

New Book Describes Colonel Francis C. Grevemberg's Crusade Against The Mafia, Gambling, Corruption and Vice

(Note to editors: For further information on MY WARS including photographs, review copies or to schedule an interview contact W. Thomas Angers at 337-769-1272 or 337-501-2238 or visit beaubayoupublishing.com.)

Huey Long brought New York mobster Frank Costello and his slot machines into Louisiana and former Superintendent of State Police, Colonel Francis C. Grevemberg endured attempts by the Mafia to kill him, bribe him, and kidnap his children when he attempted to enforce gambling laws in Louisiana. He received a mafia black hand death threat letter. The crusading crime buster and crusading Louisiana journalists joined forces to shut the Mafia down tight in Louisiana in the 1950's.

These disclosures and many more are contained in a compelling new autobiography entitled: ***My Wars: Nazis, Mobsters, Gambling and Corruption: Colonel Francis C. Grevemberg Remembers*** just released by Lafayette publisher Beau Bayou Publishing Company.

The book chronicles the crusade of Grevemberg against gambling and vice in Louisiana from 1952 to 1955. Slot machines and casino devices were illegal in Louisiana at the time and often operated by the mafia and other criminal elements and were contraband under Louisiana law.

The threats against Colonel Grevemberg and his family are reflected in never before published documents obtained from the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act.

My Wars documents a visit by a Frank Costello representative and specific attempts to bribe Grevemberg with attempted payoffs on each mob owned slot machine. In another visit by another mobster, the mobster threw open a satchel of money and told Grevemberg to "pet it" to see how good it felt in an attempt to bribe him.

The book details uncovering of public corruption of officials by the mafia including a raid in which Colonel Grevemberg found a list of hundreds of New Orleans Police Department officers with their name, rank and specific amounts of weekly payoffs as bribes to refuse to enforce gambling and vice laws.

In destroying over 8000 slot machines while in office Colonel Grevemberg endured a forced rescinding of his first order to destroy all slot machines by Governor Kennon who informed him that although illegal, slot machines had just been re-licensed by the state. In a plan described by Grevemberg in the book he details a meeting with former Louisiana Press Association President and Franklin Banner Tribune publisher, Robert J. "Bob" Angers, Jr. to devise a plan to delay destruction of slot machines until expiration of the license tags. The plan included early announcement that the tags would not be renewed and a decision to start the immediate wholesale destruction as soon as tags expired whether the governor was behind him or not. Angers provided press support and leadership and helped isolate the governor from any further interference.

My Wars describes a ride to north Louisiana in which eyewitness state troopers at the scene of the shooting of Huey Long informed Grevemberg that Dr. Carl Weiss was not armed at all and that Long was in fact shot by his own bodyguards. Grevemberg signed an affidavit to this effect with attorney and publisher W. Thomas Angers which is quoted verbatim in the book.

The book opens with the history of the Grevemberg family in Louisiana which is one of the oldest and most prominent in the state. It is included because the legendary superintendent's pride in his family and state is one reason he decided to shut the mafia down and take his state back.

The book details his brilliant military career involving many famous battles of World War II including no less than five D-day invasions such as Anzio and the invasion of southern France. Grevemberg received the French Croix de Guerre, the Italian Valor Cross, the Soldiers Medal for Heroism and many more.

His war service with around the clock risk of death rendered him a fearless citizen soldier who could not be intimidated by the big time hoods and thugs who tried to silence and kill him.

The new book is available through bookstores around the state and for \$15.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling and applicable tax from Beau Bayou Publishing Company, P.O. Box 53089, Lafayette, Louisiana 70505 or visiting beaubayoupublishing.com or phoning 337-769-1272.

In the book Grevemberg credits the inspiration of his selfless wife Dorothy McGuire Grevemberg, the love of his life, journalists including Angers and Jim McLean of the Associated Press and pastors and citizens including those of the Louisiana Moral and Civic Foundation, for the strength to carry on under constant threats.

Senator Estes Kefauver, chairman of the U.S. Senate Special Committee to Investigate the Influence of Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce credited Grevemberg with transforming Louisiana from being one of the most corrupt states to one of the cleanest. Excerpts from the Costello testimony and the Louisiana hearings are included.

The legendary crusade of Grevemberg against the mafia, gambling and vice was the subject of a 1950's movie by Universal Studios entitled "Damn Citizen."