

West Virginia's Online Encyclopedia:

## Welcome, e-WV!

West Virginia gained a valuable reference resource with the recent introduction of *e-WV*, the online encyclopedia developed by the West Virginia Humanities Council.

*e-WV* showcases West Virginia's history, culture, and people. It is thoroughly innovative, enhanced with audio and video, hundreds of illustrations, maps, time lines, and other features. In keeping with the Humanities Council mission of service, *e-WV* is free of charge and available to anyone with access to a computer and the Internet.

"Big is the operative word," said Ken Sullivan, director of the Humanities Council and *e-WV* editor-in-chief. "There are more than 2,000 articles, thousands of points available in the interactive maps, and 10,000 keywords to drive the search process. There are more than 12,000 items in the master time line. This thing is big, and it will get bigger as West Virginians put it to work."

*e-WV* is the latest product of the West Virginia Encyclopedia project, which has been under way at the Humanities Council for more than a decade. The project is best known for its one-volume *West Virginia Encyclopedia*, which became a regional bestseller after its publication on June 20, 2006.

Launched to previewers on West Virginia Day, 2010, *e-WV* was opened to the general public in early September. You may see for yourself at [www.wvencyclopedia.org](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org).

*e-WV* is based on unique content delivered on a custom software platform, developed for the Encyclopedia project and available nowhere else. The heart of the new online encyclopedia is 2,200 original articles by nearly 600 writers. The articles range from a few hundred to several



Visit the new online encyclopedia at [www.wvencyclopedia.org](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org).

thousand words and offer definitive treatments of their respective subjects. The contributing writers are the best available experts in many fields, including the natural and physical sciences as well as the arts and humanities. Users may browse the online encyclopedia alphabetically, use categories and subcategories, or view random articles which change with each click of the mouse. Photographs, maps, video or audio accompany most articles. A wealth of historic and modern images may be zoomed for more information, and custom time lines are clickable from each article screen. Articles are linked to related articles, and bibliographic citations suggest further reading.

From the home page, visitors may check "This Date in History," test their "WVIQ" in quizzes on a wide variety of Mountain State facts and folklore, weigh in on opinion polls, or plunge directly into content. "Exhibit Hall" presents exhibits on such subjects as John Henry and the Hatfield-McCoy feud. The "Features" tab takes users to "What's New" or to the interactive mapping function, which allows users to

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The Humanities Council Holiday Open House is Friday, December 10, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The historic MacFarland-Hubbard House will be decorated to reflect its history, and refreshments will be served. Join us for some holiday cheer!

## The West Virginia Humanities Council

is a nonprofit organization governed by its board of directors.

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The Board meets  
October 22 at the  
MacFarland-Hubbard  
House. Open to the  
public.

# Connecting the dots

I came across the name of John B. Crowley while recently reviewing events to be included in the time-line feature of *e-WV*, the electronic version of the *West Virginia Encyclopedia*. Twice, in fact, in connection with his ownership of Charleston's old Luna Park and his posthumous generosity toward St. Francis Hospital.

The textual content of *e-WV* comes from the print version of the *Encyclopedia*, so I suppose I'd been over the Crowley references a dozen times in editing the book. But it had never occurred to me to ask whether there might be a connection between "John B. Crowley" and the "J. B. Crowley" who once owned the historic house where the Humanities Council now makes its headquarters. This time it did.

The reference to the hospital bequest suggested a year of death, and after that it was just a matter of calling our friends at the State Archives. They quickly produced a front-page article from a 1925 *Charleston Gazette*, reporting this prominent man's death and establishing the following:

That John B. Crowley had built Luna Park in 1911; that he bought the old MacFarland (now MacFarland-Hubbard) mansion in 1921; that he did extensive remodeling here in 1923, about the time his amusement park burned to the ground; and that he scarcely lived long enough to enjoy his newly renovated house before dying of what the *Gazette* characterized as complications of a cold.

Except for the news article itself, none of this was new to us – and we already knew most of the pertinent items in the news article. We just hadn't connected them. This despite the fact that I work in what was once probably Mr. Crowley's bedroom and had done so at the time I originally passed over his name in editing the *West Virginia Encyclopedia*.

All this pleases me in the way solving any good puzzle does, and also because it links two of my pet projects. Between them, the MacFarland-Hubbard House and the *West Virginia Encyclopedia/e-WV* occupy much of my working life and a good deal of what probably should be leisure.

