

# DAILY Southtown

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*“He was just there, a complete stranger who had no clue who we were, and I was so touched. It was windy out here and cold, and I thought that man came out of his nice warm house to play taps for my dad, who he didn’t know.”*

— CECILIA SEABROOK



Abraham Lincoln Memorial Squad members prepare to perform a three-volley salute as they honor veterans during funeral services Thursday at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

## ‘Veteran to veteran’

Volunteers provide military honors, build veteran community at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

By Addison Wright | DAILY SOUTHTOWN

About 24 years ago on a bitter March day at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Cecilia Seabrook stood grieving her father and said she felt “cheated” that after serving through all of World War II, he was set to be buried with only a recorded version of taps instead of full military honors because the cemetery lacked staff.

Seabrook said she was touched and will never forget when the haunting melody of taps rang out behind her, played live by a stranger that day at the cemetery in Elburn.

“He was just there, a complete stranger who had no clue who we were, and I was so touched,” she said. “It was windy out here and cold, and I thought that man came out of his nice warm house to play taps for my dad, who he didn’t know.”

That stranger was Ed Crowbie, a Marine Corps veteran who served in Vietnam and spent more than 20 years camped in his car at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, awaiting veterans to honor. Between 2001 and 2005, Crowbie helped lay more than 2,373 soldiers to rest with his trumpet, the Daily Southtown reported in 2002.

Crowbie was one of the first members of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Squad, founded by John Whiteside and former U.S. Rep. Jerry Weller in 2003 to provide veterans full military honors. The squad has grown to 125 volunteers and still honors veterans nearly 30 hours a week.

Even though she was not a veteran, Seabrook said she was so inspired by Crowbie that she joined the squad

See **VETERANS** on Page A2



Squad member James Heckler plays the taps on his bugle during a funeral service Thursday at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

## Three Southland authors earn Best of Illinois awards

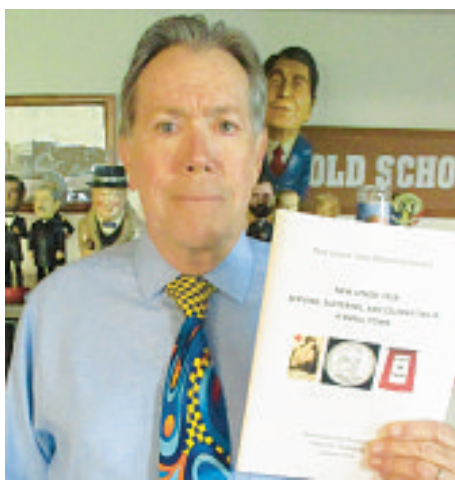
By Jim Dudlicek  
THE DAILY SOUTHTOWN

The south suburbs are not only steeped in history — they’re home to folks who excel at documenting it. So, it should be no surprise when the region’s skilled storytellers earn laurels for their efforts.

Three authors with ties to the south suburbs were among the recipients of Best

of Illinois 2026 awards from the Illinois State Historical Society, announced last month. The honorees’ works include accounts of a rural community’s life during World War I, the evolution of a commuter suburb and how a Cook County election controversy led to a landmark Supreme Court decision.

See **AWARDS** on Page A3



Retired history teacher and Will County native Darrell Holmquist was given an Award of Merit by the state historical society for his book about rural life in New Lenox during World War I.  
**DARRELL HOLMQUIST**

## A moment for the war dead — and those left with scars



**Donna Vickroy**

The fact that war is still a thing shows how little humans have evolved when it comes to conflict resolution. We’ve made all kinds of progress with technology and embraced ways to solve every problem under the sun ... except our differences.

Author John Steinbeck had it right when he said war is a

symptom of man’s failure as a thinking animal.

Granted, war has sometimes seemed the only method of ousting tyranny. But too often it is motivated by greed. Dating back centuries, the pursuit of profit seems to know no bounds. Someone wants someone else’s property or wants to boost their weapons-building business or doesn’t want to share trade routes or pay taxes or pay homage to another entity.

Sometimes war is simply the result of hate. Someone can’t

See **VICKROY** on Page A2

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**TODAY** H: 85 L: 62  
**TUE.** H: 87 L: 65  
**WED.** H: 84 L: 58

Complete Chicagoland forecast on back page

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