

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, November 11, 2021 | 13 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 205



www.pencitycurrent.com

OFF sets holiday radio play



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

The OFF cast for the Christmas show gets together for an early rehearsal for 'It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play.' The show opens December 3rd and runs for two weekends.

CLASSIC: Harlow, Posz, Wilkersons join cast for "It's A Wonderful Life"

BY DOROTHY SCHULTE
Old Fort Players

FORT MADISON – After almost two years of Covid and Covid-related mandates, lockdowns and restrictions, we could all do with a little dose of hope. And that's just what you'll get when you head down to Old Fort Players this December. You'll be treated to a traditional holiday experience with a little twist.

Join OFF's talented cast and crew as they recreate the classic Hollywood film, "It's A Wonderful Life" as a stage play. First released in 1946 as the United States regrouped after four years of world war, this story of hope and pur-

pose has become an iconic representation of American resilience.

"The often invisible, yet unmistakable way each life is intertwined is what drew us to tell this story again. We performed it eight years ago and it was such a great experience for everyone involved that we just had to do it again," OFF President, Dorothy Schulte remarked. "If we ever needed to reconnect with our fellow man, it's now."

This beloved American holiday classic comes to captivate life as a live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble of actors that brings dozens of characters to the

See OFF, page 4

State patrol releases name of one Tuesday crash victim

84-year-old Missouri woman killed in crash with semi on Hwy. 218

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The name of a Missouri woman killed in a Tuesday afternoon accident in Lee County was released Wednesday morning by the

Iowa State Patrol. The name of a victim in a second fatality Tuesday night is still being withheld.

Further details on each accident were also released.

The first accident took place at 1:28 p.m. at the intersection of J40 and

Hwy. 218 west of West Point. A vehicle driven by Betty Cochenour, 84, of Luray, Mo, was stopped facing east in the crossover on 218. According to the report she then pulled out in front of

See CRASH, page 4

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

FMAAA gets state grant for staffing

Art Center gets \$5,000; Burlington groups also funded

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Area Arts Association and two Burlington groups were recipients of funding from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs' America Rescue Plan Act funding, in an announcement made Wednesday afternoon.

FMAAA received \$5,000 under a request to add staffing to the center.

FMAAA Director Lori Illner Greene said she had requested \$20,000 to put an assistant that had been being paid through a Retired and Senior Volunteer Program grant, back on payroll.

"I asked for \$20,000. I really wanted to hire an assistant. But the RSVP evaporated and hadn't returned. That, coupled with the city's hotel/motel tax funding matrix changing, impacted the hours we had," Illner Greene said.

"That funding change made the director a part-time director, so I'm a part-time staff person. The biggest bang for our buck would be an assistant and that \$20,000 would have funded that person through the end of June."

But Illner Greene said she was grateful for the funds and would put them to good use. She said there were a couple people that were volunteering that she might be able to get to hang around a little longer if she could hire them temporarily.

The center has also applied for Tourism money through the county's allocation of America Rescue Plan Act funding. The county received \$6.5 million to use to mitigate the negative economic impact of



ILLNER GREENE

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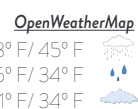
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WEATHER

THU 11 Nov..... Cool with Light Rain, 58° F/ 45° F
FRI 12 Nov..... Cool and Rainy, 45° F/ 34° F
SAT 13 Nov..... Overcast and Cool, 41° F/ 34° F



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Scene Around Town/For the Record



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Getting closer

Contractors with Jones Contracting Company out of West Point are getting closer to having the second stretch of Business 61 rehabilitation done. Crews have poured the concrete on the stretch of roadway from 6th to 10th Streets and are finishing up the connections to side streets and sidewalks.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report
 11/09/21 – 9:07 a.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Jessica Rae Hauck, 41, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of 24th Street, on warrants for possession of a controlled substance and failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 11/09/21 – 9:31 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 500 block of Avenue G.
 11/09/21 – 10:02 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of Avenue B.
 11/09/21 – 10:06 a.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Damien Ray Pope, 23, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of Avenue G, on a warrant for possession of marijuana. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 11/09/21 – 10:24 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 900 block of Avenue F.
 11/09/21 – 1:05 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Heather Rae Butler, 41, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of Avenue G, on a warrant for probation violation. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 11/09/21 – 4:59 p.m. – Fort Madison police cited Kimberly Michelle Brewer, 41, of Fort Madison, in the 3000 block of Avenue F, on a charge of driving while barred.

