everything came to a screeching halt, and all we could do was wait and hope for the veterans to still be with us when it was a safer time to visit and interview them. I feel incredibly grateful to say that all three are still here with us today and will be able to see their film. To know we were able to complete this story despite what the past year has looked like for the world means everything. So in a way, I am relieved, because we did it. We were able to share not one but three more World War II veterans’ stories. But there is always a moment of grieving as projects come to an end.

Mr. Bass: How did the National Veterans Memorial and Museum become involved in the film?

Ms. Hunter: Initially, the National Veterans Memorial and Museum was going to be the location where we were planning to hold a reunion for the three men. When everything shut down, the museum continued to be incredible partners to us and shared our other films on their platforms throughout the year. It really was the perfect partnership for the times. Since they had to close their doors to visitors, they were looking for ways to still continue their mission of sharing veterans’ stories, and we had veterans’ stories that needed sharing.

Mr. Bass: What do you hope people take away after watching the documentary?

Ms. Hunter: After watching the film, if people don’t remember the names, battles, or dates, my biggest hope is that they do remember how the documentary made them feel. When I watch it back, I feel immense gratitude. My ability to freely speak with you today can be attributed to the bravery and courage of men like Dan, Dick, and Jim. We still enjoy today the freedoms and liberties their sacrifices granted us. Another theme the veterans touch on in this film is their ability to move on in a spirit of reconciliation toward their former enemies. I hope our viewers will reflect on how they can help to maintain the legacies of this generation and ensure their sacrifices are not forgotten.

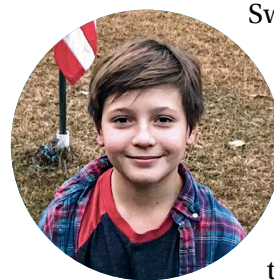
To learn more about Hunter’s documentaries, see her website at WWIIBeyondTheCall.com/projects.

Dustin Bass is the co-host of *The Sons of History* podcast and the creator of the *Thinking It Through* YouTube channel. He is also an author.

▲ (L-R) World War II veterans Dick Klein, Dan McBride, and Jim “Pee Wee” Martin.

The Experience of Freedom

JOHN FALCE



Sweat dripped from my face as I crested the rocky ridge. We had been hiking in the 100-degree weather for hours, and I was exhausted, exhilarated, and thrilled with the wide spread of nature I was privileged to experience. When we finally labored to the top of the steepest incline, what a sight to behold! In the background, stunning, soaring mountain peaks, and straight ahead, a refreshing oasis, the deepest green color for miles in a mostly dry landscape.

With cries of joy, we raced down toward the water, dodging large rocks and sliding on matted earth, intending to plunge our dusty hands and feet into the cool, rejuvenating pool or maybe just dive right in. But, at the water’s edge, we skidded to a sudden stop. The beautiful, evergreen water was rolling with snakes! It wasn’t obvious at first but there were snakes undulating through the depths, writhing on the surface, and basking on the banks. First, we stared with a morbid curiosity then we backed away to find new, less wriggly mysteries to discover. The eventful day rolled on.

The terrain dipped and rose, and rose some more. As we gained altitude, Dad was beginning to worry and warned us to stay close. We pressed on through a dark cave and emerged on a narrow, twisting path that wound its way around the edge of a cliff.

At long last, we reached the climax of a rough path: a formidable precipice overlooked the deep, rocky valley. My heart sang and I leaped forward, oblivious to my

father’s warning cries. Gleelessly frolicking among the boulders, I failed to notice a 500-foot drop-off behind me. As I teetered heedlessly on the brink of disaster, Dad grabbed my collar and hauled me to relative safety. Why was he so angry and concerned? In my mind, I was a mountain goat—free as a kid! But apparently, being young and foolish, I had no idea of the looming danger and considered it mean that Dad made me hold his hand for most of the hike back.



▲ Inside a cave at Pinnacles National Park.

At the end of a full day of beautiful sights, childish fights, and an all-around feeling of placid contentment, we returned to the car for drinks and snacks. Hiking through those arid rock formations, I had worked up a formidable appetite. Vaguely, I remembered Mom stashing the remnants of a picnic meal before we began. We piled into the car. My stomach prodded. I looked around, “Where’s my sandwich?” It wasn’t in my immediate area. “I know I had leftovers!”

When I failed to find them, I began to get frustrated. “Where’s my sandwich?” I demanded aloud of nobody in particular. “Where is it? Did someone eat my



sandwich?” I wondered. We were nowhere near civilization and my parents were sympathetic to my hunger—after all, I had lost my sandwich. Dad pulled the car over, everybody stopped eating their snacks and got back up on weary feet to help me look for my delicious salami, cheddar, and mustard sub. Departure was halted as we hunted through the vehicle for my precious missing sandwich. After about half an hour of fruitless searching in bags and napkins, under seats and in cracks, suddenly it dawned on me. “Oh! I ate my whole sandwich!”

“Johhhn!” My mother, father, sister, and brother moaned in complaint against me.

But their ire faded as, one by one, we began to muse on the absurdity of our situation and the remoteness of our location from the next meal, which each of us would have welcomed heartily. Simultaneously, as a family, we burst out laughing. My sister shared a piece of her food. And to this day, “Where’s my sandwich?” is a household idiom used whenever someone can’t find something they are ridiculously culpable for losing.

