

# From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

November 2020 Newsletter www.WWIIRoundtable.com

#### Greetings to members and guests of the Roundtable:

Blessed Veterans Day to all. I hope and pray you all are able to reflect on what a wonderful country we have inherited from our forebears through the endless sacrifice of our veterans and their families with God's blessing. Don't let the day-to-day issues detract you from our many freedoms AND responsibilities as citizens. Thank a vet—especially if YOU are one too! Our last hybrid meeting went well and we had a REAL LIVE SPEAKER at the dinner that folks on their phones or on Zoom could enjoy as well. We maxed out the room at the Northside Events & Social Club (K of C) and now have learned we can have up to 6 attendees/table so can have 60. BUT, you MUST RSVP to Karl Kleinbub ASAP if you want to go; first RSVP, first confirmed; so you don't get locked out of the dinner program (if you want to be there in person). Remember: don't come if ill, or without your mask or exact dollars to pay for your meal/tips/drawing tickets. You MUST wear your mask unless actually eating or drinking! Be sure and become a member or renew either on the our website or mail in your check. See you on the 23<sup>rd</sup>! Dr. Holt

# November 23, 2020, 7:00 PM via Zoom Honoring "Women in the Military" Month

Dinner 6-7:00, Program to Follow Drawing & Ozzie's Trivia Story Guest Speaker Q&A and Adjournment

# LtGen, USMC (Ret) Carol Mutter

"From a Jack to a Kingfarm girl to world stage"



WWIIRoundtable.com Where history comes alive! **Northside Social Club** 2100 E 71st Street Indianapolis, IN 46220 2020 DINNERS Nov 23 & Dec 28 6:00 dinner served 7:00 Program in person & Zoom table 5, Feb 22, Mar 22, Apr 26, ay 24, June 28, July 26, Aug 23, 27, Oct 25, Nov 22, Dec 27 2020/2021 Annual Dues Accepting checks now for 2021; payable to 'WWII Roundtable, INC,' P.O. Box 1965, Noblesville, IN 46061 or go to our

website to pay online: WWiiroundtable.com

Veteran \$20; Non-Veteran \$25; WW2 Veterans free membership

YOUR RSVP IS ESSENTIAL IF ATTENDING! Email Karl Kleinbub: knj1002@myninestar.net <u>Masks are required at all times</u>, except while eating dinner. Please provide exact change for dinner or drawing so that money does not need to be handled. PLEASE, NO LARGE BILLS—UNLESS MAKING A GENEROUS DONATION & YOU EX-PECT NO CHANGE IN RETURN!!

### **Meeting Protocol**

Our November Dinner/Program will once again be a hybrid meeting (in-person &/or Zoom option) at the North Side Social Club. If via Zoom, be sure your device in set to mute!



At the October meeting, the Drawing was resumed—and we will have this again in November, however, as a consideration for those selling tickets and to avoid unnecessary handling of money, please provide EXACT CHANGE. We are not bankers, and want to remain safe! **Dinner will be served beginning at 6:00.** This will be followed by the drawing, Ozzie's presentation, and then our featured speaker's program. For those preferring to attend virtually, the Zoom post-dinner program will begin at 7 P.M., so please sign in between 6:45 and 6:55. All attendees MUST wear a mask—except when seated and eating or drinking at a table. No wandering around without a mask! Our newsletter and webpage will also keep you informed of changes. **INFORMATION DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER December 9<sup>TH</sup>** Please send to editor, Kathryn Lerch: c/o klerch@parktudor.org See our newsletter's first page "bookmark" for future program dates in 2021.

### Here's a preview of the December WWIIRT Dinner Program ...



Our Roundtable Board is hoping this will entice our members and guests to share some wonderful stories—start preparing now! if you were in the service at Christmas or Hanukkah, what memorable story would you have to share? Or, if you are a WWII veteran, please share one of your special stories from your time in the service. Please limit your talk to 3-5 minutes at the most. To get you thinking—this recent show on PBS, was all about sharing a story: How to return a portrait taken from a house in France during WWII—how this bit of repentance turned into a family pilgrimage back to Normandy. This is a great story!