Hwy. 2. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Elizabeth Marie Schnedler, 30, of Fort Madison, was stopped at a stop sign on West Point Road when she pulled away from the stop sign and attempted to turn onto Hwy. 2 as another vehicle was turning right onto West Point Road from Hwy 2. Schnedler failed to see a vehicle driven by Travis G. McCoy, 21, of Gladstone, Ill., traveling westbound on Hwy. 2, and struck the side of the vehicle with the front end of her vehicle as she was accelerating to avoid the accident. The vehicle driven by McCoy continued off the roadway, down the embankment, and came to rest in a shallow ravine. Both vehicles sustained heavy damage and had to be towed from the scene. No injuries or citations were reported.
 11/09/21 – 9:55 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Alisha Michelle Robinson, 31, of Keokuk, in the 700 block of Avenue F, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 11/09/21 – 1:21 p.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested James Daniel Reynolds, 55, of Fort Madison, in the 700 block of Avenue F, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
Those listed above are arrested or cited on a suspicion of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Lee County Sheriff's report
 11/05/21 – 6:08 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of West Point Road and

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report
 11/09/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call.

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Lee County News/From the Front

Capitol Theater gets \$7,500 grant for staffing help

GRANTS - Continued from Page 1

the pandemic.

The Capitol Theater in Burlington received \$7,500 for COVID staff recovery efforts, while the Players' Workshop received \$1,500 to help offset cleaning costs at the playhouse.

In total, 236 individuals and organizations – representing 70 communities across 56 Iowa counties – will benefit from \$1,527,814 in one-time grant funding, made possible through the agency's state/federal partnerships with Arts Midwest, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities with federal funds through the American Rescue Plan Act.

The department received more than \$4.1 million in requests to help support a portion of about 1,600 arts jobs.

"It's encouraging to see the return of the arts and culture sector, part of the broader tourism industry working to rebound after a challenging year," Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Director Chris Kramer said. "We're proud to be able to award these grants through our agency's state/federal partnerships."

"These recovery grants represent a significant investment in Iowa's creative workforce," Iowa Arts Council Administrator David Schmitz said. "In addition to the grants awarded directly to artists, many arts organizations received support to hire or bring back artistic personnel, many of whom lost jobs, gigs, and income during the pandemic."

Boddicker, Stonerook nominated for judicial spot

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – Former Lee County attorney and current associate judge Clinton Boddicker has been nominated to fill an open judge's seat in District 8B.

Boddicker joins Burlington attorney Justin Stonerook as the nominees that came from interviews done in front of a judicial nomination commission on

Monday in Burlington.

The two names were sent to Governor Kim Reynolds who will appoint one of the two to the seat within 30 days.

The seat is being created by the retirement of Chief Judge Mary Ann Brown. Judge Myron Gookin was tapped to take over as Chief Judge in District 8.

Brown's retirement is effective Dec. 31.

Reynolds challenges Biden mandate

DES MOINES – Gov. Reynolds today announced that the State of Iowa has filed a lawsuit challenging President Biden's vaccine mandate rule for Medicare and Medicaid certified providers and suppliers.

"Medical providers that have been on the frontlines of this pandemic saving lives deserve the freedom and ability to make their own informed health care decisions.

"Not only is this an attack on individual liberties, it's yet another mandate that will further exacerbate the critical workforce issues currently impacting the health care industry across the country.

"I believe the vaccine is the best defense against COVID-19, but I also firmly believe in Iowans' right to make health care decisions based on what's best for themselves and their families, and I remain committed to protecting those freedoms. President Biden should do the same."