As we drove away from Pinnacles National Park, we ruminated on our near-death experiences and the rugged beauty of the terrain. The following morning, we were back on the trail. Our next stop was Sequoia National Park. Against the warnings of my parents ... again, I insisted on eating nothing but too many sugary yogurt cups offered in happy abundance at our bed and breakfast. Roughly halfway through the car ride, I began to feel the consequences of my defiance. A bad feeling swelled in my belly. I warned my parents of impending doom, ironically as they had warned me. There was nowhere to pull over, no shoulder at all, just ledges. It was too late! I leaned out the window, our awful premonitions were realized into the

open air. My nausea was relieved. But, behind me, my sister sat silhouetted against the car seat in a frame of barf.

Miraculously, she stayed calm. There was a moment of shocked silence. What should we do? Then, there came a haven for recuperation—the roadside rest stop. We cleaned up. Of course, there were “I-told-you-so’s,” but that afternoon was a credit to my family’s love and patience. I still can’t believe how well my sister took it! We shoved off again in 15 minutes, mostly sanitized and with a good lesson learned about heeding parental wisdom.

And soon, the long-anticipated towers of Sequoia National Park finally surrounded us in real life. We walked among those trees hundreds of years older and bigger than myself. I was struck by a profound sense of awe. As we moved beyond the narrow path crowded with tourists, deeper into the mist-wreathed forest, we began to realize just how isolated we were.

Some of those massive sequoias were 20 times as wide as Dad with his arms spread out, and my dad’s arm span is wide. I cannot properly memorialize their vastness. Some were completely hollowed at the base so that we could actually walk inside welcoming trunks so spacious they could have passed for caverns. In height, they were almost too big for our minds to process. In depth, the forest was so great that at one point, we thought we were lost. Mom was sure the bears were hot on our trail. My siblings and I, the kids, began to tire. Mom had to invoke the offer of ice cream to keep us going.

Finally, after an impactful day of wandering in Sequoia, we returned to the comparative triviality of our ordinary lives. At the hotel, we munched on small boxed cereals and chattered about our adventure, surrounded by people from all over the world talking about the same things. But words were hardly sufficient to convey the ethereal beauty of those cathedral-like trees. They had to be experienced. To see them in real life permanently expanded our minds. That was four years ago, in California. Nowadays, I wonder if we could take such a trip.

Sometimes, while sitting in school, I escape to the memory of that joyful vacation with my family. At least we finally stopped straining to see our teachers through giant, cloudy, scratched plexiglass shields that enfolded each of our desks. My current point of view is so different from those beautiful days, though. I think through a mask, that we all still have to wear over our noses and mouths, almost everywhere. Especially when I



The author’s sister, Giovanna, standing on the roots of a sequoia tree.

Looking over at the landscape below from a vantage point in Pinnacles National Park in California.

have asthma, I struggle to breathe past it. Although anything is better than e-learning, I wish life could be more clear and carefree again. More than seven hours a day, five days a week, stuffed in a mask. School has become something to be dreaded.

But words were hardly sufficient to convey the ethereal beauty of those cathedral-like trees. They had to be experienced.

Before COVID struck, I used to look forward to going to school and learning something new. Now, I beg Mom to homeschool me—anything to get away from that mask. I also miss my friends; we are socially distanced and isolated now. Although I recognize that the disease was serious, the remedy seems to have serious side effects, too.

There is talk of masks being recycled into next year. I try not to imagine that scenario and think instead of summer—almost here!

In my mind’s eye, with a smile on my face, I revisit that time before the world became sterilized and separated. We are just starting to relax “safety measures” in our cities and schools, and I think that many people are reluctant to go back to normal. For those people out there: Don’t be afraid to be free! If we don’t get back on track now, will we ever? It is painful to be locked down.

Last fall, my family and I were planning on seeing Zion, walking again through the glorious United States and experiencing unfettered life. I don’t know if we are yet liberated enough for that dream to come true, but I sure would like to see it happen! If we continue to open back up, and not let ourselves be confined to our masks and our fears, we can move past this troubled time, and go back to the real places and great learning experiences of the free world.

John Falce is 13 years old. He lives with his military pilot father, Florentine-trained artist mother, two brothers, and sister on a four-acre hobby farm in Milton, Fla. He is trying his hand at raising pigs when he’s not at school. John got into writing while obligingly editing for his mother’s book. He loves a good story and hopes you enjoy this one.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANDREA FALCE

Once Homeless, Student Who Beat the Odds Graduates With Doctorate

EMG INSPIRED STAFF

A man who was once homeless as a child, living on the streets with his parents, has beaten the odds and graduated from the University of Southern California a doctor of physical therapy.

Mich Hamlin, now 28, had lived with his parents and two brothers on the streets of southern California since he was 6 years old. "I guess I was so accustomed to our living situation that I never really processed that, 'Oh, kids actually go home and have a bed, a shower, and warm food on the table every night,'" Hamlin told USC News.

Life on the streets wasn't easy. His parents were both substance abusers who worked under-the-table jobs and squandered most of their money on alcohol rather than food for the family.

They often feared the authorities, and would stay in different places every night. "In my head, it ended up turning into a game of not getting caught," Hamlin said.

"Our unique housing situation consisted of living in the local parks, cars, trash bin containers, shelters, and when lucky, a motel for the night," Hamlin told The Epoch Times. "Not knowing better, we were not embarrassed by how [we] lived because it was all we knew at that time."

His father had a bike that they would use to transport their belongings to the gas station down the street where he and his brothers would shower using the sink every morning, before being dropped off at school by their parents.

The school would provide breakfast and lunch to Mich and his brothers, and they would also resort to getting back in line to bring some extra food home.

