



Summer Issue 2022
Veteran's Outreach Ministries
VOM
magazine

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WELCOME *from the* Board of Directors

As Veterans we constantly are fighting wars to preserve what we cherish; family, freedom and our faith in God and Country. These wars are fought on land, at sea, in the air and inside us.

Although a war can be thought of its finality as to the winner or loser, there is an internal horror that strikes at the heart and soul of some veterans. These are the horrible effects of war that remains forever inside them. Through HIS, Jesus Christ, suffering and dying on the cross the war for our eternal salvation was won.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"
John 3:16

Through God's unfailing love the war within one's self can cease, and you will be healed from your pain and suffering. By believing in God who is our FATHER and that all things are possible through him.

The goal of Veteran's Outreach Ministries is to spread the word of God to Veterans and their families seeking comfort from their pain. Through this ministry our prayers are for all to find piece through our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ.



**VETERAN'S OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**
"Healing Through Christ"

www.VeteransOutreachMinistries.org

Veteran's Outreach Ministries, is located in the Newark/Bear/Glasgow area. We were incorporated in Delaware in July 2014 by veterans to be a resource to veterans and their families.

VOM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Veteran's Outreach Ministries is expanding into the Chester and Delaware County areas in Pennsylvania. Currently, we are seeking volunteers to help us with this growth. If anyone is interested in assisting us with this expansion please contact me at 610-299-5523 or johnh.vom@gmail.com for more information.

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Recipe from MD Local
Meredith S. K. Boas

3 CHEESE PESTO TOMATO SANDWICH

MAKES: 1 Serving **TOTAL TIME:** 30 Minutes

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 medium tomato
- 1 tablespoon classic pesto spread
(recommend Filippo Berio brand)
- 1/4 cup feta cheese
- 1 slice white cheddar cheese
- 1 slice white provolone cheese
- 2 pieces brioche bread (loaf or pre-sliced)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1** Preheat the oven to 350 degrees, and on a baking sheet, lay a piece of tin foil.
- 2** Slice 2 pieces of brioche bread from the loaf or select 2 pieces of pre-sliced brioche bread and lay them flat on the baking sheet.
- 3** On both pieces of bread spread the pesto.
- 4** On 1 piece of bread pile the 1/4 cup of feta cheese (use your hand to press into place).
- 5** On a cutting board, slice your tomato into thin slices. Then overlap those slices onto the same side of bread that has the feta cheese.
- 6** Then layer 1 slice of white cheddar and 1 slice of provolone on top of the tomato.
- 7** Place the tray into the oven and bake for 10 minutes. Then remove from oven and while hot, press the pesto-only piece of bread on top of the other side making a complete sandwich.
- 8** Let cool slightly and enjoy!

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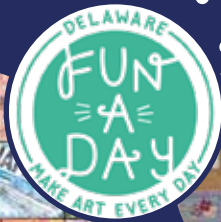
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County Executive Matthew Meyer
Department of Community Services
Division of Community Resources



#nccartstudio



FREE to Participate

An Art Challenge
Community-Focused
All People - All Ages
All Skill Levels
All Art Mediums

Artist: Amber Payne

DELAWARE FUN-A-DAY 2022

300+ Creators* are **Making Art** each day in July 2022
for a BIG Community Art Showcase in August 2022

Sign-Up to Participate by June 28th - ALL WELCOME

www.DelawareFunADay.com

Anyone Anywhere Can Participate
Physical Art Show in Newark, DE

VOM & Community Events for June-August 2022

www.VeteransOutreachMinistries.org
Visit for full Event Details

June 14 - Flag Day

Check with local veteran organizations for local area celebrations. Commemorates the adoption of the flag of the USA on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress

June 14 - 7th Annual Golf Charity Outing at Chesapeake Bay Golf Club

Presented by The Paris Foundation Presents
Register at www.theparisfoundation.org/events

June 18 - 4th Annual Head 2 Toe Bicycle Relay

Rain or Shine. Ride the length of Delaware!
Register here - www.grumpygramps.org

June 19 - Father's Day

June 21 - Official Start of Summer

June 27 - Veterans Thank You Brunch with VOM at Bakers Restaurant

Sponsored by Veteran's Outreach Ministries (VOM) and Baker's Restaurant, 9:00am to 11:30am.
Call Tom Hogate at 302-229-1819 for more information

June 30 - VOM Meeting starting at 6:30pm

Oasis Church in Glasgow, DE. All are welcome!

