



# Pen City Current

**HAPPY VETERANS' DAY!**

**Monday, Nov. 11, 2019 | 12 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 237**



courtesy photo

Re-enactors from the Old Fort help commemorate a new monument at the Battlefield Park located south of Avenue G between 4th and 5th streets Saturday afternoon. The monument marks the original battlefield site and honors the death of soldiers in the battle.



## Beside The Point

Chuck Vandenberg,  
Pen City Current - Editor

*On this day, we say  
'Thank You' and  
promise to remember*

Military service was always a thing I looked at from afar. My biological father was in the Iowa Army National Guard and my mom received some veteran's benefits to help raise the family.

He died from complications of diabetes when I was about six so I don't remember much other than my mom explaining that we got some money each month from the government because of his service.

His father, my grandfather Raymond, served in the Navy, I believe. I've seen the black-and-white Polaroids of him in uniform. I remember he wore a cap, like the old police officer caps with the points. It seemed to be a white uniform. He didn't talk about it much. My sister-in-law served as well.

I have a friend, who's actually a family member of my sister-in-law, who feeds me more information on military service than I ever got from my grandfathers.

He was in the Navy during the Vietnam War and did some sort of night recon with what later became the Navy Seals. I write gently about it because our conversations were more...conversational.

Now I talk with friends like Geoff Shields, who doesn't really talk about his military experience, but who would chat conversationally about his journalistic experiences, and the career he carved out of that on-the-job training.

I had a few conversations with naval recruiters after I did some stringing with the newspaper in Burlington. I thought that serving in the Navy on an aircraft carrier and writing the news would be adventurous. I came to find out that battling asthma through adolescence wasn't a deal breaker, but it made things a bit more difficult in the training phases, and I had a wicked fear of flying. Not a good combination for military service, but a regret I have nonetheless.

My cousin served in Desert Storm and now has a lucrative career doing what he was trained to do in communications. I remember hearing stories from the man who helped raise me, about his father's service.

## Nepalese art exhibit set for Dec. 3

BY PCC STAFF

WEST POINT – Donnellson resident, and founder of Rebuild Nepal Education Foundation, Ernie Schiller is putting together an art exhibit to display and sell art work from Nepalese children.

Schiller has made many treks to the landlocked area of South Asia to help rebuild the educational structure of the area that was devastated by a 2015 earthquake.

Schiller said Nepal's 1st Art Festival was held on June 1, where Nepalese students were encouraged to create art that was displayed, judged and awarded with prizes.

The art was then packed up and brought to America where on Dec. 4, from 4 p.m to 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Elementary School, the work will be on display, as well as for sale.

Local students are also encouraged to sign up to bring art work to the exhibit, which is open to the public.

Schiller said 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the Nepalese students' art will be sent directly to the students, where it will be used to help pay for schooling as the students come from extremely impoverished families.

Students wishing to participate are asked to include their name, age, and school on the pieces to be displayed, along with any additional information explaining the pieces.

Anyone with additional questions is encouraged to contact Schiller at 319-316-2354 or by Facebook at Ernie Schiller

There will also be a bazaar where memorabilia from Nepal will be on sale.

## Author hits 30 years of sobriety with 5K

November 3, 1989, a day I shall never forget. I had fallen drunk through the glass top of my coffee table, cut myself to smithereens, and nearly bled to death. November 3, 2019, to celebrate 30 years of being clean and sober, and health, I ran a 5k with a running buddy and family members. It was at the Miles in the Maize, Colony Pumpkin Patch, in North Liberty. Recent snow, plus a corn-maze-dirt-path, equals—mud! Yep. Oh, well, I had certainly rolled in the mud, blood and beer in my using days, maybe it was symbolic. A little poetic justice, eh?

Curt and Lonnie flex their muscles at the Miles in the Maize 5k. I had also timed the release of my second

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



book, "Bossy" to coincide with my 30-year anniversary. It's a book of short stories about my family and myself, fictionalized, of course. "Bossy" was our family cow. Only Mom could milk her. If interested in the book, my

See **SWARM**, page 6A

See **VETERANS**, page 6A

### Advertiser Index

Archie's Automotive Service .....	P.1B
Business Directory .....	Ps.4-5A
Classifieds.....	Ps.4-5A
Conrad Trucking.....	P.1B
Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis Family Dentistry.....	P.5B
Fort Madison Community Hospital .....	P.2B
Fort Madison Family YMCA.....	Ps.6A,4B
Fort Madison Neighborhood Watch Groups .....	P.6A
Great River Regional Waste Authority.....	Ps.3A,5B

