



INDIANAPOLIS

WWII

ROUNDTABLE

ISSUE 1

JAN & FEB  
2026

Founded in 1987 Ernie Pyle Chapter



**We welcome guests to our fourth Monday's  
buffet dinner & speaker program  
doors open 5:00, buffet dinner 6:00, speaker 7:00 pm**

RSVP to Karl Kleinbub: [kleinbub1002@gmail.com](mailto:kleinbub1002@gmail.com)  
or phone 317-607-6948 by Thursday prior to Monday's buffet dinner!

**Northside Events & Social Club  
2100 E 71st St, Indianapolis, IN 46220  
Dinner is \$11 cash; please add tip at your table**

## Vision & Mission

Our mission is to preserve World War 2 history and veterans' stories. Our diverse membership includes Veterans, educators, Veteran families, friends or military enthusiasts, war aficionados and history buffs.

We learn about history and meet real American heroes.

## Our Programs

Guest speakers include leaders in the military community, authors of military history, as well as educators. They share their unique stories with our members & guests.



## JANUARY 26, 2026 PROGRAM: Professor Jason Lantzer



Greetings to you and friends of the Roundtable!

We look forward to another exciting year of programs in 2026. Won't you please continue to help identify potential speakers and many more interesting topics? Invite a guest to the next dinner in January! Learn more about all of America's modern wars: WWI, Korea, Vietnam, and more recent conflicts.

## JANUARY 26, 2026

### GUEST SPEAKER

Professor Jason Lantzer from Butler University will speak on the topic of Eisenhower and the Holocaust. This was the inspiration for his research on this subject:

“I happened to be going out to Washington over our [school’s] spring break . . . . It was there that I encountered Ike’s quote about his visit to Ohrdruf. It was one of those things I was certainly aware of, but also something that I quickly discovered no one had really investigated. We knew the quote, but it appeared that virtually no historian had bothered to ask what that might mean for how Ike saw the war or how it might have helped shape his presidency.

My dissertation advisor, James Madison of Indiana University, is fond of saying that the work of historians is sometimes about digging holes to see what we can find and sometimes about filling holes where no one has thought to look before. I decided to get to work! My central thesis is that encountering the Holocaust altered how Ike saw the war he had been waging, bringing a moral tone to what heretofore had largely been a conflict of “us vs. them.”





# Mark Your Calendar

## Programs for 2026

- JAN 26: JASON LANTZER: EISENHOWER & POW CAMPS  
FEB 23: GEORGE MATTA JR: MATTA SENIOR & KOREAN WAR POWS  
MAR 23: THOMAS SLEMONS: THE 555TH TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON  
APR 27: SUE STEWART: "GUEST WORKERS" IN GERMANY DURING WW2  
MAY 18: ROBERT GANGWERE: "FORGED IN FIRE: AMERICAN RED CROSS CLUB MOBILES"  
JUN 22: ANNETTE MOORE: "AMAZING SPIRIT: A TRIBUTE TO DAD"  
JUL 27: KATHRYN LERCH FOR JENNY GREENE: FATHER-IN-LAW'S ACCOUNT OF WW2 IN EUROPE  
AUG 24: ANNELIESE KRAUTER: HER FAMILY IN GERMANY DURING WWII  
SEP 28: BRAD DAMON: (PT 2) DALE GILLESPIE'S W2 MISSIONS  
OCT 26: TBD  
NOV 23: WALTER LINNE: AMERICAN WW2 ORPHANS NETWORK (AWON)

PLEASE GIVE PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS TO CHUCK HOLT AT ANY OF OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS.

## ANNUAL DUES FOR 2026



**VETERAN FAMILY \$20.00; NON-VETERAN FAMILY \$25.00;  
WWII VETERANS/WIDOWS FREE MEMBERSHIP**



PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TO: WWII ROUNDTABLE, 917 E. WALNUT ST,  
LEBANON, IN 46052, OR PAY AT THE DINNER

NAME:

PHONE:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

WW2 VETERAN? \_\_\_\_\_ POST-WW2 VETERAN? \_\_\_\_\_

IF YES, BRANCH & PERIOD OF SERVICE

-----

**FEBRUARY 23, 2026 PREVIEW**

**GUEST SPEAKER GEORGE J. MATTA, JR.**

**“GEORGE J. MATTA, SENIOR KOREAN WAR POW”**



**“A GRIPPING, VIVID AND POWERFUL  
TRUE LIFE STORY OF THE DAILY  
STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE IN THE PRISONER  
OF WAR (POW) CAMPS DURING THE  
KOREAN WAR. DOCUMENTED ARE THE  
LONG MARCH INTO CAPTIVITY AND  
OVER 800 DAYS OF DESPERATION,  
TREACHERY AND BRUTALITY.”**

IMAGE COURTESY OF: [KOREANWARVETSMEMORIAL.ORG/DESIGN/](http://KOREANWARVETSMEMORIAL.ORG/DESIGN/)



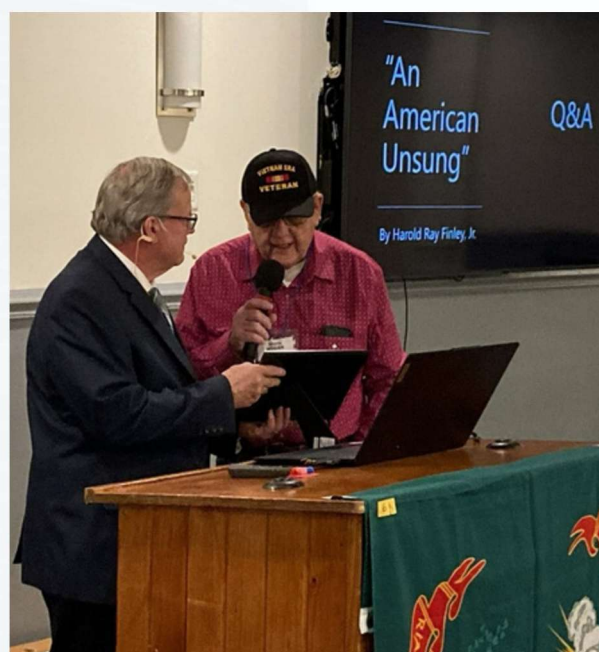
# A BIT OF HISTORY...

## ERNIE PYLE'S INTERVIEWEE NOTES

ERNIE PYLE MUSEUM, DANA, INDIANA



WW2 VETERAN LEIGHTON WILHITE  
WITH RICHARD EISGRUBER



STEPHAN HOGAN PRESENTS CERTIFICATE  
TO SPEAKER HAROLD FINLEY



HONOR QUILT PRESENTED TO VIETNAM  
VETERAN AND U.S. INDIANA REPRESENTATIVE  
JIM BAIRD BY DAR MEMBERS WANDA HARTLEY  
AND JILL FEWELL