On Fridays, their teachers would offer a backpack to take home, containing Spam, granola bars, canned hot dogs, water, and juice to hold them over during the weekend.

But when Mich's mom showed up at their school in December 2005, an office worker caught the smell of alcohol on her



Mich Hamlin, 28, has his sights set on entering the field of physical therapy and helping people.

“Our unique housing situation consisted of living in the local parks, cars, trash bin containers, shelters, and when lucky, a motel for the night.”

Mich Hamlin

and called the police.

At that time, Mich was in seventh grade. His mom was arrested, and Mich and his siblings were taken into foster care.

The boys kept hoping that their father would find a way to sort things out and the foster home would last only a short while.

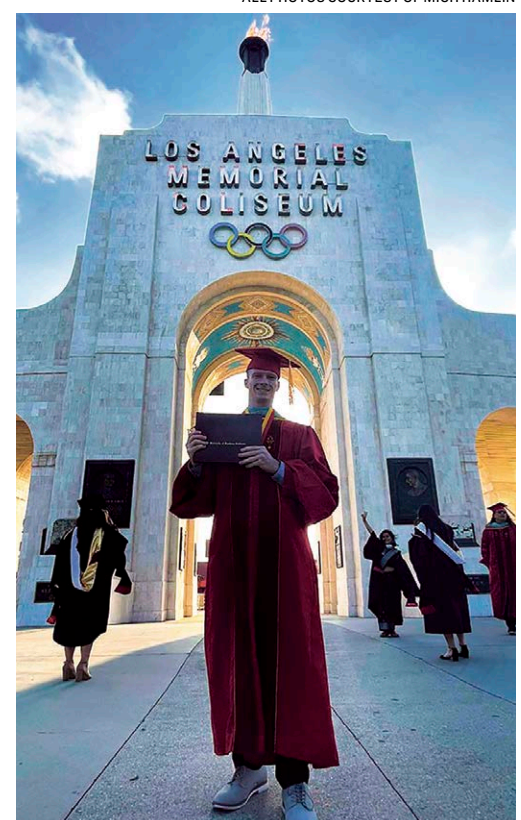
"Unfortunately, that never occurred," said Hamlin.

After their mom succumbed to liver failure and passed away, their dad disappeared, and the kids were placed in foster care permanently.

Mich took his mother's passing as motivation in school. He was soon introduced to track and field, which positively boosted his performance in class.

"I started focusing on school. I noticed the harder I worked on the track, the easier the classroom got," Hamlin said. "It was

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICH HAMLIN



Hamlin holds his diploma—a doctorate in physical therapy from the University of Southern California.

an outlet. It gave me the discipline to stay focused and make the goals."

Hamlin applied to college and was admitted at Cal Poly Pomona, where he majored in kinesiology.

"Anatomy was my favorite class in high school. After an extensive chat with my coach, physical therapy was the profession I set sights on," he said.

On average, less than 3 percent of children from foster care homes graduate with advanced degrees, according to the National Foster Youth Institute.

"There is nothing more rewarding than helping someone else."

Mich performed exceptionally, graduating with honors from Cal Poly Pomona in 2016. On average, less than 3 percent of children from foster care homes graduate with advanced degrees, according to the National Foster Youth Institute.

Fortunately, Hamlin was awarded Chafee and Pell grants to complete his undergraduate degree without debt.

He has his sights on offering assistance to people in need, having experienced such hardship as a child and now hopes to enter physical therapy as his chosen field.

"No one should have to go through anything close to what I have gone through," he said. "I want to give back to the foster home programs. I wouldn't be where I am at if it were not for their contributions and acts of kindness."

Share your stories with us at emg-inspired@epochtimes.com, and get your daily dose of inspiration by signing up for the Epoch Inspired newsletter at TheEpochTimes.com/newsletter

DEAR NEXT GENERATION

Advice From a 100-Year-Old Reader

→ Advice from our readers to our young people

Dear next generation,

In these troubled times and with some of our young folks having more than two sets of grandparents as a result of one, two, or more divorces, I do think that somehow and somehow the kids need to know their grandpas and grandmas. I say these things as so many do not know their family.

I'm only 100 years old and have a great life and only [had] two careers.

One of my grandpas was an ironworker who built bridges, tank farms, and buildings all over southwest Virginia and those areas. The other grandpa, a farmer, was a great man to me. I spent summers on their farm.

I say to young folks, try your best to know your folks—they know stuff—they have stories that, if you listen, will give lots of help now and in your future.

Much of their lives will give you much pride, some fun, and admiration.

I do hope that some kids who know how much this meant to me will lay aside the smartphones, less times in gangs and parties with drugs and booze. Devote some quality time to your ancestors.

Yours truly,
Tom Adams Jr, Mississippi

Dear next generation,

I grew up in the '50s in a typical middle-class subdivision of tract homes built after the war. My father was a Navy veteran and my mother was a stay-at-home mom most of the time unless the family needed some financial help. We lived a modest life of hard-working people. Following the war, it took a while for jobs to reappear, and men felt quite lucky to have one. My dad and mom always found some way to pay the bills. When the work was slow or the weather was bad, my dad would work painting



Kids should get to know their grandparents well, says 100-year-old reader Tom Adams Jr.—they are full of stories!

houses. My mom would go to work as a server and earn tips and a small salary.