The State of Iowa has five state-run health care facilities that receive Medicare and Medicaid funding: the Iowa Veterans Home, the Cherokee and Independence Mental Health Institutes, and the Glenwood and Woodward Resource Centers.

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Lee County News/From the Front

Posz, Harlow reprise 2013 roles in production

OFP - Continued from Page 1

stage, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds as he considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve.

Director Kelly Shields manages a long list of fine actors. "It's a nice mix of veterans and new faces which is always our goal at OFP, especially with a show like this. It gives people a chance to try acting on for size without having to memorize lines or navigate any complicated blocking. It's a great way for kids to start out too," Shields told us.

Reprising their 2013 roles as The Radio Announcer is Rich Harlow and as Clarence the Angel, is Jim Posz. Providing the voices for George and Mary Bailey are Paul and Bonnie Wilkerson respectively. Portraying multiple supporting characters in the cast are Kim Albers as Rose Bailey, Matilda, Mrs. Hatch, Mrs. Thompson; Oscar Arianna Bauswell as Young Harry Bailey, and Sadie Vance; Cooper Barnes as Young George, Peter, and Tommy; Aubrey Davis as Young Violet, Young Mary, and Janie; Erin Bauswell will portray Zuzu; Shelley Dowling will be the voice of Violet and Ruth Bailey; and Matt Abel has been cast as Joseph the Archangel and will also run the lights. All the actors will help provide sound effects just like in the old days of live radio.

"It's A Wonderful Life: A LIVE Radio Play," written by Tom Landry is produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com) and runs December 3-5 & 10-12, 2021. Evening shows begin at 7:30 and Sundays at 2:00 pm. Tickets are available online at www.oldfortplayers.com or www.purplepass.com/ofpdec2021 and at the door. Adult: \$15, Senior/Military/Vet: \$12, Student (Age 5-17): \$10. Masks are recommended. We will provide socially distanced seating, so capacity is limited. Make your reservations or purchase your tickets now!

Leading sponsors for the season are Jim Baier Ford and Lee County Bank. Our partners include the Fort Madison Daily Democrat and Scotts. Additional funds have been provided by Connections Bank.

Last season would have been Old Fort Players' 40th anniversary but the celebration was postponed due to Covid. So, this will be the "40+1 Anniversary Season."

The theater is located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue G. Send a Facebook message, send an email to oldfortplayersfm@gmail.com or call 319-372-9559 for more information. Like them on Facebook (Fb@oldfortplayers) or visit www.oldfortplayers.com to keep up with everything that's going on at the theater.

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Hospice Tree of Love ornaments now for sale

FORT MADISON - Lee County Health Department - Hospice is continuing with the 29th annual Hospice Tree of Love Project. The 2021 ornament, "Until We Meet Again," is designed by Mystic Images. Ornaments can be purchased for \$16.00, and the name of the person to be honored or remembered will be printed on a decorative tag and attached to the ornament.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions this year the Hospice Tree of Love ornaments will not be displayed at either location due to restrictions.

Instead ornaments will be mailed to the purchaser after December 2nd. Those purchasing ornaments are asked to add \$1.50 per ornament for mailing.

There will be an unveiling ceremony on December 2nd, again not in the typical fashion.

The 2021 ceremony will be posted to the Lee County Health Department Facebook page and website (www.leecountyhd.org). If you would like to have your loved one's name read during the ceremony please be sure your order is placed by November 24th.

"Last year we had to make changes to



the unveiling ceremony due to COVID, however the response we received from families who were able to view the ceremony was very positive," states Jeri Giebelhausen, LCHD Support Services Coordinator.

"Families from all over who normally can't attend a ceremony were able to view the ceremony to hear their loved one's name read."

To purchase an ornament please call 319-372-5225 or 800-458-6672 or order online at www.leecountyhd.org.

