

Wyckoff Living

Honoring Our Veterans

Wyckoff Library Staff

Each year on November 11, we celebrate Veterans Day and the brave men and women who serve our country in the armed forces. We acknowledge their service and sacrifice, taking time to honor and learn about their experiences. One way that we do this is through works of literature and film. Whether it is a non-fiction account, a memoir, a historical fiction or a documentary, books and movies provide people of all ages the opportunity to learn and empathize with our veterans. We'd like to recommend a few for your consideration.

For adult readers interested in non-fiction, there are a variety of options focusing on veterans near and far. Local author Paul Chepurko has written four books documenting the lost lives of local heroes, including *Small Town - Big Sacrifice II: the Stories of the Men and Women from Wyckoff and Midland Park, New Jersey who Made the Supreme Sacrifice*. For alternatives farther from home, author Stephen Ambrose has written extensively about the servicemen and women throughout our history. Reading his book *Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest* or watching the HBO mini-series inspired by the title provide an enlightening look into the experiences of WWII soldiers. One man featured in Ambrose's book is Robert Leckie, whose story is continued in his memoir, *Helmet for my Pillow*. Readers can further explore the world's wars in titles like Richard Rubin's *The Last of the Doughboys: the Forgotten Generation and Their Forgotten World War*, and *Ghost Flames: Life and Death in a Hidden War, Korea 1950-1953* by Charles J. Hanley.

Readers who look for a more autobiographical style of writing will find a number of books available to them, such as Marcus Luttrell's *Lone Survivor: the Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10*, a book which offers a Navy SEAL's firsthand account of American heroism during a secret military operation in Afghanistan. Further suggestions include the well-known book by Chris Kyle: *American Sniper: the Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History*, and Clinton Romesha's *Red Platoon: a True Story of American Valor*.

For those who prefer fiction, we suggest you check out the W.Y. Boyd Literary Award list sponsored by the American Library Association. This annual award is given to the author of a work of fiction that honors veterans. Some winners from the past 10 years include Jeff Shaara's *The Eagles Claw*, *Redeployment* by Phil Klay, and *Matterhorn* by Karl Marlantes.

There are also options for those wishing to explore veteran stories and history with younger readers. Eve Bunting's classic, *The Wall*, touches upon the Vietnam War and memorials; a similar topic to that found in Barbara Elizabeth Walsh's *The Poppy Lady: Moina Belle Michael and Her Tribute to Veterans*. Also available is *Tuesday Tucks Me In: the Loyal Bond Between a Soldier and His Service Dog* by Luis Carlos Montalván, as well as Valerie Pfundstein's *Veterans: Heroes in Our Neighborhood*, which tells the story of a young boy discovering the connection between his classmates and local veterans. For the slightly older crowd, teens may enjoy learning about serviceman and Olympic athlete Louis Zamperini's story in *Unbroken: an Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive* by Laura Hillenbrand.

For more suggestions or information, please contact the Wyckoff Public Library. You can reach us by email at ref@wyckofflibrary.org or by phone at 201-891-4866, ext.2. To find and request books or books like these on your own, visit www.bccls.org.