Jimmy Keenan .....	P.6A
Lee County Bank .....	P.4B
Lee County Health Department.....	Ps.2A,4B
Merschman Trucking.....	P.2B
Pilot Grove Savings Bank.....	P.3B
Stage 2.....	P.6B
Sub-Arena .....	P.1B
The Kensington .....	Ps.6A,3B
Truck Repair, Inc.....	P.6B

### News Index

From the front.....	P.6A
Lottery Numbers.....	P.3A
Obituaries.....	P.3A
-Dolores Anderson	
Opinion .....	P.6A
Sports .....	P.3A
2019 Honoring our Veterans.....	Ps.1-6B
Weather .....	P.6A

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## Obituaries/Sports

### OBITUARIES

# DOLORES ANDERSON

Dolores Anderson, 89, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away Friday, November 8, 2019, at the Donnellson Health Center in Donnellson, Iowa.

She was born on December 3, 1929 in Flint, Michigan, the daughter of Omar and Beatrice (DeMott) Wagar. On December 30, 1950 she married James H. Anderson in Flint, Michigan. He preceded her in death on November 8, 2001.

Eileen is survived by her children: Linda Cheney, Nancy (Charlie) Stewart, Jim (Julie) Anderson, Bob (Aggie) Anderson, Sandy (Roger) Schau, and Tom (Rhonda) Anderson. She is also survived by sixteen grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, James; two sisters: Jane Wagar and Hannah Carpenter; and one grandson: Jason.

Her body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson for cremation.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Burial will be at the Evangelical Cemetery in Donnellson, Iowa.

The Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).

## HTC 8th grader girls move to 2-0

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Mary Kate Bendlage went off for 18 as the 8th grade Lady Crusaders rolled to a 49-5 win over Central Lee on Thursday night.

Six other girls got in on the scoring led by Natalie Randolph and Taegan Denning with eight points each Reagan Holvoet had seven followed by Izabella Callison with four, and Anna Bendlage and Jenna Hellman each with two points.

The 8th grade girls are 2-0 on the year and travel to Danville Monday night and then Van Buren on Tuesday.

In the 7th grade contest, Teagan Snaadt had 13 points followed by Anna Bendlage with nine and Callison with four.

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Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
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Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



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11/09 EVENING  
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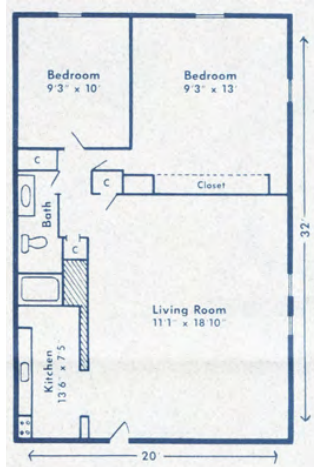
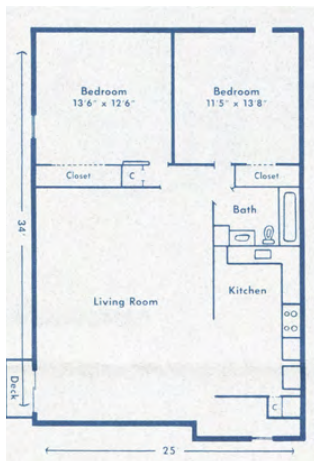


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## From the Front/Weather

# Friends make mark on 5K, 30 years of sobriety

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

contact information is below.

Our first steps on the muddy, corn-lined path was almost too much. Mud clung to our running shoes, making each step feel like ankle weights. Ugh. There was even sloshy mud puddles to tiptoe through. Oh, boy. Keep going. One step at a time, like my sobriety. It's only 3.1 miles.

My running companion, Lonnie, from New Boston (Iowa), had run another 5k the day before. Can you believe it?! However, in the past he has run 7 half-marathons (13.1 miles) in 7 days, so what's two 5k's in a row? I noticed he was agonizing over the mud also, trying to kick it off with each step. He normally wears ear buds to listen to music as he runs. He didn't have them in today. Was this to listen to my breathing so he would know when to dial 911 in case of my heart attack? I think so.

A little kid went flying by us, flinging mud like a helicopter. There was a huge puddle ahead. He ran right through the middle, slipped, his feet went over his head, and he came down on his back. Ker-splash! There was going to be a special award for the muddiest person. I'm sure he was a strong contender.