When I was about 10 years old, my father gave me one of the most important lessons of my life. My parents were talking about people who were out of work and just waiting for the mill or factory to open or to be called back to work. My dad said to me, "Don't ever let me hear you say you can't find a job." He said you can get a bucket and a brush and start knocking on every door in the neighborhood and ask the lady of the house if she would like her windows washed or if there was any other job you might do for her.

I have never forgotten that lesson, and now I see people purposely not working to stay on unemployment and making excuses for not working. I took my dad's lesson and I was never unable to find work. Here I am 74 years old and still getting up every day and going to work and loving it.

I would advise young people today to seek out opportunities. Don't close your mind to one direction based on your education or what your degree is in, especially if you discover you are not happy there. Find something you can love for a time, and don't think you cannot change directions

Much of their lives will give you much pride, some fun, and admiration.

again if something better comes along. I have changed direction many times over 50-plus years. I tried and failed at some, moved on from others to something better, and for 25 years now I have what I was looking for. Most importantly, do something you love that also makes you happy.

—Jim Blair, Pennsylvania

Dear next generation,

My mother once told me "You are who you hang out with," which I later learned was her adaptation of Jim Rohn's quote, "You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with."

Looking back, it was some of the most sage advice I ever received. Who you spend time with influences who you are and the person you will eventually become. Who you are with can elevate you as much as it can bring you down. Life is long, and the people you choose to take with you on this long, joyous, sometimes treacherous journey, are critical to your joy, your success, and your ability to fulfill your purpose on this Earth.

So as my mom said, pay attention, and choose your group of five carefully.

—Kerri Gaumer Freidl, Pennsylvania

What advice would you like to give to the younger generations?

We call on all of our readers to share the timeless values that define right and wrong, and pass the torch, if you will, through your wisdom and hard-earned experience. We feel that the passing down of this wisdom has diminished over time, and that only with a strong moral foundation can future generations thrive.

Send your advice, along with your full name, state, and contact information to NextGeneration@epochtimes.com or mail it to:

Next Generation, The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001



(Left) The Romanesque-style main entrance of the Victoria and Albert Museum, in London. A statue of Prince Albert is in the center of the two doors, and a statue of his wife, Queen Victoria, is above the arch. (Middle) A statue of Prince Albert welcomes visitors to the main entrance of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. (Right) Visitors enter the Sackler Courtyard of the museum through the Ashton Webb Screen, an arch and colonnade that once hid the museum's Victorian boilers.

LARGER THAN LIFE: ART THAT INSPIRES US THROUGH THE AGES

Inspiring World-Class Art and Design: The Victoria and Albert Museum in London

The Victoria and Albert Museum, commonly known as the V&A, was the first building erected under Prince Albert's vision to create a new cultural district in London dedicated to promoting art and scientific education and to champion British industry in the international marketplace.

The museum's purpose was "to educate designers, manufacturers, and the public in art and design," according to the museum's website.

Although the museum was founded in 1852, it was not until 1857 that the museum moved to South Kensington, an area in

West London that had been chosen to be the cultural district of the city. And only decades later, after various museum names, did the museum become the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The area now includes the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum, the Royal Albert Hall, and Imperial College London, to name a few.

The Architecture

The V&A occupies a series of buildings spread over 12 acres of land and includes 7 miles of gallery space.

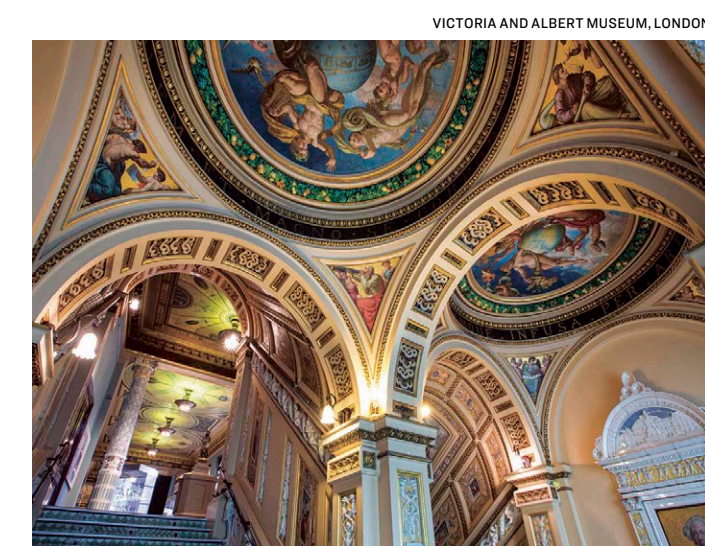
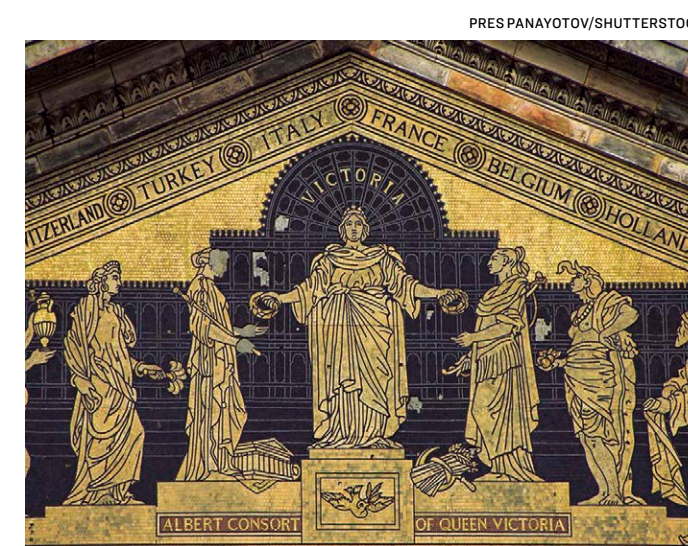
The buildings in the John Madejski Garden are inspired by Italian Renaissance architecture and feature brick, mosaic, and terracotta. The first of these buildings was built in 1857, and the last was finished nearly 50 years later.