And the timing could scarcely be better. As we look toward the celebration of this old house's 175th birthday next year, it is good to know one of its ghosts a little better.

– Ken Sullivan

*People & Mountains* is published three times a year by the West Virginia Humanities Council.

A state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the West Virginia Humanities Council serves West Virginia through grants and direct programs in the humanities.

We welcome letters, comments, and financial contributions. Please address all correspondence to West Virginia Humanities Council  
1310 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, WV 25301 or  
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The historic MacFarland-Hubbard House turns 175 in 2011. The Council plans to restore the grounds surrounding its headquarters to their historic appearance, and plans are under way for programs and a lawn party to celebrate the milestone event.

Continued from page 1

build maps according to their own interests. Users may also construct interactive time lines, placing items relative to one another and within the broader flow of events.

The “See WV” tab opens e-WV’s travel section, with photographs, text, and links to articles and external sites. “Events” presents a calendar of real-time information about what’s going on around West Virginia, with up to a year’s worth of dates and descriptions.

Most of e-WV is available on a drop-in basis, with no need to register. Those who choose to register enter a deeper relationship with the site and may post comments to articles, track their quiz scores, build personal portfolios, or take part in forums. Lesson plans may be created for classroom use. Students may use the site for class projects or homework.

A special section acknowledges financial supporters. In discussing e-WV, Ken Sullivan noted in particular a \$150,000 grant from Verizon and planning assistance from the West Virginia Library Commission. Organizations providing support for earlier phases of the Encyclopedia project are also recognized. They include American Electric Power, the Bernard H. and Blanche E. Jacobson Foundation, the Bernard McDonough Foundation, Columbia Natural Resources, the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, the

*Software engineer Ryan Heath introduces e-WV to teachers in Charleston.*

*“This thing is big, and it will get bigger as West Virginians put it to work. See for yourself at [www.wvencyclopedia.org](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org).”*

Herscher Foundation, the Katharine B. Tierney Charitable Foundation, United Bank, the State of West Virginia, and others.

Beginning in January 2009, Information Research Corporation of Fairmont designed, developed, and implemented e-WV under contract to the Humanities Council. In January 2010, Mike Keller joined the project as media editor, and West Virginia Network of Morgantown signed on as website host in June.

Now that it’s launched, planners view e-WV as a living body of information. As site visitors actively engage themselves, they will

manipulate content and enrich it with their own offerings.

“We’re serious about West Virginians putting this resource to work, and we think it will get better as they do so,” Sullivan said. “All of us are

smarter than some of us. Online systems become more intelligent with use, growing and changing in interaction with users. That’s an exciting advantage over print.”

Sullivan expects e-WV to become the first stop for researchers, a valuable asset for educators, and a favorite of tourists, journalists and ordinary, curious West Virginians. “e-WV is a first-class website, the go-to place for concise, authoritative information on our great state,” he said. “All there is to know about West Virginia’ was the motto for our print *Encyclopedia*, and this time we’ve come even closer.”



Michael Keller

## Humanities Council Grant Categories

**Major Grants** (\$20,000 maximum) support humanities events: symposiums, conferences, exhibits, lectures.

**Due:** Sept. 1, Feb. 1

**Minigrants** (\$1,500 maximum) support small projects, single events, or planning and consultation.

**Due:** \*Oct. 1, Dec. 1, Feb. 1, April 1, June 1, Aug. 1

**Fellowships** (\$2,500) support research and writing projects for humanities faculty and independent scholars.

**Due:** Feb. 1

**Media Grants** (\$20,000 maximum) support the production of electronic or film materials, or a newspaper series.

**Due:** Sept. 1

**Publication Grants** (\$20,000 maximum) are available to nonprofit presses and recognized academic presses, and support *only* the production phase of a completed manuscript.

**Due:** Sept. 1

**Teacher Institute Grants** (\$25,000 maximum) are available to colleges and universities and support summer seminars for secondary and elementary teachers.

**Due:** Sept. 1

### \* Approaching Deadline!

Visit [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org) for applications and guidelines, email [saunders@wvhumanities.org](mailto:saunders@wvhumanities.org), or call (304)346-8500.



Courtesy Goldenseal



Bruce Crawford directed the West Virginia Writers' Project.

## Writers' Project Lectures

With support from the Humanities Council, Pocahontas County Free Libraries will host a lecture series with Shepherd University professor emeritus Jerry Bruce Thomas on the subject of the Depression-era Federal Writers' Project. Established in 1935 as part of Franklin Roosevelt's WPA, the project provided jobs for unemployed historians, writers, and researchers, among other white-collar professionals.