July - Please Note: There will be no VOM meeting in July

July 3 - Salute to Cecil County Veterans Fireworks Show from 6-10pm

North East Community Park in North East, MD
Visit www.SaluteCecilVets.org

July 4 - Independence Day

July 7 - Veterans Roundtable Discussion

10:30am to 1:30pm. Location to be determined.
Check www.VeteransOutreachMinistries.com for details.

August 13-14 - Delaware Fun-A-Day 2022 Art Exhibit

FREE, Open to All. The Courtyard by Marriott
400 David Hollowell Dr, Newark, DE 19716

August 18 - VOM Meeting starting at 6:30pm

Oasis Church in Glasgow, DE. All are welcome!

August 25 - 35th Annual Golf Tournament with Cecil County Chamber

Chesapeake Bay Golf Club in Rising Sun, MD. To register call Debbie Brown at the Chamber 410-392-3833

The Gift that Keeps Giving

When I was younger, I loved playing with dolls, creating hairstyles, and caring for sick toys and birds. I knew early in life I wanted to become a nurse. I watched my mother care for others, and I had the horrible experience of watching a dear friend die before my eyes.

I prayed and asked God to use my gifts for His glory. It took me eighteen years to complete my nursing degree but along the way, I earned a degree in Early Childhood Development. I liked children and wanted to work in pediatric nursing one day. Years later, I did become a nurse, and I worked in pediatrics for a little while, then landed a position in Nursing Education at numerous local colleges.

I still enjoyed caring for others but did not stop there. My husband and I began to fostered children. What a rewarding experience. Being a foster parent was different from caring for a child in the hospital. A foster child lives in your home for a short or extended period. We had the blessing of assisting two boys from middle/high school years into adulthood. Fostering children can be arranged through the court system or through family arrangements. I was fostered by my great-aunt but remained a ward of the state. Though I was not officially adopted, I was unconditionally loved by my great-aunt Nancy.

Now my family is half-retired because I still work, life has changed drastically. Our own children are adults and we were looking to slow down some. Well God had other plans. Another little boy needed our help, but he was not born yet. We were approached specifically about raising this unborn baby. My first thought was "NO". I was completing another degree and there was no way we were fostering an infant. Well the baby was born. We got the call, and

no one was able to take this baby boy home. We took the drive to Ohio and said, "we will do our best". That was five years ago, and we are still doing "our best" with God's help. Life has not been the same. As we plunged into infancy again after 34 years of raising children and fostering other children; we begin to look up terms like Night Tares, Infant Insomnia, Sleep Apnea, Reflux, Speech impairment, Proprioception Dysfunction, Oppositional Compulsive Defiance, Anger Displacement, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism and more. What in the WORLD did all this mean! I had studied some of these terms in my Early Childhood Development years but never lived the experiences. Our infant did not sleep, he vomited every day, was constantly constipated, screamed in the middle of the night, and did not speak until almost two years old. We were plunged into





the world of the “Special Needs Child”. Where do I begin to get help!

We were not prepared for this (so we thought). Yet God was preparing us all the time. I had studied some disorders over a 14-year career as a Child development specialist for the Army Child Development Center. I helped young Moms with their babies who had such illnesses as Pyloric Stenosis and Prader- Willi Syndrome. There were times that my husband and I were the only caregivers for our friends who had children with severe ADHD and Anger Displacement Disorder. So, God was preparing us all along.

Now it is our turn to learn, advocate, and love our special son with God’s help. Is it easy? No way! Do I have doubts? All the time. But at the end of the day, when I gaze into those shifting brown eyes, I know we did the right thing. I pray a lot and journal often as we live one day at a time. I am learning more about myself than I ever thought possible through this child. My church and Life Recovery Group teach me coping skills to address anxiety, outbursts, and anger, even my own emotions. Each day is a new adventure and our son is truly a gift that keeps giving.