In 1891, a competition was held to design a museum extension that would unite the appearance of the existing buildings. Architect Ashton Webb's winning design is a mixture of mostly Renaissance and medieval architecture. Built in red brick and Portland stone, the building is a colossal 239 yards long.

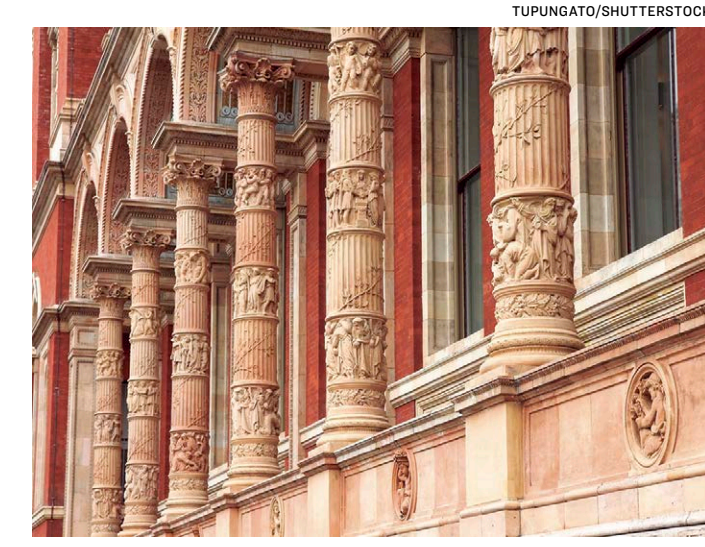
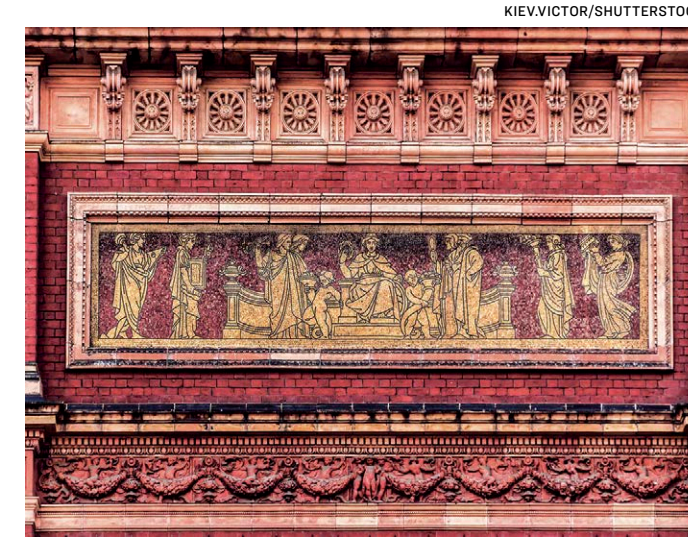
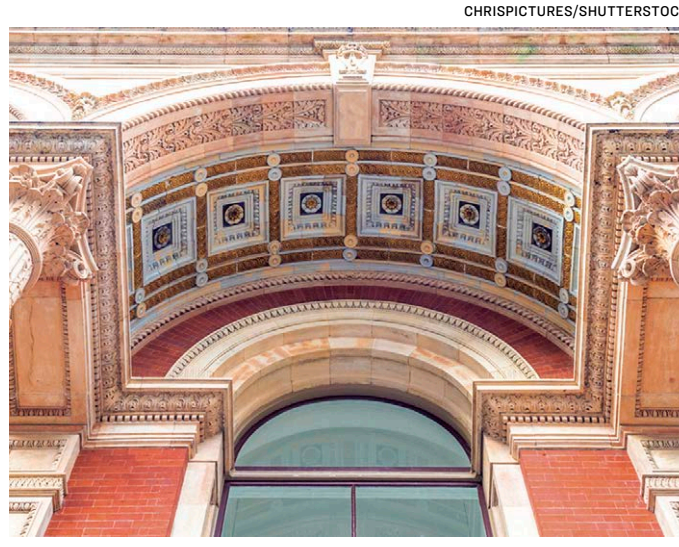
Inscribed on the Romanesque archway, above a statue of Prince Albert, is a quote by artist Sir Joshua Reynolds that reads: "The excellence of every art must consist in the complete accomplishment of its purpose."

Taking Reynolds's quote into account, the artists, architects, and craftspeople who created the V&A museum beautifully fulfilled the prince's vision to promote art and champion British industry. The building completely accomplishes its purpose.

To find out more about the Victoria and Albert Museum, visit VAM.ac.uk



(Left) The John Madejski Garden, at the heart of the museum, was designed in 2015, but the Lecture Theater Block (C) and the gallery buildings on either side were built at different times in the late 19th century. The grand central building was once the museum's main entrance. (Middle) A mosaic on the pediment of the Lecture Theater Block shows Queen Victoria in the center awarding laurel leaves to prize winners at "The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations" held in London's Hyde Park in 1851. Profits from the exhibition funded a new cultural district in South Kensington, West London. (Right) Sculptural reliefs on the ceramic staircase were lead-glazed in the Della-Robbia style, inspired by the Italian Renaissance sculptor Luca della Robbia who created a special tin-glaze technique.