The American Guide series, the project's most important achievement, includes *West Virginia: A Guide to the Mountain State*, a 559-page volume divided into four parts. West Virginia's guide was one of the last of the national series.

The lectures will include excerpts from *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story*, a film about the Writers' Project. Dr. Thomas will speak at 7 p.m. on October 12 at the McClintic Public Library in Marlinton; October 13 at the Greenbrier County Public Library in Lewisburg; and October 14 at the Monroe County Public Library in Union.



From A Guide to the Mountain State

## Bobbie Ann Mason at Shepherd

Shepherd University honors novelist Bobbie Ann Mason with its Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award and a week-long residency



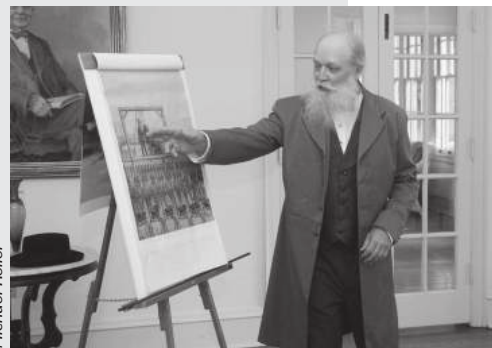
supported by a major grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council. Mason's award-winning collections include *Love Life*, *Midnight Magic*, and *Shiloh and Other Stories*, for which she won a Hemmingway Foundation PEN Award in 1983. The West Virginia Center for the Book selected her *In Country* novel as its "One Book, One West Virginia" book choice.

Mason will be at Shepherd from September 27 through October 3. Her residency is built around public readings; a screening and discussion of the 1989 motion picture based on *In Country*; book signings; and a concert. She will select the winners of the West Virginia Fiction Competition awards, to be announced on September 30. Mason will also serve as senior advisor to the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Volume II*, through the end of the year. Contact (304)876-5220 or visit [www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb](http://www.shepherd.edu/ahwirweb) for a complete schedule.

## History Alive!

The Humanities Council welcomes six new historical figures to its History Alive! roster beginning November 1. With an eye to the upcoming Civil War sesquicentennial, new characters include Confederate General Thom-

as "Stonewall" Jackson portrayed by Douglas Riley of Tunnelton; U.S. Colonel David Hunter Strother (aka Porte Crayon) portrayed by Donald Teter of Monteville; battle-



Michael Keller

Donald Teter as David Hunter Strother.

field nurse Clara Barton portrayed by Karen Vuranch of Fayetteville; and Osborne Perry Anderson, a surviving member of John Brown's Harpers Ferry raid, and Major Martin Delaney, the first African-American field officer in the U.S. Army, both portrayed by Joseph Bundy of Bluefield; as well as Edgar Allan Poe portrayed by George Bartley of Morgantown.

History Alive! brings historically significant figures to life through first-person interpretations. Contact program officer Mark Payne at [payne@wvhumanities.org](mailto:payne@wvhumanities.org) for booking information.

**Grant Process Simplified** The Humanities Council announces the streamlining of its grant process. Applicants may now submit one original copy of the application with one original signature of the CEO of the sponsoring organization. Previously, grant applicants were required to submit several different signatures and multiple copies of grant applications. Find grant guidelines and updated applications at [wvhumanities.org](http://wvhumanities.org). or contact [saunders@wvhumanities.org](mailto:saunders@wvhumanities.org).



State Archives

*A Martinsburg textile worker, about 1950.*

The Humanities Council will sponsor a state tour of the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit *The Way We Worked* from September 2011 through June 2012. Adapted from an exhibit developed by the National Archives, it traces the many changes that have affected the work force and work environment. Museums, history and cultural organizations, libraries and other community groups interested in hosting the exhibit should contact Program Officer Mark Payne at (304)346-8500 or [payne@wvhumanities.org](mailto:payne@wvhumanities.org) for application materials. Each of six selected sites will display *The Way We Worked* six weeks and receive funds to support programs and companion displays developed locally.

## Exhibit Sites Needed

## West Virginia Book Festival

For a decade the Humanities Council has partnered with Kanawha County Public Library and Charleston Newspapers to bring people and books together through the annual West Virginia Book Festival. In honor of the 10th anniversary of the popular event, a stellar lineup of major authors will conduct readings, workshops, and autograph sessions for thousands of book lovers at the Charleston Civic Center on October 16 and 17.