Resources: www.guardianangelguide.com, April 3, 2017, [Prayer For Children With Special Needs kennedykrieger.org](http://PrayerForChildrenWithSpecialNeedskennedykrieger.org) and marylandfamilynetwork.org
Light 2 World, Inc., Dee Jones, President, 1013 Beards Hill Road Suite M #237, Aberdeen, MD 21001
410-459-5060, www.deejones.org

Power Prayer

Father God, I thank you for directing my steps today. I thank you for covering me with Your Almighty shadow. I declare and believe that no evil shall come near my dwelling, my family, my work, my body, and my thoughts. I rebuke the devil from hindering my life and purpose. No storm, no demonic strategy, no offense, no pestilence, and no evil report, will interrupt the blessings of God in my life. I release the love and wisdom of God into my heart and mind. Satan, take your hands off God’s property! Thank you Father God for joy and peace that passes all understanding. In Jesus name, I pray, amen.

Trusting God Even If

It’s not always easy to trust or praise the Lord, but when the situation feels unbearable, God’s constant presence comforts us. He strengthens and reassures us of His unchanging goodness, limitless power, and sustaining grace. And when we are tempted to doubt our Lord, we are encouraged but the determined faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They worshipped God and trusted he was with them, even when their situation seemed hopeless.

When King Nebuchadnezzar threatened to throw them into a blazing furnace if they didn’t turn away from the true God to worship his golden statue (DAN 3:13-15), these three men displayed courageous and confident faith. They never doubted the Lord was worthy of their worship, (DAN 3:17) “even if” He didn’t rescue them from their current predicament (DAN 3:18). And God didn’t leave them alone in their time of need. HE joined and protected them in the furnace. (DAN 3:24-25)

God doesn’t leave us alone either. He remains with us through trials that can feel so destructive as King Nebuchadnezzar’s furnace. Even if our suffering doesn’t end on this side of eternity, God is and always will be mighty, trustworthy, and good. We can rely on his constant and loving presence.

Today’s Reading – Daniel 3:13-25
Written by Xochitl Dixon / Our Daily Bread
Dec, Jan, Feb. 2017-2018

The Plague of Blessings

There are only two countries in the world that have been founded on biblical principles. One is Israel and the other one is United States of America. Our founding fathers consecrated and dedicated America to God. Because of this God has blessed us in so many ways. The laws have been set up on a Christ-centered interpretation of justice, fairness, and equal opportunity.

He has blessed us with a plentiful and beautiful nation. A lot of countries are desert or all frozen with brutal environments. God has placed at our feet; ore, minerals, oil, forests, lakes, pastures, farmlands, and more. He's provided what we need for ourselves and enough to care for other countries around the world.

God has also given us a free enterprise system where we all have the equal opportunity to have our own businesses, and excel in innovations because were permitted to go after our own dreams. Some nations tell you what you are going to do and how you are going to do it with no choice in the matter. I used to live in a country that was run by a dictatorship. If you did not follow the religion they told you to follow or complain about anything political, it was considered treason and you could be jailed or shot for the crime. Usually the latter.

We should be very thankful to God for the election process and the opportunity to directly impact the direction of this nation. We should also be very thankful for the freedom of speech and of assembly just to mention a few. We also must take a voice in the future of the country by voting but we must carefully look at all the candidates and look into their records for ourselves not believing the media what we have heard. We also need to spend time praying for direction from God lead us in our decisions.

We have become so used to all these blessings that we take them for granted. We have no respect for nature and just throw our trash wherever we want to in a lot of cases. We dump chemicals into the rivers that kill the fish and other life with no respect to the long-term effect. Just now we are starting to be concerned about pollution and the environment. Businesses are being forced to gradually, but not fast enough in my opinion, reduce the amount they pollute the environment between dumping and air emissions. A lot of the species of the animals in the world by becoming extinct because we want to kill them just to hang their heads on a wall or put their stuffed bodies in room suite can brag about what we did.

We have forgotten God has blessed us because we are so used to these blessings, but he can very easily change that. A new culture is developing that believes that they can say whatever they want whether it's truth or not. They also feel that they can do whatever they want without repercussions. They forget whether or not they believe in God he is still very real and they will have to answer to Him eventually. We also have no respect for our bodies, which are God's temple, doing things that we know are harmful to it such as smoking, drinking to excess, drugs, and eating habits that are not healthy.