(Left) Ornate embellishments on the museum building hark back to the Italian Renaissance. (Middle) A mosaic panel on the Lecture Theater Block wall. (Right) Elaborate Italian Renaissance-style ornamentation adorns the buildings of the John Madejski Garden.

EDUCATION

Summer Civics Boot Camp for the Whole Family

JEFF MINICK

I recently encouraged readers to make summer great again by getting the kids outdoors more and giving them lots of free time, along with trips to various attractions and historical sites close to home.

But after reading Wilfred McClay's on-line essay "Civic Education, Rightly Understood," it's imperative to add one more item to this "make summer great" list: restoring history and civics to our children's lives through everyday activities.

McClay links our ignorance about history and civics to the current dire circumstances that have brought us to "the lonely precipice at which we find ourselves." He goes through the abysmal scores of students on history and civics examinations, and even connects these students' failure to learn about their country to the mental depression and spiritual malaise affecting so many of our young people today. By neglecting to teach students about America's great achievements as well as its mistakes, McClay explains, we have left our children with a bleak vision of the future and a broken memory of the past.

A half an hour a day with McClay, a historian who gave us a wise and balanced account of American history in the textbook "Land of Hope," is a good goal for the summer. But for the younger crew, or for those who wince at the thought of opening a textbook in July, there are other options for instructing them about our history and government.

Watch Videos

Dozens of possibilities giving insights into our past are just a click away, including "The Alamo," "Glory," and "Johnny Tre-main." The mini-series "John Adams" gives viewers insight into several early American figures, including the intrepid Abigail Adams. "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "12 Angry Men," and "Lincoln" are just a few films that include some lessons in the workings of government. As for the elementary school crew, try "Liberty Kids" available on YouTube.

Read the Declaration of Independence

The Fourth of July is just around the corner. Along with backyard barbecues and fireworks, reading this document is another great way to celebrate America and liberty.

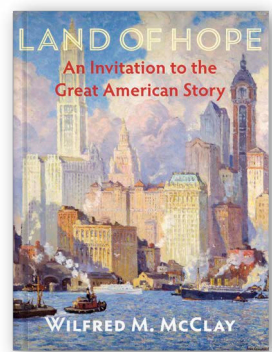
Attend a City or Town Council Meeting

Here's an excellent way to witness govern-



Though we may get some of our news from the internet or social media, we can stay grounded and connected to our family, friends, and neighbors for a true dose of reality.

Take the older children to see what local government is doing and how it works.



"Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story," by Wilfred M. McClay (Encounter Books).

ment in action firsthand. Take the older children to see what local government is doing and how it works. Given the low esteem in which we hold so many politicians, you may be surprised to find men and women serving at this level who are devoted to improving their communities and the lives of their fellow citizens.

Consider Volunteering for a Political Candidate or Party

Candidates for office and the party that backs them can always use a helping hand. Whether it's distributing flyers, preparing mail-outs, or making phone calls, you'll find yourself appreciated while at the same time learning more about politics. This is an especially good way for teens to learn more about the system.

Study to Become a Citizen

Legal immigrants to the United States wishing to become citizens must take a naturalization test. To do so, they study and learn about our country. By the time they have prepared and passed the test, many of them probably know more about the basics of our Constitution, laws, and government than do some native-born Americans. Pretend you too wish to become a legal citizen by visiting this site, "Preparing for the Naturalization Test," (bit.ly/3g5XYvs) and you'll find a barebones guide containing everything you need to know.

Make Suppertime a Classroom

The evening meal is a great time to hash over the day's headlines and tie the news into a discussion of rights, freedoms, and government. Should some of our courts

release arrestees without bail or charges? Should the government keep spending money by the truckload? What gives the president—and I don't just mean Joe Biden specifically—the ability to issue executive orders? These and other questions should make the older kids sit up and think.

Look to Family, Friends, and Neighbors as Touchstones for Reality

Many of us who take our news from the internet or mainstream media place too much reliance on that information—or even misinformation—and feel crushed by all that seems to be wrong in our country. There is much that is wrong. But we also have the solace of the sister who brings us laughter, the upbeat friend, and the neighbor who waves to us while mowing his lawn. That's the normal part of our lives. In these people we find a great lesson in civics, a word rooted in the Latin "civis" (citizen), which also gives us the word civility.

Whatever our political views, let's make this summer a time of learning some history and civics and of teaching the same to our children.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. He is the author of two novels, "Amanda Bell" and "Dust On Their Wings," and two works of non-fiction, "Learning as I Go" and "Movies Make the Man." Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. See JeffMinick.com to follow his blog. This article was originally published on Intellectual Takeout.

FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

FROM 'The Star-Spangled Banner'

by Francis Scott Key

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation;
Blessed with victory and peace, may the Heaven-rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, for our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust":
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

WHAT DID ONE FLAG SAY TO THE OTHER FLAG?

“We identify the flag with almost everything we hold dear on earth, peace, security, liberty, our family, our friends, our home.”

CALVIN COOLIDGE (1872-1933)

A PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK

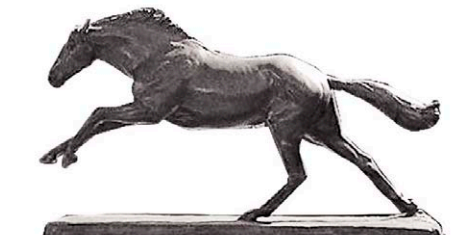
ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOCK

This Week in History

FAMOUS HORSE WINS TRIPLE CROWN

The most prestigious feat in horse racing is to win what's called "The Triple Crown." That's when a horse wins all three championship races of the year: The Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes, and the Belmont Stakes.