Name still withheld in Tuesday night fatal accident

CRASH - Continued from Page 1

a semi driven by Nazar Bekboev, 38, of Schaumburg, Ill.

Bekboev collided with the passenger side of Cochenour's vehicle forcing

her into the median and his vehicle came to rest on the northbound shoulder.

Cochenour, who was driving a 2004 Subaru Legacy and was seatbelted, was confirmed dead at the scene. She was transported to the Iowa State Medical Examiner's Office.

Emergency crews were on the scene until about 5:30 p.m. clearing the roadway.

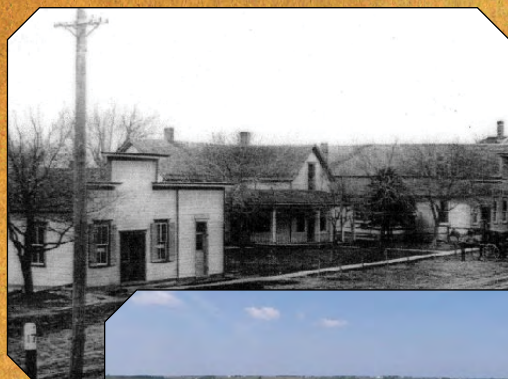
About 45 minutes later, emergency crews from four area fire & rescue departments along with Iowa State Patrol and Lee County Sheriff's Department were called to an-

other accident on Green Bay Road south of 190th Street where an SUV had struck a tractor.

The driver of the SUV was killed in the accident. The victim's name is being withheld pending family notification.

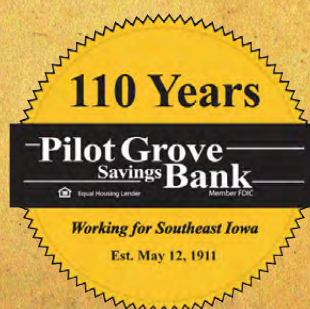
According to the report, the SUV was traveling north on Green Bay Road, while a 2018 John Deere tractor driven by Michael Ray Walker, 62, of Fort Madison was headed southbound. The SUV struck the tractor and ended up in the southeast ditch, while the tractor was disabled in the roadway.

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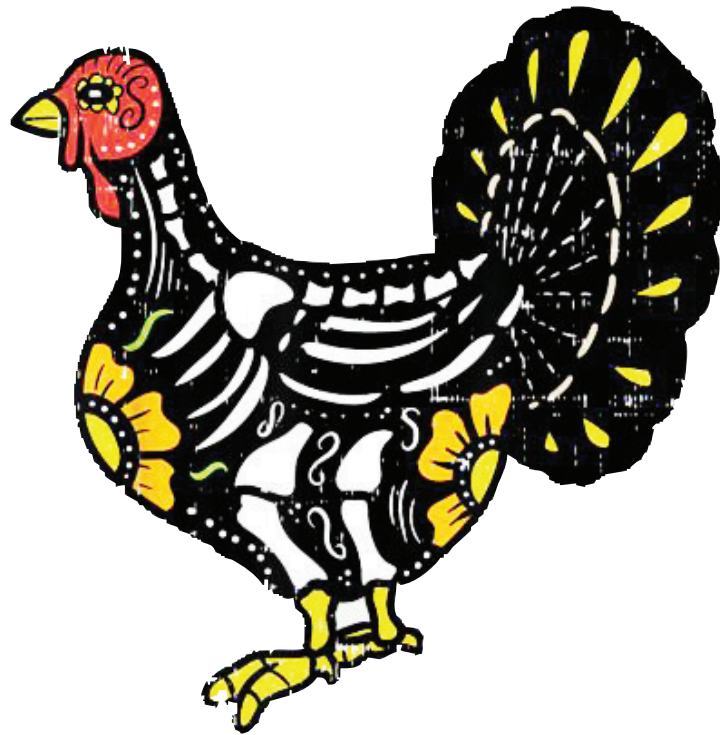
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Always our favorite Veteran.
Love,
Kristin, Ivy, Lily, and Violet



James Auge
Navy
WWII - Killed in action in
1943 while serving on a
destroyer in the Pacific.