We make sure our churches and grounds look very nice but we forget one minor detail. The buildings are just that a building. The real temple of God is our bodies. All Christians claim to love God yet in our actions we show Him no respect by the way we take care of His Temple.

If we don't respect everything that God has given us and take care of it, He will take it away. God promises us that in the Bible!

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS



An Article by
Debbie DiVirgilio, MDiv, MNM, GPC, CGT
President, Faith Based Non-Profit Resource Center

Did you ever notice how it is the little things that get you?

A couple of weeks ago, our office was having a really busy day. It was one of those days where things are humming and everyone is doing their part to get all the work done — one of those days where you need everything to go just right — technology needs to work just perfectly, the printer needs full ink cartridges and hopefully, the toilet doesn't back up.

I am sure we have all had those days.

Fortunately, in our office when those days come along, our team works really well together and we are able to support each other in the tasks we have been given. I have worked hard to help each person see how their piece of the task fits into the big picture. Everyone has an important role to play.

And, so it was just a few weeks ago...

We were in the midst of printing a document that was large and one that needed to be precise. Getting it printed early in the morning was essential for making the rest of the day flow smoothly. Unfortunately, just a few pages in and the printer makes a horrible sound and flashes an error message on its screen. PAPER JAM it was shouting at me.

I checked all the normal spots where paper gets hung up, pushed the clear button and started again. But, the JAM message popped back up. This time I moved the printer looked in the back, pulled a couple of levers and hit reset. Once I hit the clear button, the message popped up AGAIN.

You can imagine my frustration, we went through this process five or so times. I was ready to scream and, if I am being honest some things came out of my mouth that I regret.

Recognizing we were getting anywhere and the whole day was on its way to being derailed, we got serious looking for where the jam was occurring. Finally, we found it. But, we couldn't reach it. Fortunately, in an office full of women, someone had a set of tweezers, but the tweezers weren't long enough.

Digging in our supply closet, we found a long flat-head screwdriver. Very carefully, we held the paper with the tip of the screwdriver, pulling it up ever so slightly. Then, we were able to use the tweezers to pull it out.

Imagine the look on my face when this piece of paper that was not even two inches square came out. All of our problems were being caused by that one piece of paper.

Immediately, I knew that piece of paper was a teaching lesson. I have kept that piece of paper on my desk as a frequent reminder of the lessons I learned.

- It's not the big things that get in the way of our life for Christ, it's the little things.
- When the pressure is on, the little things seem really big.
- Always be ready to apologize to your team when you turn the little things into big things.

But perhaps one of the biggest lessons learned is that when you have developed your staff into a team, they can overlook and forgive your mistakes because they recognize those mistakes are not really who you are.

Days to Display the Flag

Holidays to Display Flag

June - August 2022 Summer Issue

- Flag Day - June 14
 - U.S. Army Founded - June 14, 1775
 - Fathers Day - June 19
 - Independence Day - July 4
 - National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day - July 27
 - Korean War Ended - July 27, 1953
- And other such days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States

Non Flag Display Days

(for information only)

- D-Day Allied Invasion of Europe - June 6, 1944
- Summer Begins - June 21
- Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress - June 22, 1942
- G. I. Bill signed into law - June 22, 1944
- Korean War Began - June 25, 1950
- National Post Traumatic Stress Awareness Day - June 27
- Post 9/11 G I Bill Signed into Law - June 30
- U.S. Air Corps Established - July 2, 1926
- World War 1 Began - July 28, 1914
- U.S. Coast Guard Established - August 4, 1790
- Purple Heart Medal Established - August 7, 1782
- Vietnam War Began - August 7, 1964
- Japan Surrendered Ending WWII - August 14, 1945
- National Navajo Code Talkers Day - August 14
- National Airborne Day - August 16
- National Aviation Day - August 19
- Women's Equality Day - August 26

The above information was taken from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 2021/2022 Calendar.