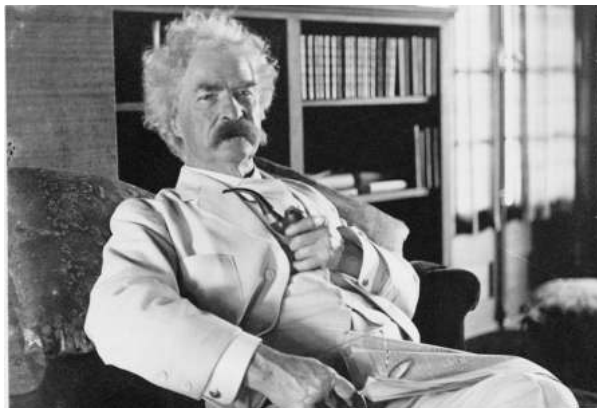
Headliners include best-selling authors Nicholas Sparks and Diana Gabaldon; Civil War historian James Robertson; West Virginia native and award-winning author Jayne Anne Phillips; West Virginia Poet Laureate Irene McKinney; and World War II historian Ken Hechler.

The festival features a large marketplace with publishers and other vendors, a children's area, and a huge used book sale. Visit [www.wvbookfestival.org](http://www.wvbookfestival.org) for a complete listing of authors and full schedule.

## Twain's 175th

Mark Twain would be 175 years old on November 30th of this year. The Humanities Council celebrates this

special day with a free public lecture by Judith Yaross Lee of Ohio University. Dr. Lee presents "Mark Twain and the Modern Mood" at 7:00 p.m., November 30, in the Victorian surroundings of Halliehurst Hall on the campus of Davis & Elkins College in Elkins. Professor Lee will explore Twain's continued appeal and his anticipation of major movements in 21st-century American culture. On December 1, she will work with literature students at both Davis & Elkins and West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon.



Library of Congress

Thanks to an educational grant from the Beckley Area Foundation, schoolchildren in Raleigh County now have access to *West Virginia: A Film History*. The BAF board of directors recently selected the Humanities Council two-DVD set of the film history for placement in 28 schools in their county. If your organization would like information on sponsoring *West Virginia: A Film History* for other Mountain State schools, contact Michelle Walker at [walker@wvhumanities.org](mailto:walker@wvhumanities.org) or (304) 346-8500.

The Great Textbook War radio documentary was recently confirmed as a national Edward R. Murrow Award winner. The production, funded by a grant from the Humanities Council, won in the audio news documentary category.



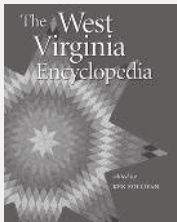
West Virginia University Press announces the November publication of *An Appalachian Reawakening: West Virginia and the Perils of the New Machine Age, 1945-1972* by Shepherd University professor emeritus Jerry Bruce Thomas. It examines the difficulties that West Virginia faced during the post-World War II period. The 240-page book, supported by a Humanities Council publication grant, is available in bookstores or at [www.wvupress.com](http://www.wvupress.com).

Grants Administrator Amy Saunders conducts grant-writing workshops statewide. Upcoming sessions will be held at the Mercer County Historical Society in Princeton on October 7, on October 14 during the West Virginia Library Association annual conference at Stonewall Jackson Resort State Park, and at the McDowell Public Library in Welch on October 28. For further details contact [saunders@wvhumanities.org](mailto:saunders@wvhumanities.org) or (304) 346-8500.

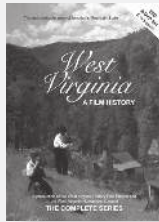


## Holiday Gifts!

Now in its second printing, the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* is a regional bestseller. *West Virginia: A Film History* is the unforgettable story of America's Mountain State. Both are perfect gifts for West Virginians.



927-page hardbound volume



Two-DVD set

Yes, I would like to purchase the following:

Number of *West Virginia Encyclopedias* @ \$44.95 \_\_\_\_\_

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## Donor Profile: Barbara Rasmussen

To paraphrase the old song, we get by with the help of our friends at the West Virginia Humanities Council. Those friends include the wonderful volunteer members of our board and committees, the good people who seek our grant funding and apply it statewide, supporters in the legislative and executive branches of state government, and many faithful financial contributors.

