

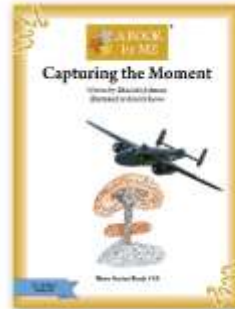
Heart for Humanity

Real People who Triumphed over Adversity



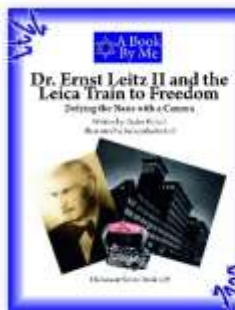
A teen from Africa received a scholarship to come to America, where he told how his mother walks to a stagnant pond for water every day. Waterborne diseases, common in his village, plagued him as a child. Miracles happened when his exchange student group, host family, high school friends and community raised the money to dig a well. He returned home to meet a drilling team; they hit water on his birthday.

#kenya#humanity#miracle#iowa



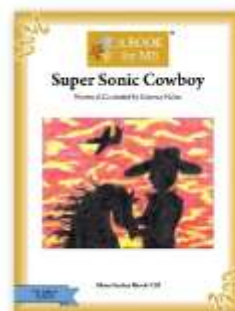
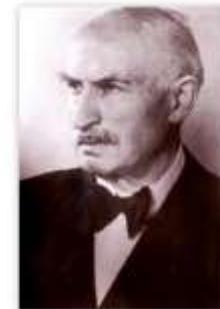
Reed Robertson was a bombardier in WWII, stationed in the Pacific. He will never forget the day his unit was ordered to load cameras, instead of bombs, and fly over Hiroshima. They flew to where the world's first atomic bomb had been dropped and captured photographs from the air. Then, they were ordered to take photos from the ground, where they saw firsthand the horrific aftermath.

#pennsylvania#hero#history#illinois



German businessman, Dr. Ernst Leitz II, manufactured the Leica camera and used his business to rescue hundreds of Jews out of Nazi Germany. To help his Jewish workers and friends, he established a brilliant plan, now known as the "Leica Freedom Train." The plan allowed Jews to leave Germany because they were assigned to jobs overseas in France, Britain, Hong Kong or the United States.

#righteous#wwii#antisemitism#germany



Ray Fairbanks was raised in Montana. During WWII, prisoners of war (POWs) were hired to work on the family ranch from a German POW Camp nearby. They were fed the same food as family and treated with respect. Later, Ray joined the Army and was on the ground crew for Colonel Chuck Yeager when he broke the sound barrier.

#montana#integrity#respectfulness#iowa



Young Thomas Cook served in Eisenhower's 103rd Infantry during WWII, fighting in the Battle of the Bulge of the Rhineland. After the Allies won, Thomas's unit was ordered to liberate a concentration camp. Thomas told his young author he felt the hand of God protecting him during this time, but he still has bad dreams about the war. Thomas sat beside his young author at church, and he gave Timmy his Bible in appreciation for his efforts in telling his story.

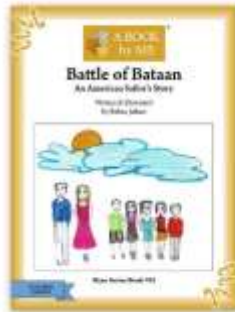
#liberator#courageous#faith#illinois





Ralph Smith was an American soldier serving in Europe during WWII. Many men died in the Battle of the Bulge, and Ralph was in charge of taking their bodies to friendly soil for a proper burial. When the war ended, his unit was assigned to guard something valuable in a big castle in Germany. Ralph later learned it was famous art worth millions. It was stolen by the Nazis and recovered by the Monuments Men.

#kentucky#brave#art#illinois



Kenneth Moffett was a U.S. soldier in WWII. His duties took him to the Philippines, where he was taken as a prisoner of war by the Japanese. A young exchange student from the Philippines met Kenneth's son and wanted to tell his story for young readers. Writing and illustrating this story gave her a better understanding of the price of freedom paid for her country.

#oklahoma#pow#deathmarch#illinois



Anne Frank had a pen pal named Juanita Wagner. The two girls wrote back and forth from the Netherlands to Iowa just weeks before Anne's family went into hiding. Anne wrote in one letter, "I'm looking at a map of Iowa and I see Burlington, are you near there?" Indeed Anne was right, because the small town of Danville is just miles away from Burlington. The young author and illustrator of this book were proud, as they are from Burlington.

#netherlands#diary#penpals#iowa



Like many others, a young sailor named Virgil Dawson was aboard ship in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945. Using binoculars, he was an eyewitness to the signing of the peace treaty with Japan. The signing ceremony took place aboard deck of the USS Missouri; it lasted 23 minutes. The event was broadcast all around the world, since it was the day that World War II officially ended.

#pacifictheater#surrender#victors#iowa



Fritz Marcus (later called Fred) was born to loving Jewish parents in Berlin in 1924. His happy childhood came to an end during WWII with the Nazis' determination to exterminate the Jews. His parents decided to leave but few countries would take in Jewish refugees. They were able to purchase tickets on a ship to faraway Shanghai, China. Eventually, he would immigrate to the United States.

#germany#antisemitism#refugees#colorado