Salute to Veterans & Fireworks Show

Olivia Reynolds **Fireworks Show**

SUNDAY, JULY 3, 2022 | 6-10PM
 North East Town Park in North East, MD

Info & Details: www.stoccv.org
 443.907.7682

News & Updates:
 f SaluteCecilVets

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An Article Pulled From
militarybases.com/marine-corps

U.S. MARINE CORPS BASES AROUND THE WORLD

The Marines, first established in 1775 as a ground-force sector of the Navy, is considered to be the smallest branch of the military, next to the Coast Guard. Initially, the Marines were used to take over beaches for the Navy. 1798, marked the beginning of the Marine Corps, as it then became its own official branch of the military.

Although the Marine Corps has its own aviation unit, the Navy still mainly supports Marines by air and sea. The Marine Corps receives medical aid from the Navy. Currently, there are over 180,000 active Marines strategically placed across the world ready for fast deployment during times of crisis and need. The Marine Corps is best known for their slogan: "The few. The proud. The Marines."

- Afghanistan (3)
- Arizona (1)
- California (6)
- Washington DC (1)
- Florida (1)
- Georgia (1)
- Germany (1)
- Hawaii (1)
- Iraq (1)
- Japan (13)
- Missouri (1)
- North Carolina (3)
- South Carolina (2)
- Virginia (2)

Marine Barracks Marine Corps Base in Washington, DC

Marine Barracks represents the oldest military installation operated by the United States Marine Corps. It is located in Washington, DC, and spreads over 6 acres only. The place is commanded by Paul D. Montanus and is also a National Historic Landmark since 1976. Unlike many other installations run by the United States Marine Corps, this one is also open to the public, but only at specific occasions, ceremonies and parades.

Henderson Hall Marine Corps Base in Arlington, VA

Henderson Hall is located in the closeness of the Pentagon, the local national cemetery and a different military facility – Fort Myer. The base spreads over more than 20 acres and hosts multiple facilities, such as the United States Marine Corps barracks and plenty of educational buildings. The base is operated by the United States Marine Corps, but under the jurisdiction of Fort Myer. In fact, the two installations work in a very tight collaboration. It is named after Archibald Henderson, the longest serving commander in the US Marine Corps. He spent more than five decades in this military force and is often referred to as the grand man. The current commander is Ira M. Cheatham.



**Have you explored a base? Share
 with us! Let's publish your story!**

FINANCIAL FOCUS

WHAT'S YOUR INVESTMENT RISK TOLERANCE?

Risk is a normal part of investing. If you didn't take on any risk, you wouldn't have the potential to achieve higher returns. But how much risk should you accept?

You don't want to incur unnecessary risk. So, you'll need to assess the amount of risk you're comfortable taking and then determine if this risk level supports your ability to achieve your long-term goals.

Here are some of the key factors in determining your own capacity for investment risk:

- **Personality** - We all have different personalities. And your individual personality can certainly affect your comfort level with risk. If you enjoy taking chances or pushing yourself outside your comfort zone in other aspects of your life, you could be more likely to accept greater investment risk, too, because you know that greater risk means greater potential reward. Conversely, higher-risk investments also carry greater potential for volatility, including steep short-term declines.

- **Time** - Risk tolerance can change over time. When you are first starting out in your career, with decades to go until you retire, you may feel comfortable with a certain degree of investment risk, knowing you have time to potentially overcome the inevitable downturns in the financial markets. But as you near retirement, you might consider lowering your risk level and investing more conservatively, because once you do retire, you'll likely have to start withdrawing money from your retirement accounts, which means you may need to liquidate some investments - and, ideally, you won't want to have large fluctuations in value at that time. However, even during retirement, you may want your portfolio to include some

growth-oriented investments to help keep you ahead of inflation.

- **Type of goal** - You might have different risk tolerances for different goals. For example, if you know you need a specific amount for a particular goal in two years - such as buying a new car or taking an overseas vacation - you may want to put away money in a low-risk, liquid vehicle. This type of investment might not have much growth potential, but for this goal, you are less interested in achieving a high rate of return than you are in being reasonably sure the money will be there when you need it. So, in this instance, you may have quite a low tolerance for risk. But for a long-term goal, such as a comfortable retirement, you may be prepared to take more risk in the hopes of greater returns, given the longer time horizon.