Among the most faithful is Barbara Rasmussen, who agreed to be profiled in this issue of *People & Mountains*. Barbara is retired from the WVU history faculty. She is a historic preservationist and is writing a book about the Blair Mountain battlefield. When she isn't in her garden in Gladesville, she dotes on three grandchildren.

Barbara has supported the work of the Humanities Council since 1999, when she began a six-year term on our program committee.

"I come from nine generations of West Virginians on both sides of my family," Barbara says. "I was a geeky Golden Horseshoe student in the classroom in Lewisburg. Later, I became a journalism major and worked on a doctorate in American history with a focus on Appalachian and West Virginia history. I taught West Virginia history at Fairmont State and West Virginia University."

She first became aware of the Humanities Council through a friend who served on the program committee, which recommends funding decisions to the board of directors. "I was nominated to the program committee. I have a long history of volunteerism through the years, and I feel as if the time I spent with the Council made a true impact."

Like others, Barbara has her favorite Council programs. "History Alive! is just great," she says. "It puts audiences in a one-to-one intimacy with an historical character. If you give a bunch of eighth graders 20 minutes with 'Mother Jones,' you have students that 'get' what the Mine Wars were all about. It's like having a West Virginia version of Colonial Williamsburg. It brings history right to you."

Always, she comes back to the satisfaction she finds in helping the Council fulfill its mission of service. "It felt good to be one of the people on the committee who represented a broad swath of perspectives and found they were able to meet on common ground for the betterment of the communities served by the West Virginia Humanities Council."

*You may use the postpaid envelope in this newsletter to join those who support the West Virginia Humanities Council. All gifts are tax-deductible.*



With grandson Xavier.



**Windows Demonstration.** The MacFarland-Hubbard House hosted a window restoration workshop in June, sponsored by Preservation Alliance of West Virginia. Allegheny Restoration of Beckley returned six double-hung windows, previously nonfunctional, to working order.

The day-long event included an introductory session by Preservation Alliance field representative Lynn Stasick and hands-on demonstrations for participants. Here preservationist Blair Lee readies a window sash for re-installation. The Humanities Council plans to restore more windows as part of its efforts to improve energy efficiency at its historic headquarters.

## Donations and Pledges

April 1 – July 31, 2010

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♣ denotes a gift dedicating a  
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## Enjoyable Excursion

On August 4 and 5, Humanities Council supporters joined Executive Director Ken Sullivan and Development Director Michelle Walker for a two-day road and river trip from Charleston to Point Pleasant, Parkersburg, and back. Travelers stopped at the Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam in Mason County before heading to Point Pleasant Battlefield State Park to visit the River Museum. The group learned about the Battle of Point Pleasant and other local history through colorful floodwall murals and a lecture by historian Philip Sturm. In Parkersburg, the travelers toured the reconstructed mansion of Harman and Margaret Blennerhassett on the island named for the famous couple before spending the night at the historic Blennerhassett Hotel.

The bus trippers changed transportation on day two when they boarded the *Belle of Cincinnati* for lectures by river historian Jerry Sutphin and a day-long cruise on the Ohio and Kanawha rivers.



Michelle Walker welcomes fellow travelers.

Michael Keller



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## McCreight Lecture

It has been 65 years since the flag was raised by U.S. Marines atop Mount Suribachi during the battle of Iwo Jima. The 2010 McCreight Lecture will tell the story of that iconic moment in American history, as author James Bradley speaks at 7:30 p.m. on October 21. The program is free and open to the public at the Culture Center in Charleston.

In 1945, during the final months of World War II, U.S. Marines launched an assault on the tiny Pacific island of Iwo Jima. The barren volcanic island was strategically important as an air base for fighter escorts of bombing missions against mainland Japan. It was riddled with tunnels, blockhouses and pillboxes to protect the 22,000 Japanese soldiers who were determined to fight to the death.