On June 9, 1973, in one of the most famous moments in sports history, American racehorse Secretariat won the Belmont Stakes by a record 31 lengths and earned the Triple Crown. To this day, Secretariat is known as one of the greatest racehorses of all time.



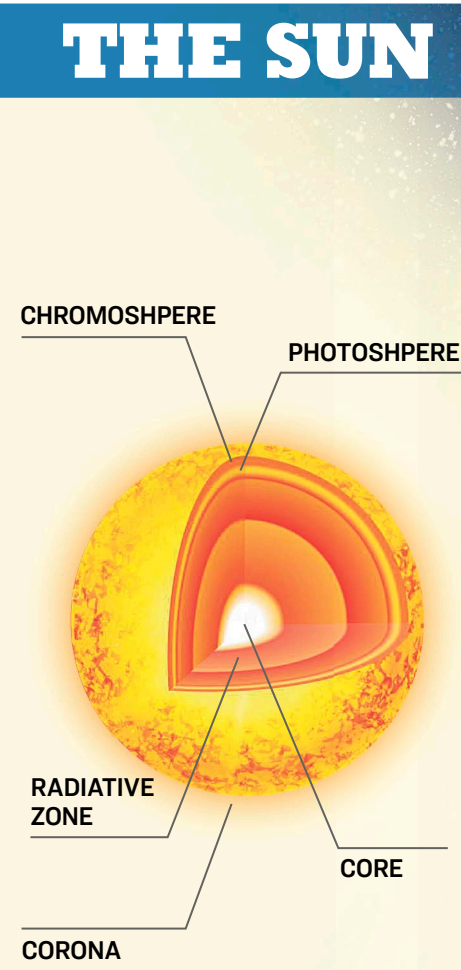
The life-size statue of Secretariat by John Skeaping at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

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By Aidan Danza, age 15

THE SUN

The sun supports all life on Earth, and it's also the dominant body in the solar system. It gives us heat, light, and energy. But how did the sun come to be?



Scientists think that waves of energy in space formed a system of gas and dust that is called a nebula. It was made up mainly of hydrogen and helium. The nebula eventually got too big to support itself, and its gravity made it collapse in on itself and spin like a wheel. This spin caused the nebula to flatten into a disk. In the center of this huge disk was material that clumped together to form a tiny protostar.

Over time, this protostar got bigger and hotter, and more pressure built up inside the sun. This caused the current process of hydrogen fusion that fuels the sun's heat, light, and energy. Fusion is when two atoms join together to make one entity, and it creates a very powerful reaction.

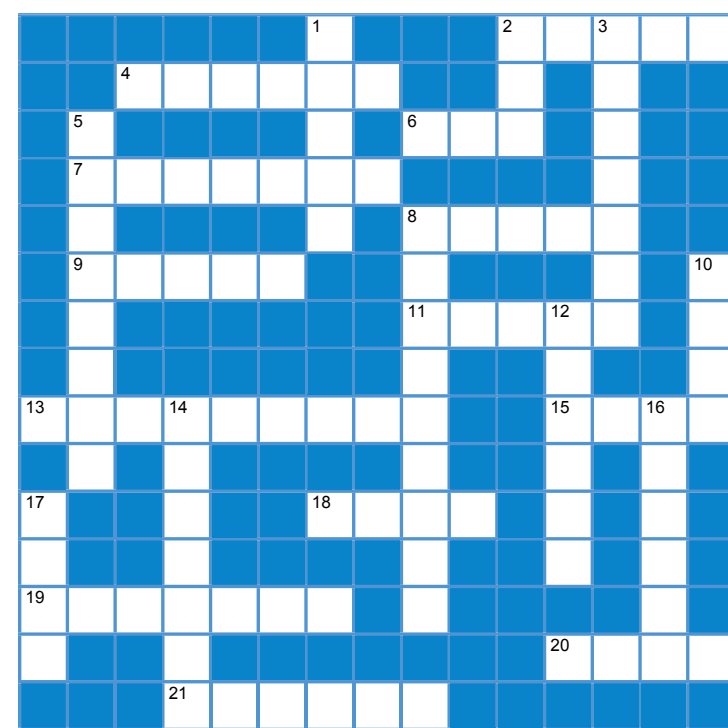
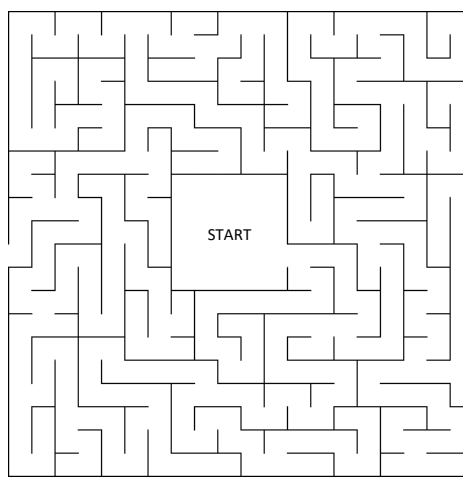
Deep inside the sun, the fusion that keeps it alive happens in the hottest part of the sun: the core. The core is the deepest part of the sun. It's extremely hot (almost 27 million degrees Fahrenheit) and is under enormous pressure and very dense. The nuclear fusion inside the sun's

core produces photons that take an extremely long time to radiate out through the rest of the layers in the sun. The photons go on to the convection zone, where the sun starts to get less dense, and then to the photosphere, which is the sun's "surface," that you see. This is a cooler part of the sun compared to the core (about 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit) but it's still hot enough to melt and boil diamonds. The chromosphere is suspected to help the sun conduct heat.