William Auge
Navy
WWII - Member of the
Seabees Naval Construction
Battalion



**Specialist Mark
Ballard**
National Guard
1991 Desert Storm



Guy A. Barnes
US Army
US Army 1942 - 1946
WWII - Infantry

Cheers to a good man who
fought in Europe with Com-
pany K, 317th Infantry - 80th
Division in the Fighting First
Platoon.



We salute you with respect, honor, and gratitude.



Kenneth Beimer
US Army
Korean Conflict
Corporal - 1952-1954

Happy Veterans Day, Dad!



Adam Benda
Sergeant (SGT)
U.S. Army
1997-2005



Rick Bohnenkamp
Navy
1973-1977. U.S.S. Dixon
AS-37, U.S.S. Mobile LKA-
115

Navy, is not just a job, it's an
adventure!



Robert Bow
Air Force, US Army
Vietnam, Korea

My dad served his country and
did what his country asked of
him. He maybe gone but his
memory lives on.



**CPL Jerome
"Jerry" Leroy
Brosi**
US Army
Korean War

Your honor lives on through
us all.
- Zeke and Shawna Ross and
Family



Donald F. Byrd
U.S. Air Force, Retired
2 tours Vietnam. Stationed in
England, Germany, Iceland.
Retired after 21 years of
service as a Master Sergeant.

Thank you to my dad for his
honorable service, and to
all that have served and are
currently serving.



2021 Honoring our Veterans

THANK YOU, VETERANS

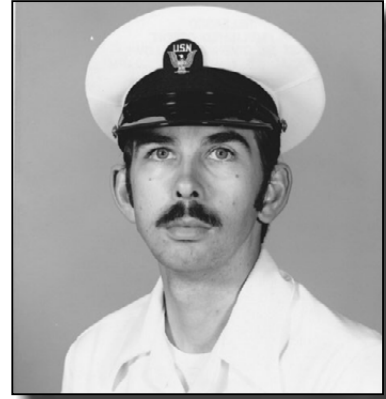


Joseph W. Carle
US Navy

RM2. Served 5 years mostly on USS Brownson in the Mediterranean Sea. Got to see so much of the area around.



Kenneth Collins
US Army
WWII



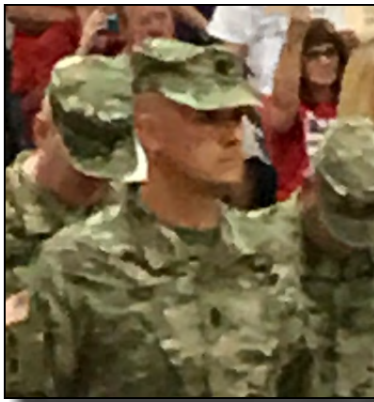
Robert Crawmer
US Navy

Two tours in the Mediterranean Sea, one tour in Vietnam. Served 7 years. Stationed out of Norfolk, VA and Barbers Point, HI



Clifton Dawley
US Army

Thank you!



Matthew Doty
Command Sergeant Major (CSM)
Iowa Army National Guard
1994-present



Chris Eastin
Navy



SGT Wendell B Edgington
U.S. Air Force
32nd 45th Civil Engineer Squadron
55150 Pavement Maintenance Specialist



Pete Eicher
Marines
Vietnam



James J. Fedler
US Army
World War II



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★★★
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Happy Veterans Day to our military and their families, who sacrifice so much to keep our country safe and strong.

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Jack K. Foreman
US Navy
World War II, USS
Sloat-North Atlantic



Chuck Gillette
US Navy
Vietnam



Wendell Hannum
US Army
1969-1970 Vietnam
25th Inf. B Co. 1-27

Proud of you, Dad!