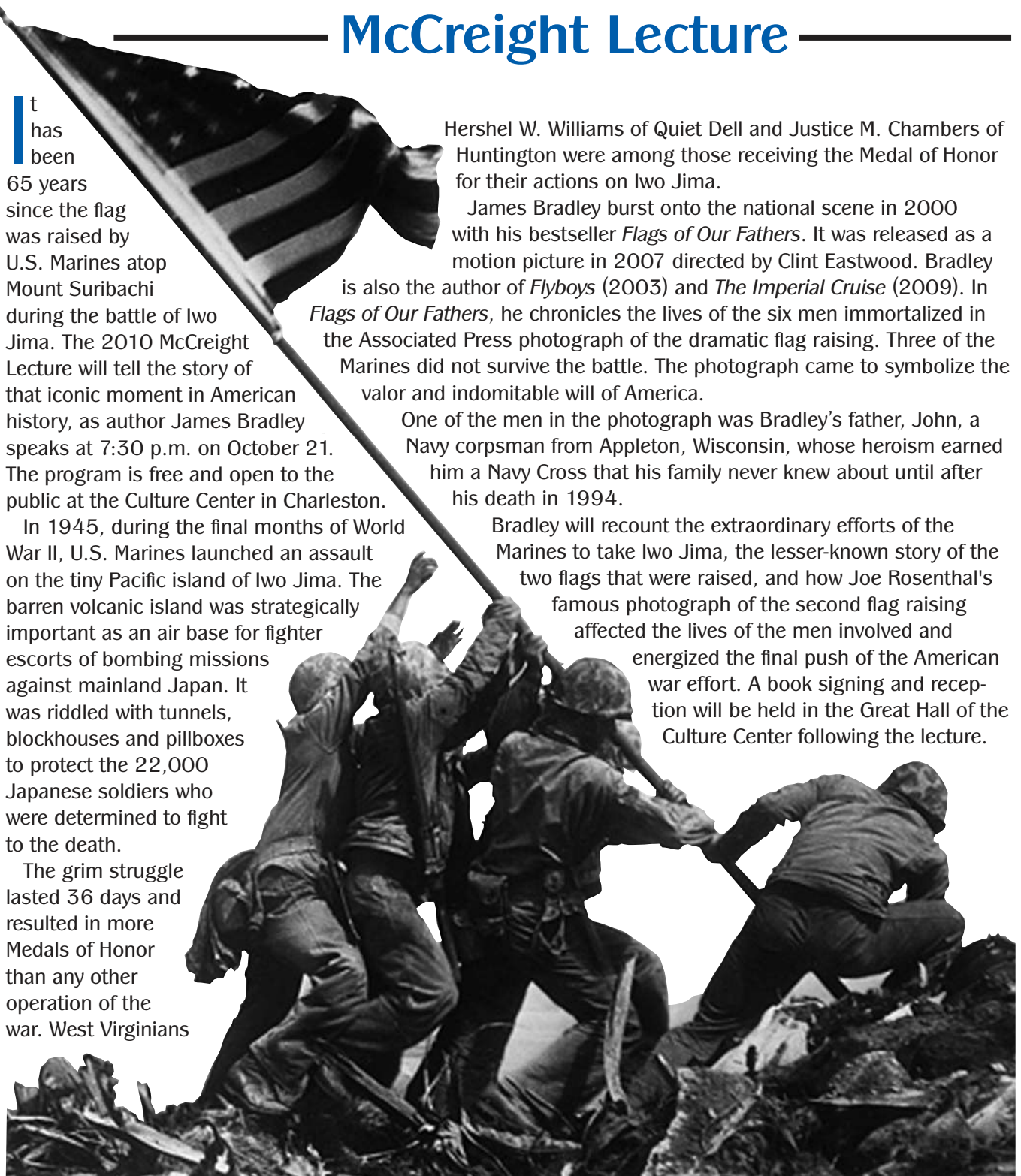
The grim struggle lasted 36 days and resulted in more Medals of Honor than any other operation of the war. West Virginians

Hershel W. Williams of Quiet Dell and Justice M. Chambers of Huntington were among those receiving the Medal of Honor for their actions on Iwo Jima.

James Bradley burst onto the national scene in 2000 with his bestseller *Flags of Our Fathers*. It was released as a motion picture in 2007 directed by Clint Eastwood. Bradley is also the author of *Flyboys* (2003) and *The Imperial Cruise* (2009). In *Flags of Our Fathers*, he chronicles the lives of the six men immortalized in the Associated Press photograph of the dramatic flag raising. Three of the Marines did not survive the battle. The photograph came to symbolize the valor and indomitable will of America.

One of the men in the photograph was Bradley's father, John, a Navy corpsman from Appleton, Wisconsin, whose heroism earned him a Navy Cross that his family never knew about until after his death in 1994.

Bradley will recount the extraordinary efforts of the Marines to take Iwo Jima, the lesser-known story of the two flags that were raised, and how Joe Rosenthal's famous photograph of the second flag raising affected the lives of the men involved and energized the final push of the American war effort. A book signing and reception will be held in the Great Hall of the Culture Center following the lecture.



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