



**THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**
of Cincinnati
and
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

October 19, 2009

Public Library to Honor Nation’s Armed Forces

55th Annual Veterans Day Program – Wednesday, November 11, 10:45 a.m.



College Hill’s Don Brandt, World War II veteran serving in the U.S. Naval Air Corps, joins those distinguished veterans who have shared the powerful and poignant stories of their military experiences as keynote speaker for the Main Library’s 55th Annual Veterans Day Commemoration, Wednesday, November 11, 10:45 a.m. in the Main Library Atrium.

Sheriff Leis’ Bagpipe and Drum Corps will once again open the ceremony by playing as they march through the Atrium and the Walnut Hills High School Choir will perform the *National Anthem* and a medley of patriotic songs. The program will also feature presentation of memorial wreaths by veterans groups including one by Vietnam veteran David Callahan and his son Casey Callahan, a veteran of Iraq, who both received the Military Order of the Purple Heart—38 years apart. Jennifer Wells, also a recent veteran of Iraq, will light the Flame of Remembrance and this year’s color guard is from the Cincinnati Chapter of the

Sons of the American Revolution. The ceremony will conclude with World War II Navy veteran Ted Gardner singing *Taps* a cappella followed by two trumpeters playing echo *Taps*. All are invited to attend this free program honoring our nation’s veterans.

ABOUT DONALD C. BRANDT

Donald C. Brandt’s harrowing tale is one of the epic rescues of World War II. On June 13, 1944, the Hellcat fighter pilot was shot down over the Pacific and drifted 500 yards from Japanese shore batteries that gunned at him for several hours. He escaped by lassoing the periscope of a submarine and being towed to safety—the first time this new tactic had been employed by the Navy. His talk is entitled “Periscope Rescue Off Guam.”



Don and his wife Rose will celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary in December.

WWII Veteran to Speak about “Largest Sea Battle”



On Monday, October 26, at 7:00 p.m., World War II Navy veteran Ted Gardner will discuss his experiences in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Mr. Gardner will be discussing the actions of his squadron in the portion of the battle that took place off Samar. The talk will coincide with the 65th anniversary of the battle (October 25, 1944) and will look at the strategy, tactics, and personal experiences of the U.S. Navy in the battle that paved the way for the re-taking of the Philippines. The program will be held in the Reading Garden Lounge of the Main Library. Sponsored in part by the Greater Cincinnati Council of the Naval League of the United States, the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association, and the Tri State Warbirds Museum.



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