



# WVI NEWSLETTER

Jan  
2024



## Holiday Party

The annual WVI Holiday party was held December 3 at Genesis Village from 2:00pm-5:00pm. Genesis Village is a great place to hold the holiday party as there is plenty of room to spread out. Genesis Village is a big supporter of veterans and their activities so just as the party room was approached there was a beautifully decorated military themed tree. There were 23 women veterans, 3 guests and 3 volunteers in attendance. C. Nagy (Army) presented a condensed version of "A Few Good Women" to encourage women to tell their stories. Diana French (Army) was available to assist the veterans with accessing the Military Women's Memorial. Five veterans took advantage of this service to establish an account. WVI will be available after the holidays to assist with completion of the registration process. There were gifts for all plus raffle baskets and bazaar tables with clothes, toys and miscellaneous items. The veterans demonstrated their shopping knowledge by competing in the "Price is Right" for five household items. Jen Batton (Navy) and Mary Hodge (Army) closed the afternoon with Christmas Carols and Bobbee Clawson offered a closing prayer.

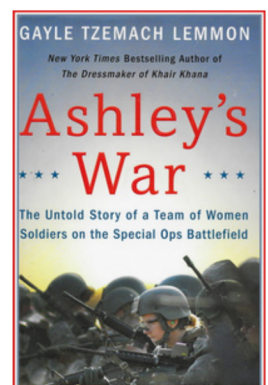
A big thank you to the following: Bobbee Clawson (Army) prepared a variety of sliders, cheeseball, crackers and salami, plus cake, C. Stiles donated the ice, S. Steffel shared her delicious homemade cookies and wrapped gifts, WVI provided the beverages, J. Batton (Navy) donated toys, Lucinda League (Army) baked a blueberry cobbler and assisted with wrapping, Denise Schantz (Navy) wrapped gifts and J. Rambo assisted with purchasing beverages and wrapped gifts. Party setup: Denise, Jena, Susan, Bobbee, CarlaAnn, Carolyn and Carla Tipton.

Picture provided by C. Nagy

## Ashley's War

"Ashley's War" by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon (2015) tells the untold story of women soldiers in the Special Ops Battlefield in 2010. Ashley's War identifies the complexities of war to tell the story of CST-2, a unit of women handpicked from across the Army, and the remarkable hero at its heart Ashley White. 1st LT. Ashley White was killed during combat operations in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan on October 22, 2011, when the assault force she was supporting triggered an improvised explosive device. The story is a gripping combat narrative and a testament to the unbreakable bond of friendship born of war.

Picture provided by: Harper's Collins Publisher



# Ashley's House for Homeless Women Veterans

The Villages in Lake County, Florida recognizes that homeless women veterans are the fastest growing demographics in today's military and that Florida has the third largest population of veterans, 150K women veterans. The Villages has already established Ashley's Cottage with the assistance of volunteers and Habitat for Humanity but realized more accommodations were needed thus, plans for Ashley's House were developed.



"Ashley's House" will be a 4,000 square-foot transitional group home constructed on Grove Street in Eustis, Florida, dedicated to the memory of First Lieutenant Ashley White-Stumpf, 24. 1LT Ashley White was one of the first Combat Support Team members selected and deployed by the U.S. Special Operations Command. On October 22, 2011, an improvised explosive device killed Ashley during combat operations in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

"The house will be an all-female veteran transition home offering women veterans a temporary safe haven while also providing job training, counseling, and much needed female camaraderie as they work towards self-sufficiency in a secure and loving environment," says Marie Bogdonoff, founder and CEO of Villagers for Veterans.

Please go to the link below for more information on this and other veterans' projects/activities conducted by the Villagers for Veteran Organization. <https://www.villagersforveterans.org>.

Information: Villagers for Veterans

Picture provided by: Villagers for Veterans website

## Remember Veteran Grave markers, Inc. (RVGM)

Lt. James N. Phillips, Jr. SC, USN (Ret.) and his wife Sue (USAF) have placed flags on Veteran Grave markers in preparation for Memorial Day for years. It was evident that the Grave Markers were not attended. This was bothersome to James when he learned that perpetual care did not address the condition of the grave markers. After complaining to his wife, she replied "If you care so much, why don't you do something about it!" After researching how to clean head stones on YouTube James decided to reduce his scope for the developing project to the following:



"It is the purpose of Remember Veterans Grave Markers Inc. to honor veterans by locating and preserving their memory by cleaning Government-Issued headstones and Grave Markers found in 50+ municipal and private cemeteries in Lucas County, OH."

RVGM is a non-profit that is volunteer driven, and any donations are utilized for the cleaning of markers. Ten cemeteries are now working with RVGM on this project. James states "In many instances, these Veterans, have no family to care for their eternal resting place, so we must step up.

RVGM Inc. can be found on YouTube or Facebook by searching @rvgmInc or you may contact James at [rvgm2023@gmail.com](mailto:rvgm2023@gmail.com).

Article: Excerpt from The Oakleaf Winter 2023 page 22

Pictures provided by: J. Phillips



# The Things She Carried: January 2024

Nurse Helena Van Winkle (NC USA 1917-1919) was one of more than 5,000 nurses who served in France during WW1, Helena used this trunk during her service. She lined the trunk with photos of loved ones. The trunk carried her uniforms and mementoes such as a stuffed cat given to her by a patient in a hospital in France. He had carried it on battlefields as a good luck charm.

Article: Military Women’s Memorial 2024 calendar  
Photo provided by 2024 Special Edition calendar.



**Wishing you and yours a wonderful and prosperous New Year!**