By understanding your risk tolerance and knowing how it can change over time and under different circumstances, you can be better prepared to face investment volatility. And there are certainly things you can do to mitigate risk. By owning a variety of investments - domestic and international stocks, bonds, mutual funds, government securities and so on - you can reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification can't prevent all losses or guarantee profits.)

In any case, the biggest risk of all is simply not investing. If you are going to achieve your financial goals, you need to invest for them. By understanding your own risk tolerance, and by making wise choices along the way, you can stick with an investment strategy that can work for you in the long run.

This article was written by Edward Jones for us by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Tyler Simonds, Edward Jones, Member SIPC
You can reach Tyler at 410-398-4214



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FEMALE

VETERAN *of the Quarter*

Lisa Lane

I grew up in Owosso, Michigan, a small rural town located just outside of Lansing. Right out of high school, I joined the Army. I really craved travel and adventure and that's what I got. I enlisted for 3 years and got sent to Frankfurt, Germany to the B company, 17th signal Battalion as a 31M for my tour from 1986-1988. I loved it. I went on every USO tour and vacation I could. I traveled everywhere. I went to the Berlin wall. I left Germany in November 1988 and when the wall came down in 1989, I knew it was a significant event.

After my enlistment, I went home to Michigan and went to college. I attended Michigan State and majored in Biology with a teaching certificate. I had also enlisted for the Michigan National Guard. I was using the GI Bill to pay for college and the guard was like a part time job. In January 1991, my guard unit was activated for Operation Desert Storm. We deployed to Saudi Arabia not knowing what to expect.

In the 146th military police detachment we were assigned to a POW camp in the desert, managing the capture of several thousand Iraqi prisoners. Being in Saudi Arabia was eye opening. Life styles there were so different from ours. I was required to wear a burka and headscarf when leaving our base. I was not allowed to shop or order food without a male escort. Women had few rights there. The experience was very humbling. I went home with an appreciation for our western freedoms. Upon returning to the states, we were all welcomed home with much pomp and circumstance.

Back home in Michigan, I finished college. I wavered on whether or not to stay in the National Guard or focus on a new teaching career. On a whim, I applied for Army flight school through the guard. By this time I had almost 10 years in the military. The Michigan National Guard offered to send me to flight school to become an Army helicopter pilot.

Off I went to Warrant Officer Candidate School followed by Initial Entry Rotary Wing Training in



1995 at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Flight school was an awesome experience. I graduated a year later and headed back to Michigan to fly the UH-1, HUEYs in an Air Assault unit. Also, I had met my husband-to-be while at Ft. Rucker. He was a pilot too on active duty flying the OH-58, Kiowa back then.

Soon after flight school, we married and moved around a bit and then to Maryland. I transferred to the Maryland Army Guard in Edgewood, in 1997 and flew Hueys and then UH-60 Blackhawks for them in a Medevac unit. Then in 1998, my first child was born. I continued to fly. I will say I was one of the very few female aviators at the time it was a bit new to the Army to have pregnant aviators. I was definitely a pioneer on that score.

In 2000, my second daughter was born. In 2002 I had served out my commitment, I chose to exit the military as a CW2 and focus on raising my kids and going back to school for a Master's degree. I began my teaching career with Cecil County Public Schools in 2005 and am still currently teaching biology at a Cecil county high school. My daughters are now grown and my husband flies the C-12 for the National Guard with many deployments under his belt. For me, it was an honor and a privilege to serve my country, meet so many great people, and I am truly a proud veteran.



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MALE

VETERAN of the Quarter

Tony Lane

My family moved to Cecil County in the early 1970's. The Vietnam War had recently ended and Bainbridge Naval Base operations was winding down. However, the military presence here was still very strong. Aberdeen Proving Ground used to put on an Armed Forces Day every year to let the community see the Army's systems and weapons. There were displays, live demonstrations, and vendors giving away samples of all sorts of items. I look back at those days now and realize it was a very effective recruiting tool.