SFC Jimmie Hayes
US Army
Desert Shield/Desert Storm
OIF 2003, 2004,2006

We are proud to call you
our hero! Love, Amy, Triston,
Lexi, Isaiah, and Lila



Frank Hayler
US Navy
LTJG, USN/USNR, Korea



Carol Herdrich
US Army
Served Army, Army Reserves,
Navy and Naval Reserves.
Retired 35 years total



Floyd Hohl
US Navy
Japan



Jason Hohl
US Navy
Diver



Steve Hohl
US Navy
Navy Seals



With Respect Honor And Gratitude



THANK YOU
VETERANS



We would like to pay special honor
to those who have fallen this past year. . .

Steven Anderson
Wayne Ball
Donald Burdette
L. Dee Harrison, Jr.
Duane "Sarge" Hock
Michael Jacobsmeier
William Jeffers
Walter "Rick" Kurowski
Adrian Lampe
David Marshall
Gary "Tex" Merschman
G. Sam Nicol

Donald "Donnie" Poole
Richard Reynolds
John Riis
Robert Ross
John Roxlau
Jerry Sevier
Vernon Steffensmeier
Bill Stevens
Jerry Stewart, Sr.
Crescentia Wellman
Leonard Witting



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2021 Honoring our Veterans



T.K. Hohl
US Navy
Desert Storm - Aviator



Jeffrey Hubbs
US Army 85-90
101st Airborne, 3rd ID



Carree Jones
US Navy
1986 to 1992
Adak, AK
Camp Pendleton, CA
Treasure Island, CA
Orlando, FL
Pearl Harbor, HI



Gerald Junkins
Air Force
Flew 51 missions over some of the most dangerous targets in Europe. 15th AAF, 464th bomb group, B-24 Liberator. Received Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in air combat.

Dad, thank you so much for your service to your country. You and the men that fought for our freedom, in the skies over Europe, will never be forgotten. Know that your family is so very proud of you. I love and miss you every day. Your Son.



Daniel K. Kincaid
US Army
Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan 2010-2011 & 2013-2014



Stephen Koser
Air Force
Served from May 1966 - April 1970
Vietnam April 1969-April 1970

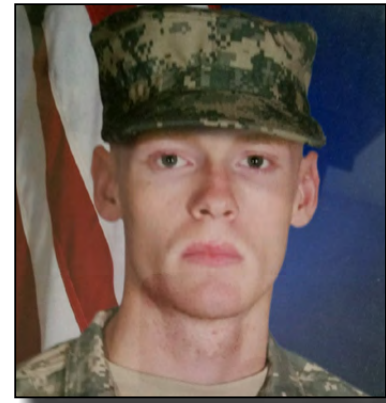
I am Honored I was able to Protect and Serve our United States of America.



Gerald F. Krogmeier
US Marine Corp
Vietnam



PV2 Jeremy Lee
National Guard



SGT Kristopher Lee
U.S. Army
8th MISG (A)
35F (Intelligence Analyst)



Corporal Lloyd E. Lee
U.S. Army 11th Airborne
511th Parachute Infantry Regiment



Jim Lumsden
Navy
Served from 1976-1978
Thank you for your service!



Travis McGee
US Army
Operation Iraqi Freedom
*Today and everyday we are grateful for you! You have shown by example what it truly means to belong to the home of the free because of the brave!
Love, Sarah and Weston*



WE DON'T KNOW THEM ALL

BUT WE OWE THEM ALL

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Thank you for your service. We salute you every day, but remember all your sacrifices today especially.

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Mike McHugh
US Marine Corp
Vietnam Conflict
1970-1973

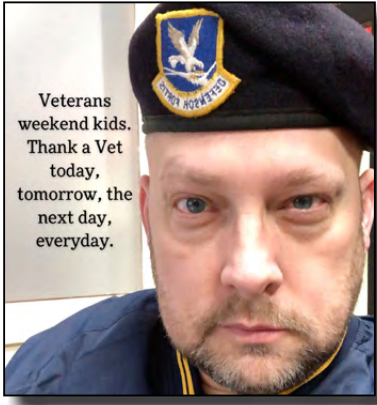


James Mercer
Air Force
Cuban Missile Crisis
Thank you, Dad.



