

DCMA Employee Authors

Children's Book

by Ms. Karrin Moore, Staff Writer, DCMA District East

As soon as he read in the newspapers about the unlikely friendship between an old horse and a young moose, Mr. Robert Repinski, DCMA GE Lynn quality assurance specialist, knew he needed to write a children's story about it.

Mr. Repinski has always been interested in nature. Growing up in southwestern Pennsylvania, the majority of his childhood was spent outdoors on hunting and fishing trips with his father. He continued exploring his love for the outdoors with the Boy Scouts, quickly becoming the youngest Eagle Scout in Pennsylvania at age 15. Later, as an author and father of three, to son Jae and daughters Heather

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and Holly (now grown), he was particularly drawn to stories about nature because they "offer children something that they can sink their teeth into, and nature doesn't lie."

This improbable friendship between the moose and horse began in the summer of 2004 in Groton, Vt., when a yearling moose, which came to be known as Mary, lost her mother and began to wander. Mary eventually arrived in the peaceful, small village of Groton where she encountered a 20-year-old cobble horse named Little Bit. The pair remained together and could be seen grazing side by side in a pasture, strolling to the Wells River or peeking out of an old barn where they slept.

Immediately after reading about this friendship Mr. Repinski began doing research for the story. Though the actual location of the farm was not initially released, he soon discovered it. Mr. Repinski drove the two and a half hours to Groton several times, trying to get photographs of the pair, sometimes waiting all day in full camouflage gear without catching a glimpse of them.

(Left) Mr. Robert Repinski (right) presents Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas with the first copy of *Mary Finds a Friend*.



Get to know some of your fellow employees — you never know what they may have accomplished!



Finally, after photographing Mary and Little Bit and their surroundings, Mr. Repinski began to write their story. The finished book, *Mary Finds a Friend*, was warmly welcomed by Vermont Gov. James H. Douglas, who wrote a testimonial extolling its virtues and the messages behind it. *Mary Finds a Friend*, written under the pen name Robert Jae Skye, is now available to the public and can be purchased through retailers, including Amazon.com.

This is not Mr. Repinski's first book. He also has two self-published technical books, *SOMCAP* [Systemic Organized Management Corrective Action Program] and *18 Quick Shots to Loss Reduction*, which are specifically aimed at the manufacturing industry. *SOMCAP* came about in the early 1990s, when Mr. Repinski was asked by the Rutland, Vt., General Electric (GE) plant manager to head a team to help reduce the plant's losses. The loss reduction project yielded a computerized program, C2CA [Common Cause Corrective Action Program], that saved the plant over \$1 million dollars in losses simply by making them understandable. Over the years the C2CA program has saved the Rutland GE plant millions of dollars and has reduced its process fallout to an all-time low. Mr. Repinski's other book, *18 Quick Shots to Loss Reduction*, is a condensed version of *SOMCAP* and benefits plant managers who want to see

quick results but retain the ability to dig deeper into the subject when time and resources allow. Additionally, Mr. Repinski holds three patents, one having to do with Styrofoam and static electricity and another two (one Canadian and one American) for a hunting arrow renowned as the most humane arrow in existence. Its special design is more lethal than conventional arrows, minimizing the time an animal suffers.

Mr. Repinski also possesses musical talent and has written seven songs, two of which have been recorded. The two recorded songs are an extension of his childhood love of sports, particularly baseball's Pittsburgh Pirates and Boston Red Sox. One song, titled "Humpty Dumpty Baseball," expresses how fans were losing interest in baseball in the 1970s and turning to soccer. The impetus for the song was the Oakland A's player Jim "Catfish" Hunter, who was one of the first stars to enter the free agency process and thereby made people nervous that the sport would lose the public's interest. The second song is "The Ballad of Fred Lynn," the Red Sox and American League "Rookie of the Year" in 1975.

Mr. Repinski is one of many DCMA employees with talents that extend outside of their careers. Get to know some of your fellow employees — you never know what they may have accomplished!

(Top) Mary the moose and her equine friend Little Bit in Groton, Vt. Mary and Little Bit are the main 'characters' in Mr. Robert Repinski's book, *Mary Finds a Friend*.