**THE SILENT SOLDIER AND THE PORTRAIT** documents the story of one of the last living survivors of a major World War II military tragedy, and two secrets that he kept for decades. **On Christmas Eve 1944**, John Waller was a 19-year-old soldier on his way to join in the Battle of the Bulge. A German U-boat sunk his troop's ship, the S.S. *Leopoldville*. He revisits the location and reveals his secrets. I guarantee this will put a lump in your throat, and maybe

a few tears as well! If you missed it, go to this link to watch the whole show: https://www.pbs.org/video/the-silent -soldier-and-the-portrait-bdndjl/

### Just a reminder you can join our meetings "virtually" via the Sign-in Link Below

Early Sign-in Encouraged! November 23, 2020 06:45 PM EDT Program Starts 7 PM Be sure to turn the volume on your device up to full. It cannot be adjusted from Charlie Russell's end on Zoom. Time: Nov 23, 2020 06:45 PM Eastern Time (Sign-In Available) Join Zoom Meeting Starts 7 PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88319204900?pwd=azlyQXJMdmx1c0tkSjFZc2hTTTNVZz09

Meeting ID: 883 1920 4900

Passcode: 295297



Dick 'Ozzie' Osborr Author & Historian

# Some relatives!



musician.



WW II TRIVIA for November 2020

He had a nephew, Leo Raubal, Jr., who was captured to Stalingrad and held by the Soviets

He had a nephew, William Patrick Hitler, who served in the US Navy. Mussolini had a son, Bruno, who was killed in a plane crash. He had another son, Romano, who became a jazz

Hitler had a nephew, Heinz Hitler, who was killed on the Eastern Front.

as a forced laborer repairing war damage for 11 years.

He had a niece, Geli Raubal, who committed suicide in his Munich apartment.

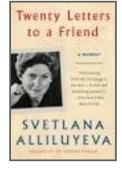
See: http://lyonairmuseum.org/blog/corpsman-hitler-us-navy

https://www.considerable.com/entertainment/retronaut/hitler-nephew-us-navy/

Stalin had a son, Yakov, who was murdered in a German POW camp. He had a daughter, Svetlana, who defected to the US.



Mussolini was executed by Italian Partisans at the entrance gate to the Villa Belmonte in the town of Mezzegra. Italy. Several years later a movie was made on Mussolini's life staring Rod Steiger. Steiger and a camera crew travelled to the Villa Belmonte and reenacted the execution for the camera on the exact spot where it actually occurred.



Svetlana defected to US in 1967 and she wrote this NYT bestseller

Steiger as Mussolini

- The US Office of War Information (OWi) reviewed movies to be produced during the war. They encouraged patriotic themes, warned of spy activities and often made suggestions and changes. The movie studios usually cooperated.
- Movie actor Charlie Chapman had a Japanese butler, Toraichi Kono, who was a Japanese spy. This was discovered in June 1941 and Kono was arrested.
- Soon after the Pearl Harbor attack, damage was done to the power lines leading from the Bonneville Dam. It was first believed that it was done by Japanese spies. A later examination, however, showed that it was done by cattle.



Chaplin and Kono (Pinterest)

# What is special about November?

What comes to mind first and foremost is Veteran's Day. Originally it was celebrated as Armistice Day—when at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of November, 1918, the guns went silent on the Western Front. What is especially poignant about this day is that there were still casualties and deaths at 11:00 A.M. How painful it must have been to find out your son, father, or brother died needlessly!

Here is an excerpt written home that day by a personal friend of Pershing's, Colonel Clarke Stull Smith. Smith had also graduated from West Point as part of the "Spanish War Class" in 1898. He was in command of the 311th Engineers in the 86th Division. On the 11th he was situated comfortably in headquarters in Bordeaux. He wrote the following to his wife, Orian:



It has been a great day for France and its allies! One may say that day here commenced about noon with the ringing of the big bell in the old gate of the ancient wall. I knew a half an hour before that the armistice had been signed. At least it was understood that it had, although the official information had not yet come. . . . Then about noon the big bell sounded: the gate is not far from here and I found 16 gendarmes in brass helmets doing the ringing. There was a moderate crowd about and the bell was rung until almost a quarter to one. When it stopped everyone clapped and went away. Since then the enthusiasm has increased progressively with the hours until three in the afternoon. It was difficult to traverse the Alleé de Tourney, The L'Intendance or the Rue Ste. Catherine for the crowd. By that time the streets were ablaze with flags of France and the allies

and the US and crowds were marching hither & there singing & yelling the Marsaillansie [sic] being the popular air. The children singing "Vive La France" "vive L'Amerique" were having a great time. No one I think scarcely appreciated at first what had occurred: it has gradually dawned on them. "C'est fini, la guerre!" that is the cry everywhere. As for me "Ah-a-a-a-a-a-h!" I give a sigh of relief as deep as the ocean at what appears to be the beginning of the end of this vast tragedy, this long sustained struggle and hope that the time will not be far distant when it will all be settled. My thoughts promptly turn towards home, to my wife & children whom I would love to see again. Well as I have said it has been a great day. . . . I cannot let the day pass without sending you this little note & my love to you & the children. Am well, Lovingly, Clark

#### Excerpt from John Stull Clarke letters in Words of War: Wartime Memories from America and Abroad (Vol. 3, 2007), p 199-212

"The Last Post" is often heard during commemorations such as Remembrance Day in Britain on November 11. Here the "Last Post" is played at the Menin Gate, a memorial in Belgium. <u>https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34768398</u> "The sound of a lone bugler playing the Last Post has become one of the most distinctive sounds in the world. Eerie and evocative, it exists beyond all the usual barriers of nation, religion, race and class, charged with the memory of generations of the fallen." It has become a sacred anthem. https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=Az7vnIf2nXs In the United States, "Taps" originated during the US Civil War and it evokes similar emotions. Go to: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nhtr5J00ntA</u>

#### A Couple of the last WWI Veterans . . . In their own words

Britain's Harry Patch in his own words after he turned 100 . . . : <u>http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/</u> somerset/hi/people\_and\_places/newsid\_8186000/8186376.stm

Patch was the last Tommy and he died age 111 in 2009. This is the link to his funeral: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Svd4nDE\_IQU

Another WWI veteran with longevity was **Frank Buckles** from the United States. Buckles died in 2011. Here Frank Buckles is honored: <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPmlPl6t4aY</u>



#### How do we remember and honor those who sacrificed their lives in WWI? The Harvard Alumni Magazine has this link to a very moving virtual tour:



Click here for link to WWI Virtual Tour: https://harvard.approachguides.com/virtual-guides/legacy-of-world-war-i/

## Sampler of Some Links included on this Extensive Virtual Tour

Past Trip Photos | Remembering WWI in Belgium & France View on photos.app.goo.gl In July 2019, Harvard Alumni travelers journeyed to Belgium and France to explore the history and legacy of WWI. Here are photos of sites visited throughout the trip.

World War I: Lessons From 1914 for 2014 View on belfercenter.org Dr. Graham Allison, Director, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs; Douglas Dillon Professor of Government, Harvard Kennedy School, along with other scholars, weighs in on what leaders in 2014 can learn from those who led nations at the outbreak of the Great War.

Anne Morgan's War Watch on pbs.org Anne Morgan's War tells the little-known story of how one American woman became an exemplary force in the recovery of Northern France's World War I wartime devastation, and highlights the legacy of a woman in the vanguard of feminism and humanitarian action.*Runtime: 54 min.* 

Shining new light on the contributions of the Harlem Hellfighters Watch on YouTubeCBS' Michelle Miller investigates the story of the African-American WWI fighting unit, famous not only for their fierce fighting but also their music. *Runtime: 7 min.* 

Menin Gate - The Last Post - 100 years later Watch on YouTube The Last Post Ceremony takes place every evening under the Menin Gate Memorial. The Last Post, the traditional final salute to the fallen, is played by the buglers in honor of the memory of

the soldiers of the former British Empire and its allies, who died in Flanders' Ypres Salient during the First World War. *Runtime: 4 min.* 

Landscapes of Peace: The Legacy of World War I in Belgium & France View on alumni.harvard.edu June 21, 2021 - June 29, 2021 - This Harvard Alumni Travels program will examine how the First World War was fought and how it has been remembered. The trip will begin in Brussels, Belgium and end in Reims, France. To learn more, visit our webpage here.

