



**Press
Release**

Teresa K. Irish

A Thousand Letters Home **One WWII Soldier's Story of War, Love and Life**

Romulus Public Library hosts "The Journey of the Letters"

Teresa Irish, author of **A Thousand Letters Home**, will present the inspirational and life-affirming story of "*The Journey of the Letters*" at Romulus Public Library, 11121 Wayne Road on Monday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m. Following the 2006 death of her father, Aarol W. "Bud" Irish, of Saginaw, MI, Teresa opened the Army trunk that had resided in the family home her entire life. There, nestled in row after row, were her dad's nearly 1,000 letters from WWII. Visited only by him over the course of six decades, the letters were postmarked from Nov. 1942 to Dec. 1945. The fragile and yellowed pages were written to Bud's parents back in Hemlock, MI, and to the sweetheart who would later become his wife. From lonesome, moonlit nights listening to the Hit Parade, to the foxholes and front lines in Germany where Bud would receive the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart, to correspondence with the heartbroken mothers whose sons died by his side, this is a moving and historic story of life and loss, hope and perseverance, unwavering faith, and true love. **A Thousand Letters Home** is comprised of 320 of these poignant letters and 104 corresponding photographs.

The firsthand account through the eyes, heart and words of one soldier mirrors the journeys of many who served in WWII. From training camps across the U.S.A., to Ports of Embarkation where they boarded ships and crossed the ocean to fight on foreign soil, millions of young Americans were abruptly pulled from civilian life and thrust into the unfamiliar world of a military at war. At every opportunity, Bud poured his thoughts and feelings into his letters, all amidst reassuring words to loved ones a world away. Unable or perhaps reluctant to recount what they had experienced, many veterans chose to spare their loved ones the detailed atrocities of war – these would be their own personal burdens to bear for the remainder of their lives. Bud foreshadowed this in a letter to his parents written from Europe on February 4, 1945, "...*Heaven knows they [soldiers] don't want anything more on earth than to get it over and go back to their loved ones... We don't want anything*

extra when we get home, but just want to find everything as we left it and forget everything that's happened or we've seen over here..."

A Thousand Letters Home was named *Reviewer's Choice* by Midwest Book Review, Small Press Bookwatch. In addition to selecting **ATLH** for the *2013 Recommended Reading List*, The Military Writers Society of America called it "*a fascinating book...a treasure trove,*" and concluded "*highly recommend.*" **A Thousand Letters Home** received *Honorable Mention* in the 20th Annual Writer's Digest Self Published Book Awards which included 3,000+ submissions. Ms. Irish has been the featured speaker/author at over 90 venues in multiple states and has appeared on ABC News, National Public Radio, The National Defense, Veterans Radio, and Military Author Radio. The story of "*The Journey of the Letters*" has been reported in newspapers throughout the country. The book's introduction, letter excerpts, and photo gallery may be viewed at www.AThousandLettersHome.com.

A resident of Northville MI, Teresa Irish is the daughter of Elaine M. Irish of Saginaw, MI, and the late Aarol W. "Bud" Irish. She graduated from Michigan State University in 1984. Irish has worked in higher education administration, the staffing industry, and most recently as a vice-president for a national home healthcare and hospice company. She retired in 2012 to devote her time to sharing "*The Journey of the Letters*" through speaking engagements and book events. Irish is married to LTC Bradley J. Foster who is currently serving at U.S. Army Forces Command, Fort Bragg, NC.

Irish's engaging and motivational presentation is a tribute to our country's history, our freedoms, family values, and a call to individual citizenship in today's world. The event is free and open to the public. Romulus Public Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road. For more information call 734-942-7589 or go to www.romulus.lib.mi.us. Hardcover and softcover copies of **A Thousand Letters Home** will be available for purchase and signing. The eBook is available for purchase at www.AThousandLettersHome.com, www.Amazon.com and www.BarnesandNoble.com. This book is for the children, grandchildren, and future descendants of all veterans. This book is for all Americans...*Lest we forget.*

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for **A Thousand Letters Home**. Additional photos/excerpts available at

<http://www.athousandlettershome.com/Photos.html>