The final layer is called the corona. If you have ever seen a total solar eclipse, this is the part that you can see. The corona is actually hotter than the photosphere, even though it's farther away—the reason is still uncertain.

Correction
The article "The Carrier Pigeons of World War One," published on May 26, 2021, misspelled the name of the pigeon a few times due to a production error. The correct name is Cher Ami. The Epoch Times regrets the error.

AMAZING ESCAPES!



USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS, AND THE OPERANDS (+, - AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one "unique" solution but, there may also be "equivalent" solutions. For example: 6 + (7 X 3) + 1 = 28 and 1 + (7 X 3) + 6 = 28

Easy puzzle 1

3	10		
43			
3	8		
+	-	x	÷

Solution For Easy 1
01 + 8 = (8 - 8)

Medium puzzle 1

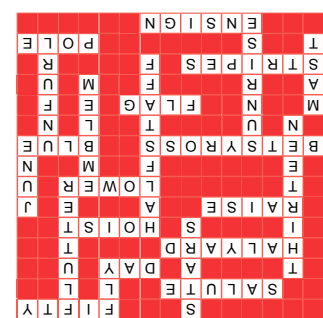
8	12		
53			
3	11		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Medium 1
8 + 21 + 8 = 11

Hard puzzle 1

17	31		
17			
5	27		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Hard 1
21 x (18 - 5 + 22)



Across

- 2 "A Pirate Looks at ____" (Jimmy Buffett memoir) (5)
- 4 Military members ____ the flag (6)
- 6 "Flag ____" (3)
- 7 Line for hoisting a flag (7)
- 8 Raise a flag (5)
- 9 Pay increase (5)

Down

- 1 They rest on a field of blue (5)
- 2 We only ____ the flag during the day (3)
- 3 Flap gently in the breeze (7)
- 5 Stripes on the first flag (8)
- 8 Sign of mourning (4-5)
- 10 Month of Flag Day (4)
- 12 Insignia (6)
- 14 When we raise the flag (7)
- 16 Roll out (6)
- 17 Sail holder (4)

- 11 ____ the flag during Taps (5)
- 13 Flag seamstress (5,4)
- 15 One of the colors of the flag (4)
- 18 Old Glory (4)
- 19 "Stars and ____ Forever" (John Philip Sousa march) (7)
- 20 What most flags fly on (4)
- 21 Banner (like a flag) (6)

FAMILY

Realizing Your Child's Potential

BARBARA DANZA

One goal that parents might strive for is to guide their children to realize their fullest potential. Each child is an individual with innate talents, interests, strengths, motivations, and gifts. What they could become and what potential they have within them are unknown. How can mothers and fathers parent in a way that allows their children to blossom into the people they're meant to be?

Let Go

First, one might consider any unfulfilled dreams and wishes that are—consciously or unconsciously—being projected onto their children. For example, you may have never succeeded in baseball, so you push your child to strive for that, regardless of his interest. Or maybe you've always wanted to become a musician, so you push your child to practice piano every day, even though she despises it.

Parenting is a selfless act. Parents need to consider who their individual children truly are at their core. Rather than forcing dreams and wishes upon them, the idea is to inspire them to be the very best version of themselves that they can possibly be.

Be Resourceful

When your child reveals those true callings or innate interests, as parents, we can take action by providing them resources and outlets to explore those as fully as they wish. For example, if your child is constantly drawing and doodling at every free moment, using up the paper in your home, or drawing pictures on her schoolwork instead of doing what she's being instructed to, then perhaps she's an artist in the making. Rather than reprimanding her for failing to complete her math problems, what if you got her some drawing lessons and a slew of art supplies?

Whenever those sparks of interest and curiosity rear their heads, it's time to move and see where the rabbit hole leads. Sometimes, it'll lead to a dead end, but sometimes it'll last—perhaps even for the duration of your child's life.

Squash Perfectionism

Something that surely gets in the way of potential is perfectionism. We can help our children steer clear of perfectionist tendencies by celebrating any bits of progress they make and also keeping a positive outlook on their failures. See failure as a learning opportunity and an expected outcome along the road to any goal.

Squash Mediocrity

At the same time, parents need to recognize the messages of mediocrity that will also influence a child. In school and elsewhere, putting in just enough effort to get by and settling for the average some of the time will lead to it becoming the status quo. When it comes to the areas of your children's lives where they can excel, they need to be given the opportunity to do so.

Be the Example

The journey toward your greatest potential is a lifelong one. As you encourage your children to do their best and aim high, consider the extent to which you're following your own advice. For most of us, it doesn't take too much introspection to determine all the ways we wish we were better. There is a gap between the potential we know we have and the reality we're currently manifesting. Rather than beating ourselves up over the gap, we can celebrate any little bit of progress made in filling it in. Be kind to yourself as you push yourself forward joyfully and exemplify a meaningful adulthood to your children.



Parents can provide encouragement and resources for children to explore their sparks of interest more deeply.

Each child is an individual with innate talents, interests, strengths, motivations, and gifts.

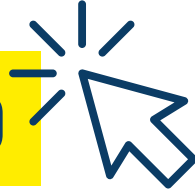


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