

**Did you know?
MAY IS
NATIONAL
SALAD
MONTH.**



☆☆☆
WORLD WAR II VETERANS DISCUSSION GROUP
HAGAMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY 203-468-3890
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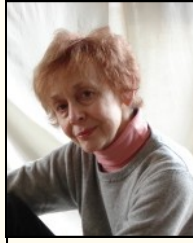
Memorial Day
 is
Monday
May 26th



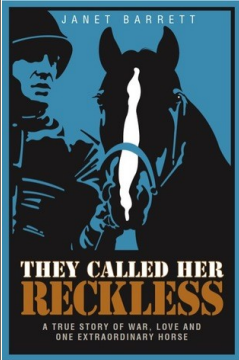
May 2014

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 28th at 2:00 pm in the Hagaman Library DeMayo Community Room.

This month, local author Janet Barrett will speak about her book entitled *They Called Her Reckless: A True Story of War, Love, and One Extraordinary Horse*, about a mare acquired by U.S. Marines during the Korean War to haul ammunition to the front lines -- and, in short order, became the real-life warhorse of the Marine Fifth Regiment. Courageous and indomitable,



Janet Barrett



Reckless stood with her buddies for two years, saving many lives, raising spirits, and winning the love and respect of all who knew her – an incredible story of a horse forging a bond that enabled her to give so much more than anyone ever expected, and her Marines to return a love that continues to this day. The memories of many of those who knew her in wartime and thereafter, and 14 pages of photos, underscore why Sergeant Reckless is honored still.

Reckless - a horse that was so heroic during the Korean War, the US Marines officially promoted her to Staff Sergeant - an official honor never before or since bestowed upon an animal. She was not a mascot. She was an official military officer. And she was as well known as Mister Ed, Seabiscuit, Rin Tin Tin and Lassie in the 1950s. She was named as one of *Life* magazine's 100 most heroic people in a 1997 commemorative edition.



Reckless delivered ammo to the recoilless rifle platoon's firing sites. She would be led a few times and then could make the trip to and from the ammo dump by herself. During just one battle, she made 51 trips under enemy fire, most of them by herself. She also carried wounded troops to safety.

VETERANS AWARENESS DAY AT QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY FRIDAY, MAY 23rd, 2014

Veterans Awareness Day is sponsored by the Hamden Veterans Commission. Breakfast and lunch are included and are free for veterans. Area middle school and high school students will come to the Memorial Day weekend event dedicated to the memory of all of America's Veterans. Our WWII group will have several display tables where our veterans can sit and answer questions from students.

Veterans who would like to attend Veterans Awareness Day at Quinnipiac University on Friday May 23rd and need a ride, please contact Fawn at the Library at (203) 468-3890.



Above: Statue of Reckless

(National Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico)

Reckless' decorations included two Purple Hearts, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation with star, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

SONGS WE'LL SING IN MAY

This Land is Your Land
 You're A Grand Old Flag
 Stars and Stripes Forever
 Star Spangled Banner



GEM OF THE MONTH:

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."
—Aristotle

LAST MONTH'S MEETING:

1



2



3



4



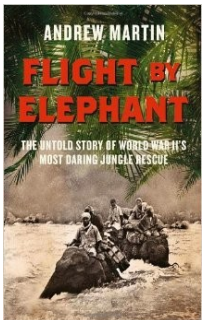
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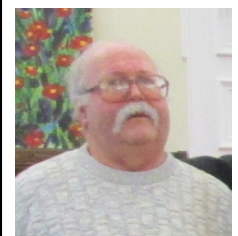
Our featured speaker was unable to come to our April meeting, but we had an enjoyable time with Dan Garitta showing photos of the recent “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans” event where he provided a display of several military items (1); Air Force veteran Bob Russell told WWII trivia and showed us B-52 patches (2); Barbara Esposito showed photos of a WWII C-47 aircraft that recently landed in Connecticut (3); Roger Malbuisson talked about meeting a 105-year-old WWII veteran who worked in Counter-Intelligence, as his father had (4); Kevin gave a presentation about mascots of war. (5)

Book Recommendation by Our Own WWII Group Member Steve Dougherty

Flight by Elephant: The Untold Story of World War Two's Most Daring Jungle Rescue
 by Andrew Martin



During the Japanese invasion of Upper Burma, thousands of soldiers and civilians were forced to flee through the most forbidding conditions imaginable to the 8,000-foot high Chaukan Pass. The survivors—a group of tea planters and former soldiers—assembled groups of elephants to bring them to several stations set up in the Assam Jungle, but obstacles were daunting: monsoon rains, leeches, jungle disease, starvation and tigers. The dangerous river crossings were done by the elephant groups and their Mahouts. A pitiful number accomplished the trek over the Chaukan Pass, to be ferried across the headwaters of the Brahmaputra River to the relocation camp at Ledo, Assam.



Steve Dougherty

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Liz Drenyoczky 5/9
Harry Maresca 5/22

DID YOU KNOW?

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, “Where’s the self-help section?” She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.
 — George Carlin

