



THE
PUBLIC
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of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

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53rd Annual Veterans Day Program - Monday, November 12, 10:45 a.m.

World War II Veteran William T. Cosgrove to Speak in Main Library Atrium



When Norwood native William Cosgrove graduated from Purcell High School in 1942, he enrolled into an officer's training program at Xavier University to do his part for his country. But when his officers training program dissolved, Mr. Cosgrove was designated an "infantry replacement" for the Allied troops fighting in the European Theater of World War II. By 1944, he was a prisoner of war in Germany, and, in violation of the Geneva Convention, a German laborer forced to build concrete road blocks to thwart Allied tank movement.

A decorated World War II veteran, Mr. Cosgrove served from 1943-1946 in the U.S. Army, 84th Infantry Division, where he attained the rank of Private First Class. A recipient of a Purple Heart and a European Theater Ribbon, Mr. Cosgrove was a German P.O.W. with fascinating stories to relate about life in the prison camp. His talk is entitled "For You the War Is Over."

✓ To learn more about William T. Cosgrove's experiences during WWII, visit the Library's Veterans History Project site at <http://www2.cincinnatiLibrary.org/vets/veterans/story/16>

Veterans Day Program Highlights

All are invited to attend this free program featuring:

- Keynote Speaker World War II Veteran William Cosgrove: "For You the War is Over"
- Sheriff Leis Bagpipe & Drum Corps to open the program
- The Walnut Hills Choir to sing a medley of patriotic songs
- Color Guard from the Scarlet Oaks JROTC
- Presentation of wreaths by various Veterans organizations
- The Lighting of the Flame of Remembrance by Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran Staff Sergeant Sarah Ruthven of the Air National Guard, 123rd Air Control Squadron
- The playing and singing of "Taps"



Veterans Day Program Keynote Speaker
William T. Cosgrove

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ABOUT STAFF SERGEANT SARAH RUTHVEN

Delhi native Staff Sergeant Ruthven (pictured right) served two deployments with the Air National Guard in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Currently, she works full-time at the 123rd Air Control Squadron in Blue Ash, attends classes at the University of Cincinnati, and is mother to her 18-month old son Jack. Staff Sergeant Ruthven will light The Flame of Remembrance to honor those servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.



History of the Main Library's Veterans Day Program

When the Main Library opened in 1955, it was dedicated to the memory of all Hamilton County veterans who had died in combat since World War I. *The Book of Homage*, which lists the names of the more than 3,000 Hamilton Countians who died serving their country, was unveiled on Memorial Day 1955 and is permanently housed in the Veterans Memorial Display in the atrium. Addendums added include the names of 273 Hamilton County citizens who had died in the Vietnam War, and the names of two local veterans from the Gulf War. (The book is currently in the process of being updated to include veterans from the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.) Each week a page is turned to remember those who gave the supreme sacrifice – it takes 33 weeks to view the entire volume. Facsimile editions of the *Book of Homage* are available at the Main Library and can be picked up at the program.

Veterans History Project

The Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County continues to interview veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II for the Veterans History Project. The project, coordinated by the Library of Congress (LOC) through the American Folklife Center, calls for Americans to play a personal role in preserving the nation's history by collecting first-hand accounts of those who defended the U.S. during wartime.

As an official partner, Cincinnati public library staff recruit veterans and volunteer interviewers, operate video recording equipment and then send duplicate copies of recordings and documentary materials to LOC for inclusion in their archives and national database. The Library's Veterans History Project website at www2.cincinnati.org/vets/ features a database of locally recorded interviews, documentary materials, and video streamed versions of selected interviews.

✓ Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 369-4400 (TTY 369-4409).