2021 Honoring our Veterans

Home of the free because of the brave.



Cody Miylor
Air Force



H. Everett Mungan
Navy
Served from 1959 - 1963



Kenneth Panther
US Army
Company D, 237th Engineer's Battalion; Served in Germany during the Viet Nam War era



Terry Parrott
Navy
E-6 MMISS, Wartime
Lebanon/Beirut



Lawrence Rankin
US Air Force
1973 Santo, TX
Lackland Air Force Base



John Rascon
US Army



Thank you for your service!



Ralph Rettig
US Army
Korea

In memory of my Dad. Thank you for serving our country.



Jimilee Riney
US Navy
Seabees, USS Princeton, Arsenal Island, Rock Island, IL

We love and miss you!
1941-2014



Michael Riney
US Coast Guard
Patrolled from West Palm Beach and Miami, FL, Corpus Christi, TX

We love you and miss you!
1962-2014



SSGT Ezekiel "Zeke" James
Ross
Iowa National Guard
Charlie Company 224th Engineer Battalion, Operation Iraqi Freedom 2004-2005



A Brother in Arms



Claude Salisbury
National Guard
Company C 201st Engineer Battalion, Kentucky Army National Guard (1980-2003)



Thank you, Dad, for instilling in me the Army values and a deduction to serving the community. Hooah!



William Schmitz
US Marines
Korean War



Shawn Schorr
Air Force
Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, Hawaii, Korea, Poland, Antarctica, Saudi Arabia

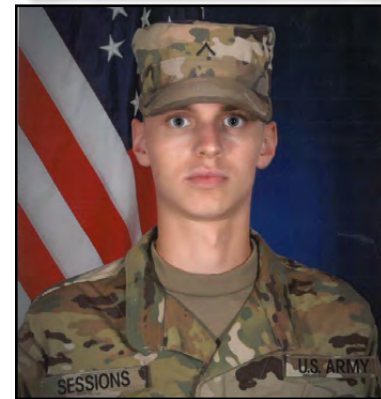
Enlisted at 17 and retired a couple months ago with 35 years of service.



Aaron Sessions
US Marines
2018-2019 American Embassy National Security-Oslo, Norway. Currently in Quanico, VA. Extensive training



I am proud of you! Following in family footsteps. I love you and miss you.



Joshua Sessions
National Guard



I am so proud that you wanted to follow family tradition and serve our country! Love you!

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Jeffrey R. Smith
US Marines



Joshua Smith
Air Force
Freedom Sentinel &
Inherent Resolve, Qatar



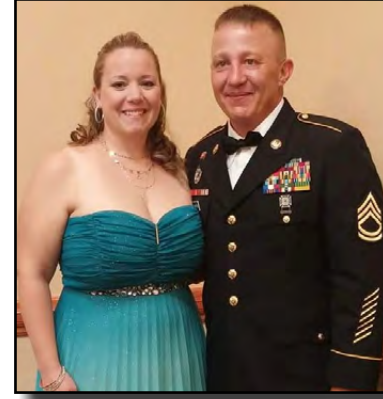
Specialist Franklin Statler
National Guard
1991 Desert Storm



Gary Steflik
US Navy
Vietnam



Floyd Strode
US Army
WWII, Korea



Clay Vermazen
National Guard
04-05 Iraq

I am always & forever grateful for everything you have done & continue to do. I Love You! You will forever be my always!!! Love Sara.



Christopher M. Sutcliffe
Marines
Operation Iraqi Freedom /
Operation Enduring Freedom
Purple Heart recipient



Always my favorite Veteran. Love, your wife



Jacob Thompson
Navy
U.S. Navy See Bees
2001-2006



Thank you for your service!



Dan Vice
US Army
Vietnam December 1968 -
July 1970



Michelle Welborn
US Army

Thank you for your service.



Gene Zeiger
Marines



Thank You Veterans

We remember you with pride and honor.

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