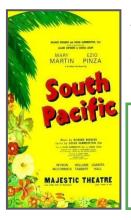
In Flanders Fields View on artsandculture.google.com This interactive article from Google Arts and Culture describes the history of the WWI battle near Ypres, Belgium, that inspired the famous poem, *In Flanders Fields*, and its author, Canadian Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. The poem's imagery of red poppies has forever since been associated with remembrance of those fallen in battle.

**Poems of the Great War, 1914-1918 View on Amazon** Published to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of Armistice, this collection is intended to be an introduction to the great wealth of First World War Poetry. The sequence of poems is random - making it ideal for dipping into - and drawn from a number of sources, mixing both well-known and less familiar poetry.

The National WWI Museum and Memorial View on theworldwar.org America's official World War I museum and memorial, located in Kansas City, is home to the most comprehensive collection of WWI objects in the world. The Museum takes visitors on an epic journey through a transformative period and shares deeply personal stories of courage, honor, patriotism, and sacrifice. Explore the current exhibitions and their online collections database on the museum's website.

#### What are your Winter and 2021 Plans? How about additional intellectual and travel stimulation ?

**Does the thought of cold weather bring a chill to your bones?** Are you feeling "stuck" at home due to Covid and wish you could go somewhere exotic? Here is a "solution"! Perhaps you could travel virtually to a warmer climate—not Florida, but the South Pacific. To get in the mood first—I suggest you try out a series of songs from Roger & Hammerstein's *South Pacific.* [ <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwYvWF5j0a8</u>] The New York stage production opened in 1949, followed by the London production in 1950 which starred Enzio Pinza and Mary Martin. My parents took me to see this production as a very young child—and, coincidentally, this was on our way to live in the Philippines in the South Pacific!



Some of our readers may remember a few notable songs from the musical: "Bali Ha'l", "Some Enchanted Evening", "I'm gonna wash that man right outa my hair", etc. The romanticized story was set in 1943 on a tropical island in the South Pacific (and it was also filmed later at the Hanalei Plantation on Kaui.) [photo on left: London Playbill and photo on right: Halderson in 1944 on Hollandia]

The Pacific Theater from 1941-1945 was certainly <u>not</u> like the setting in the musical! To find out much more about the war years in the Pacific, **join histo-rian/author and WWII Round Table John Shively member for a series of informative and engaging GoTo webinar lectures** this winter and next spring.



Why has John Shively devoted himself to study of the Pacific War? What is his connection to the Pacific? He shared the following reasons: "I became interested in the Pacific war in 2000 when I started interviewing my uncle who fought in the battle of Iwo Jima and which culminated in the book, *The Last Lieutenant*. My interest grew while interviewing ex-POWs who were in the Philippines, some of whom survived the Bataan Death March. While I was on a tour of the Philippines with Valor Tours in 2006 I met Blythe and her father, Malcolm Amos, a Death March survivor. We met at the Manila Hotel one morning before setting out to explore the battle fields and memorials. I interviewed Malcolm and fell in love with Blythe. The rest is history. Ex-POW and former Indiana governor, Ed Whitcomb was our Best Man when we got married in his house on the Ohio River in Southern Indiana. Five years later, when Ed was 95 years old, I was his Best Man and Blythe

was their Matron on Honor. The interviews of ex-POWs eventually resulted in my second book, Profiles in Survival.

I have visited nearly every island battlefield in the Pacific and am now a battlefield tour guide with Valor Tours. I have guided tours to Okinawa, Tarawa, Pearl Harbor, and Guadalcanal. Next year I will add Midway and Samoa to my tour list as guide. I have had the privilege to give lectures on the Pacific war on three cruises to the Western Pacific over the past More information will be forthcoming on when & how to access these special free lectures. six years." Thank you, John!

List of L	lpcoming	Lectures
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- Japanese Strategic War Plans First 24-Hours of the War
- Battle of Milne Bay Australian Counteroffensive

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The Sad Fate of Lark Force Yamamoto Shootdown

- Operation Cartwheel, An Overview
- Kokoda Track Campaign
- Guadalcanal, The First Offensive
- Central Solomons Campaign
- The Four Japanese Attacks on the USS Franklin, the Purdue Connection
- PT-019, John Kennedy, Plum Pudding Island

John uses Gotomeeting software. Viewers should download this software prior to attending his first program from this site: https:// app.gotomeeting.com/ (free) or use this link: https://www.gotomeeting.com He is still working out some minor sound glitches on his end involving special effects on a few of the slides, but each program will be highly informative. Presentations may be monthly, beginning in January with "Japanese Pre-War Objectives". The December newsletter will include specific dates / time of presentations.