Up hill, down hill. Mud clinging to our feet. Huff, puff. No walking for me! Although, it's been proven, in one

study after another, that the run/walk strategy is actually faster, especially at my age (71), than running the whole way. Nope. I'm from the old school, by golly. Walking is for sissies!

Finally, the end is near. I can hear the announcer's voice over the loud speaker. Hooray! Lonnie and I raise our hands together at the finish line. Ginnie is waiting. She hands me a gold medallion for 30 years of sobriety. The medallion is from a friend with 32 years of sobriety, so it's proven tried and true. Thank you, God, for health, sobriety, and Ginnie!

Now it's her turn for the one mile walk. I join her and her sister. It's the least I can do for all their support. However, because of the mud, they only do a half-a-mile. Wimps!

We went out to eat at the Olive Garden in Coralville.

You can eat all you want after running. I had Italian Zoodles—noodles made from zucchini, for the health of it. The whole University of Iowa varsity basketball team came in to eat, having to duck their heads through the doorway. All eyes were on them, including ours. I wanted to run over for an autograph, but got to thinking, "Hey, we're just as great as they are. Didn't we just run a 5k?" They get pestered enough when out in public, anyway.

At home, Ginnie picked corn out of the caked mud on her favorite walking shoes. Ironically, the New York City Marathon was on television. No mud for these gazelles!

My, my, 30 years, clean and sober. Going for 50! One day at a time.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com) or visit his website at [www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com](http://www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com).

## Free breakfast for vets at Hy-Vee Monday

**VETERANS** - Continued from Page 1

Something about a motorcycle brigade and hand grenades thrown down tank gun barrels.

It all seems fictional to me and it shouldn't. Their sacrifices resulted in freedom, regardless of the incentive to serve. Some went because it was the right thing to do, others went because it was the only thing to do. And I'm sure other reasons are scattered about.

The end result of it all is the country we live in and

the protections and freedoms we too often take for granted, as a result of those sacrifices.

Not serving doesn't make me less of a patriot, I'm just one that never wore a uniform... and I'm absolutely comfortable taking a back seat to those that did.

Happy Veteran's Day to all my friends and family out there. And thank all of you for your service. As a reminder, Hy-Vee will be serving breakfast to all area veterans on Monday morning from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. And Holy Trinity Catholic will be holding a Veteran's Assembly beginning with mass at 8:45 a.m. at St. Mary's in West Point.

Pen City Current also has a special edition running today honoring veteran submissions to our publication,... but that's Beside the Point.

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WED 13 Nov  
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THU 14 Nov  
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High- 32.8° F | Low - 24.5° F

FRI 15 Nov  
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*OpenWeatherMap*

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# 2019 Honoring our Veterans



# ★ VETERAN'S DAY ★

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Korean War



**Robert Arnold**  
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Navy  
WWII - Member of the Seabees Naval Construction Battalion



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



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



Your sacrifice can never be repaid.  
Happy Veteran's Day



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★★★★★  
**VETERANS DAY**

**Honoring our Veterans today and everyday!**

**Thank you!**

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**VETERANS DAY**  
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

We appreciate your sacrifices for our freedom.  
**Happy Veteran's Day**

2805 Avenue L, Fort Madison . (319) 372-5001

### 2019 Honoring our Veterans

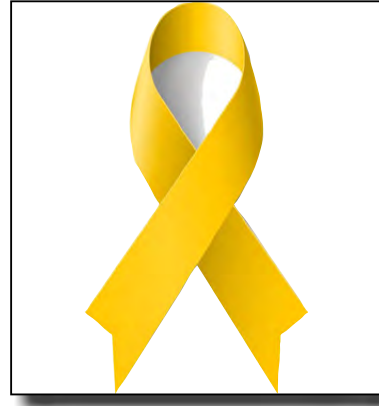
# We salute you with respect, honor, and gratitude.



