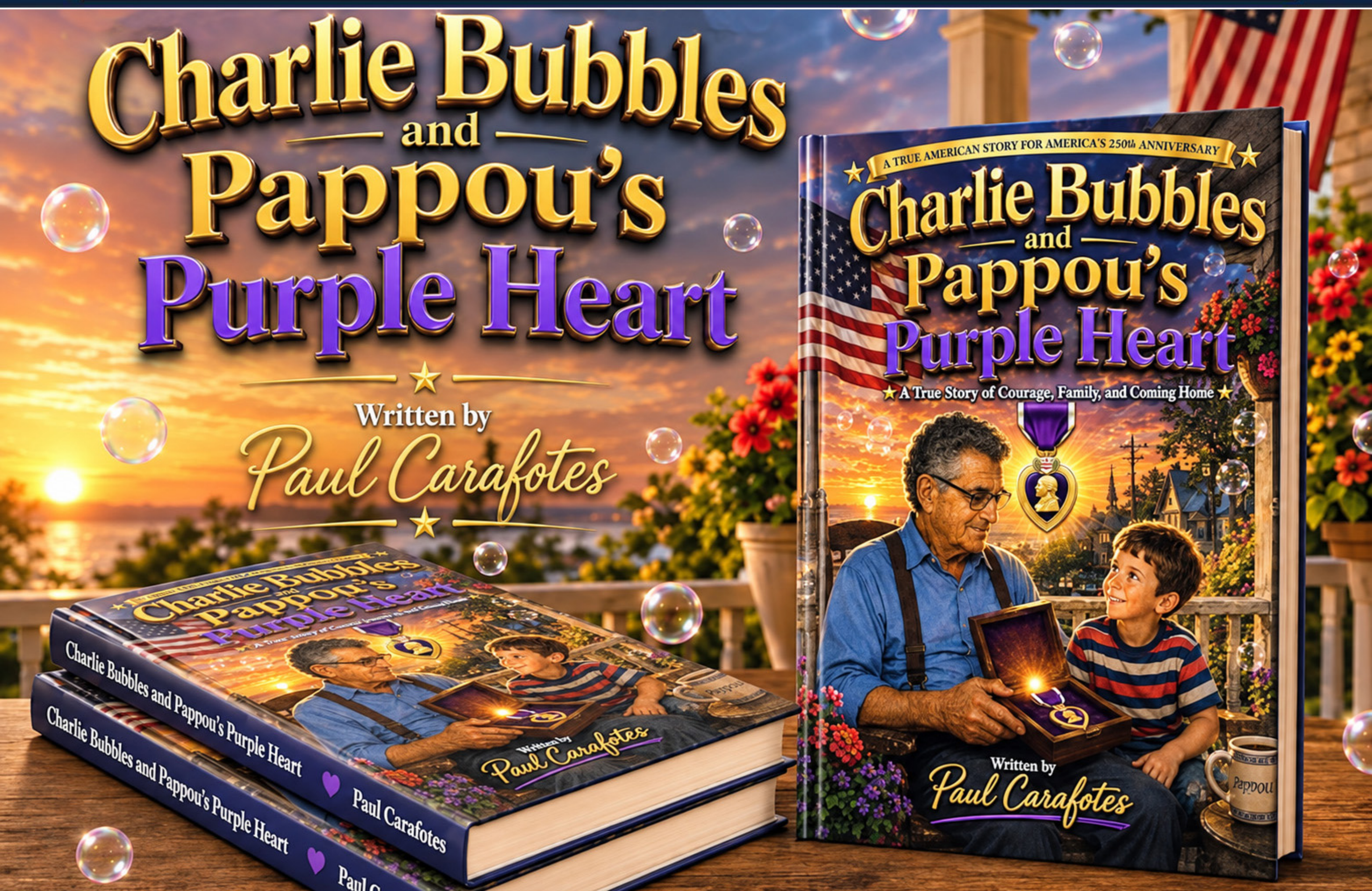




By Eleni Sakellis

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Paul Carafotes on His Book 'Charlie Bubbles and Pappou's Purple Heart'

Greek-American actor, writer, and director Paul Carafotes spoke to The National Herald about his new book, celebrating the United States' 250th anniversary with a true family story from World War II.

'Charlie Bubbles and Pappou's Purple Heart' is a story of courage, patriotism, bravery and love, inspired by Carafotes' father's wartime experience.

The paperback is available online: <https://a.co/d/09Ni4H5C>.

Proceeds support Charlie Bubbles Cares For Kids and its mission to provide free books to children in need.

When asked what inspired him to write the book at this particular time, Carafotes told TNH: "Well, years ago I wrote a play called 'Beyond The Ring', about my relationship with my dad. Two characters, 90 minutes, we never left the stage and aged 35 years right before your eyes... in that play I covered some of my dad's escapades during WWII."

"He was 16 and asked his dad to sign the papers otherwise he couldn't go and fight for his country," Carafotes noted. "He was first generation Greek-American, his parents arrived in America around 1917. He had six brothers and sisters all of whom were fiercely American, like all who came here to find hope and a better life. My grandfather knew that his 16 year old was going [to war] one way or another. However, my grandfather broke down and cried while he signed the permission papers."

"So this story has been rolling around in my head for some time," Carafotes continued. "I have been writing a series of children's books inspired by the birth of my son 19 years ago... Charlie Bubbles Storybooks."

He happened to do a podcast, The Dum Show, and the host Matt Speer asked him about writing the books and also having started a nonprofit Charlie Bubbles Cares For Kids.

Speer asked him: "What do you want? What are you hoping for?"

"My reply was simple, a corporate sponsor... which would give me so much help," Carafotes noted. "I pretty much do it all. My son Charlie is now playing baseball in college who was the inspiration to this entire thing, I was hoping he would be a helper like he was when he was younger... so Matt said, 'why don't you write a story for the vets and maybe I can help you secure some help'... it took me a few months and around June I began writing it."

Of how long the process took from the initial idea to publication, Carafotes said that it "took most of my adult life. I've wanted to write and had started writing scripts and different storylines on it. So this was in the ether for some time. But Matt from The Dum Show gave me the push. So many years, although, once I sat to write that came quickly."

When asked what he's working on next, Carafotes told TNH: "I am working on a hard cover special edition of the book with more stories in it and a bigger cinematic feel to it."

More information is available online: <https://www.charliebubbles.com/>.