#### Just found this touching book suggestion via a video clip. Check out both!

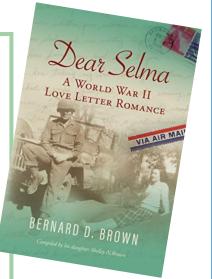
### tells a family's love story



They fell in love through their letters. Between 1941 and 1945, Bernard wrote a total of 246 handwritten letters to Selma. Writing daily to his childhood friend Selma from army college in Oklahoma, boot camps in Georgia and Texas, and the WWII front lines in France and Germany, a teenage Bernard's letters chronicled the young infantryman's experience during WWII. Their young love flourished amidst the background of Bernard's war experiences. "Fate is on our side" is a recurring theme as Bernard never faltered in his belief that he would safely return to Selma's arms. Proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House at the Rood Family Pavilion in Portland, Oregon. Here is the link to Amazon: https:// www.amazon.com/Dear-Selma- d-Letter-Romance-ebook/dp/ 69DR

https://www.cbsnews.com/news/dear-selma-world-war-ii-era-letters-tells-love-story/

A little closer to home, Park Tudor's Legacy Initiative Project is working on a similar book-we have digitized and transcribed love letters from a US Army field surgeon: "Dear Stellie". Dr. Powers landed in Normandy on D-Day and traveled across France, up to Belgium for Battle of the Bulge, then across the Rhine to Bavaria, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and finally home. His collection of more than 250 letters, one of his medical journals and numerous special photographs will make this an exceptional story. Please stay tuned! If you are looking for some special reading materials for family during the holidays, our Project has numerous different volumes of our Words of War anthologies which are available. See the order sheet at the end of this newsletter for more information. I can deliver at the December meeting or mail to you. Thanks for your support of our project, Kathryn



# **REVIEW OF ZOOM HOW-TO**

If you are not familiar with Zoom, please take a few minutes to become comfortable with Zoom. Use the link below to read about how to get set up and how to use the Zoom system. It very easy and has great potential. It is a Zoom Tutorial.

https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac#h 97174a74-246a-4e54-8e9c-22b55cd0b665

After becoming familiar with Zoom do the following well before attending a Zoom meeting:

### BE SURE YOU ARE MUTED ONCE YOU LOG ON! BACKGROUND NOISE AND TALK-ING CARRIES ACROSS MICROPHONES TO OUR SPEAKER

#### DOWNLOAD ZOOM: https://zoom.us/support/download

1. Sign in to your own Zoom account.

2. Once signed in select "New Meeting"

- ette.
- - a. You can check your camera, microphone and settings.b. What you "see" is what others will see when you go to a meeting.

c. Tips: provide lighting in front of you so that your image is viewable, not a dark silhou-

d. Set you camera (laptop) pretty much level with your face. If you tilt the screen back the back ground ends up being your ceiling fan.

3. Once you are satisfied with your equipment and picture composition "Leave the Meeting". You are all set.

4. Once you have left the video page click on "Home" at the top line of options. Then

click on "Settings" at the right corner icon is a gear wheel. Browse down through the op-

tions and make selections you want. I do recommend that you select "Allow HD video." You will look real good in HD. There are features there that allow you to check out your video and audio systems.

1. Once you have signed up for a Zoom account you only need your email and the password you created to join any meeting provided you know the Meeting ID and the Meeting Password a. Use the Meeting ID and Meeting Password at the top of this memo and enter it on Zoom. b. The meeting that the Zoom host set up will be indicated in a dialoque box. If the Host (the meeting moderator) has not opened (started) the meeting the dialogue box will remain active. As soon as the Host opens the meeting you will be immediately entered. I suggest that everyone do this well before the start time of the meeting. 10-15 minutes is not too early.

