

# Local chef leaves restaurant business to produce documentaries

By **Sharon Longman**, *The Oakland Press*

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Novi resident Keith Famie, former Food Network host and finalist on the reality show “Survivor: the Australian Outback,” is currently working on the documentary film “On the Front Lines of Alzheimer’s and Dementia.”

In the documentary, Famie, executive director and producer of Wixom-based Visionalist Entertainment Productions, explores the journey of those who have and those who take care of people with Alzheimer’s and other dementia’s.

It is a very personal and important documentary for Famie because he helped take care of his father, a World War II B-17 Bombardier veteran, when he had Alzheimer’s, before he died in 2003.

“I and the rest of my family went on this journey with him and saw how this robbed him of his existence. It’s like taking a chalkboard with your entire life on it and taking an eraser and slowly erasing it and there’s no way of stopping that eraser, and you see it happening and it’s devastating,” Famie said.

The projected completion date is next spring. To watch a trailer of the film, visit [ontodayfrontlines.com/alzheimers](http://ontodayfrontlines.com/alzheimers).

Famie began documentary filmmaking for PBS in 2004.

“I made a decision, when I first started producing documentary films that we would only produce films that helped people navigate through life in some way or form,” Famie said.

Another one of his films – “[Death is Not the Answer](#),” which features veterans talking about mental health issues – will be featured this year at the Royal Star Film Festival at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, at 200 N. Main St.

There will be a full panel discussion afterwards with four of the featured people in the film. This film was recently nominated for two Michigan Emmy’s. To purchase tickets, visit [www.royalstarr.org](http://www.royalstarr.org).

Famie will host the premiere of his latest movie “Enlisted” at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26, at the Emagine Theater, 200 N. Main St., Royal Oak.

“Enlisted” explores the reasons why young people join the military. Opening comments will be made by Brigadier General John Kulhavi. For more information, visit [enlistedfilm.com](http://enlistedfilm.com). Visionalist Entertainment Productions was selected for the 2015 Diamond Award by the Association for Women in Communications Detroit Chapter. In 2017, Famie was awarded the Media Award by the Gilda’s Club of Metro Detroit. For more information, visit [www.v-prod.com](http://www.v-prod.com). To support any of Famie’s film projects, email him at [famie@famie.com](mailto:famie@famie.com).