My mother told me that when I was about 8 years old, I sat in a UH1 (Huey) Helicopter and told her I wanted to fly it. Fast forward to my Junior year at Salisbury University (Salisbury State University at the time) I was talking to an Army helicopter pilot about what I needed to do to get into the Army Flight Program. He told me about the Warrant Officer Flight Training program. I had never heard of a Warrant Officer but what he said had me hooked. One week after my senior year I was headed to basic training in Fort Jackson, SC. I was then sent to Fort Rucker, AL to attend Warrant Officer Candidate School, and then flight school. It was literally a life changing time for me. I have been a Warrant Officer for 32 years and do not regret one moment of my time.

I spent the first 4 years after flight school in the Mohave Desert working with Eagle Team, Aviation Observer Controllers at the National Training Center, NTC Ft. Irwin California. I was a young pilot and they gave me an OH 58 helicopter and more desert than I could cover. It was the best helicopter flying in the Army in my opinion. We flew all day, night, and under night vision goggles in some of the harshest terrain in the country. It was wonderful. I learned an incredible amount of doctrine, flight experience, and met some of the brightest soldiers in the US Army at the time. It was a great time in my life.



Leaving Ft. Irwin, I PCS'd to Ft. Rucker AL to become an Instructor pilot teaching new pilots the trade. There we ran classes of student from their first flight to their graduation day. It is where I met my wife, Lisa. She too is an Army Veteran, and a Warrant Officer Pilot.

I left active duty and moved back to this area. I joined the Delaware National Guard. The DEARNG at the time had UH1's and OH58's. UH1's were Air Assault and Medivac units. The OH58's were SCOUTS. I flew OH58's for a couple of years serving as the unit Instructor Pilot. After a few years I transitioned in the C12 airplane. I have been deployed multiple times to the Middle East, Africa, South America and travelled extensively around the United States. I was fortunate to have made it to the top of my rank structure, CW5. They call it the rarest rank in the military or the unicorn. Really, it means that I am old and it's time to retire. Thank you.



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BUSINESS of the Quarter



On the evening of Monday, May 23, 2022, Fin, a new startup business in Cecil County, Maryland had a ribbon cutting to launch their first bike-share location in Chesapeake City at the start of the Ben Cardin bike trail.

What is Bike Sharing?

Bike Sharing is a new way for folks to be able to enjoy outdoor recreation on a bicycle without actually having to own or transport their own bicycle. Simply put, a person can rent a bike for a limited amount of time from the Fin rack. All they have to do is download the Fin app, then use their smartphone to scan the QR code on the bike they'd like to use, they'll receive the code to unlock the bike on the rack, and they'll have use of that bike for an amount of time. When they're finished, the person will then return and re-lock up the bike. *It's easy!*

The Founder

Meet local entrepreneur Kelly Benson of the water-sports recreation company *Benson Outdoors*, and the North East, MD restaurant *Port House Grill*. Fin is his newest business to make what is now a solid trio of much-needed and we're sure soon-to-be much-loved local businesses in our community.

What Kelly Says...

I have many passions in life – but the one passion that is consistent among everything that I do is simple – I love to make people happy.

Growing up I spent my summer days barefoot, running around in the woods behind my parents house. My second home was the *Fair Hill Nature Center* where my mom developed and taught outdoor education

program and summer camps. I suppose it wasn't by chance that I developed a love for the outdoors at a very young age.

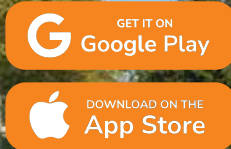
When I turned twenty one I cofounded the *Port House Grill* with my father. It was in this time that I realized that my entrepreneurial spirit could let me to blaze my own path. With my father as mentor, he taught me the subtle complexities of both managing a team and a business, and how to weigh risk versus reward.



Meet Owner,
Kelly Benson



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It was those first years of business where when interacting with my guests that I would be repeatedly asked “So this is a water town, how do you get out on it?”

When backpacking in January in the Patagonia region of Chile, I stayed overnight in a small lakeside town of what felt like no more than forty people, that was over six hours drive from the nearest populated area. I had rented a bedroom for the night in the sole storekeeper’s house. When I woke up, a small outfitter had a line of patrons eager to white water raft. It was this moment, in the middle of nowhere, that I realized I could solve the question that had been asked many times back home. And I could do three miles from the most traveled corridor on the East Coast. Bay Venture Outfitters was born that spring.

Born as an idea in the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic with its roots found in Bay Venture, Fin is our next adventure.

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