#### 2. Zoom protocols

a. Not everyone can speak at once. Well, they really can but it's bizarre and the system tries to highlight (yellow border around their image) who is speaking. Normally, the moderator will mute everyone then ask the next speaker to unmute. The mute icon is a microphone at the bottom left corner. Moving the cursor to that area turns the selection bar on.

b. There is a "Chat" icon at the bottom middle of your screen. If you click on it everyone attending the meeting is listed. You can select their name and send them a chat text message while the meeting is going on. You can also send "Everyone" a text message. Response back to you will be indicated by a number in the chat icon

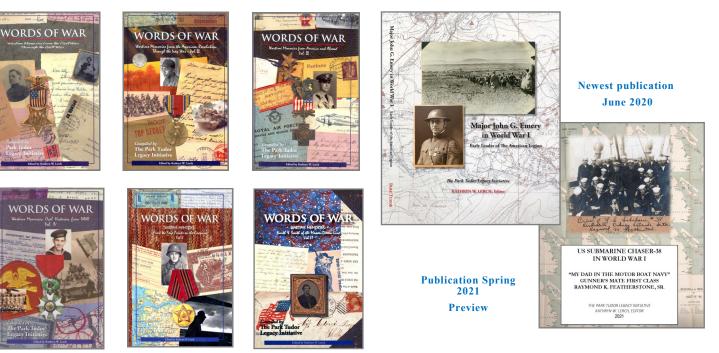
c. If you need to step away from the meeting to get a cup of coffee, kiss the wife or let the dog out you can "Stop Video" at the lower left of your screen. If you have entered a picture of yourself in your Zoom account profile that image will appear. When you return to the meeting click Start Video and your camera's image will come back on-line. 3.

#### If you have any questions email OR call: Charlie Russell 317-872-2800, charlierru@aol.com

# LEGACY INITIATIVE PROJECT \$5 PARK TUDOR SCHOOL

#### 7200 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46240

#### Kathryn Lerch, editor email: klerch@parktudor.org



Our Mission: "Saving wartime stories from America and around the world"

Contents include unpublished stories from veterans, civilians & persons of local interest	Titles Available	Special Sale Price*	Quantity	Total	
Forty accounts from letters, reminiscences and journals from America, the Pacific & Europe	Vol. 1 From Civil War to Gulf War (2002)	*\$12			
Americans in the Revolutionary & Civil War, WW1, WW2: European & Pacific, theaters, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq	Vol. 2 From the American Revolution Through the Iraq War (2005) (a few copies remain)	\$25			
Civil War, Philippine-American War, WW1, WW11: Europe & Pacific. Highlight: oral history of Deadeyes on Okinawa	Vol. 3 From America & Abroad (2007)	*\$15			
Sixty-some oral history accounts from WWII's amphibious, air and land operations in Europe and the Pacific Theaters	Vol. 4 Oral Histories—WWII (2009)	*\$15			
WWI & WWII compilation of 22 stories: based on oral histories, American and foreign written accounts	Vol. 5 From the Four Points on the Compass (2011)	*\$15			
Civil War accounts: letters & diaries both Union & Confederate	Vol. 6 North & South of the Mason Dixon Line (2013)	*\$18			
New book published in June which commemorates centennial of WWI & American Legion trip to France	Major John G. Emery in WWI & Early Leader of The American Legion (2020) (\$5 / mail)	\$30			
All books are hard cover; Words of War (v. 1-6) have dust jackets; vol. 3-6 average 300+ pages, vol 6 has index and maps; Emery			Subtotal		
Pre-order WWI US Submarine Chaser-38 GM 1/c Raymond Featherstone, Sr. 1917-1919 (format similar to Major Emery book) Please re a price quote and indicate possible # of copies:			10% discount for		
			No tax (501-c-3)		
Thank you for supporting Park Tudor's Legacy Initiative. Please make your check payable to <b>Park Tudor School</b> , with "Legacy Initiative" on the memo line			Balance Due	\$	
Please mail to Kathryn Lerch, Park Tudor School, 7200 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46240 Contact me at: klerch@parktudor.org or 317-250-8661 (cell)			nk you for your	order.	
Orders will be available for pick up at December WW2 RT meeting or may be mailed to your home via media mail. Please specify either pick up or mail below. If mail, please give me contact phone # and I will give you quote for media shipping.			Received: / / 2020		
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