**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.*



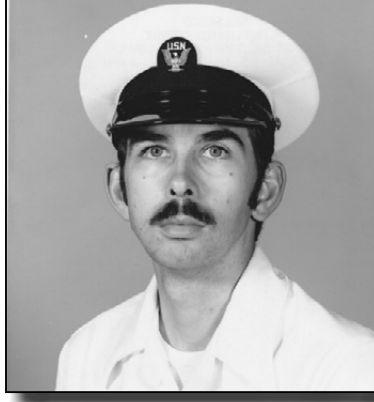
**CPL Jerome "Jerry" Leroy Brosi**  
US Army  
Korean War  
  
*Your honor lives on through us all.  
- Zeke and Shawna Ross and Family*



**Donald F. Byrd**  
U.S. Air Force, Retired  
Vietnam Conflict  
Served for 20+ years  
  
*Thank you dad and everyone who has served and for those that have the Ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.  
Thank you for your service and your sacrifice.*



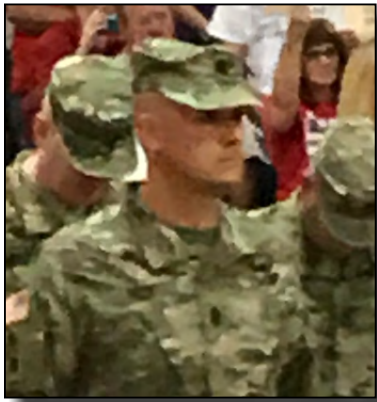
**Kenneth Collins**  
US Army  
WWII



**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



**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



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



**Chuck Gillette**  
US Navy  
Vietnam



*Thank you to all those who proudly serve our country.*

**FORT MADISON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**

5445 Avenue O ♦ Fort Madison, IA  
www.fmchosp.com ♦ 319-372-6530

**Honoring all who have served**

**THANK YOU**

**MERSCHMAN SEEDS™**



## 2019 Honoring our Veterans

# Home of the free because of the brave.



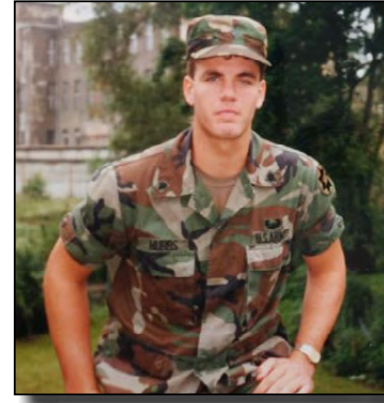
**Wendell Hannum**  
US Army  
1969-1970 Vietnam  
25th Inf. B Co. 1-27

*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*



**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.*



**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.*



**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



**Mike McHugh**  
US Marine Corp  
Vietnam Conflict  
1970-1973



**James Mercer**  
Air Force  
Cuban Crisis, Vietnam

*I love you and miss you. Thank you for your service, dad. May you watch over all that love you and miss you.*



**We're humbled by your patriotism.**

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



**Veterans & Spouses join us all week:**  
 Nov. 11 at 1 pm  
*Free movie at The Fox featuring John Wayne*  
 Nov. 12 at 2:30 pm  
*Veterans Recognition, serving pie. RSVP by Nov. 8*  
 Nov. 13 at 2 pm  
*Bingo for Seniors*

**The Kensington**  
 Senior Living Community  
 and *Primrose Path* Memory Care  
 2210 Avenue H, Fort Madison  
 319-372-4233

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# 2019 Honoring our Veterans

# We thank you for your service and sacrifice.



**Cody Miylar**  
Air Force



Veterans weekend kids. Thank a Vet today, tomorrow, the next day, everyday.



**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



**Ralph Rettig**  
US Army  
Korea



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



**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)



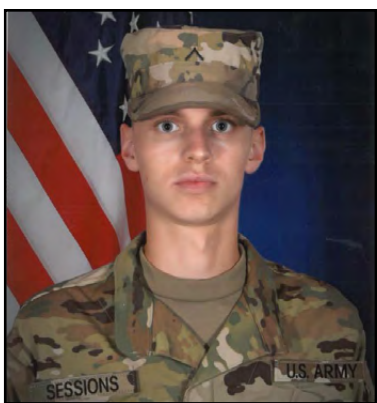
*Thank you, Dad, for instilling in me the Army values and a deduction to serving the community. Hooah!*



**Aaron Sessions**  
US Marines  
American Embassy Security



*I am proud of you! 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!*



**Jeffrey R. Smith**  
US Marines



**Specialist Franklin Statler**  
National Guard  
1991 Desert Storm



HAPPY VETERANS DAY

With Respect,  
Honor,  
And Gratitude.  
Thank You Veterans.



Fort Madison • West Point  
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www.leecountybank.com



For your service,  
your sacrifice,  
our freedom...  
**thank you.**

Fort Madison Family YMCA  
220 26th St. Ft. Madison  
319.372.2403  
fortmadison.org

f i g o

the Y YMCA

Happy Veterans Day!

**Thank You for Your Service**

**LEE CHD**  
Lee County Health Department

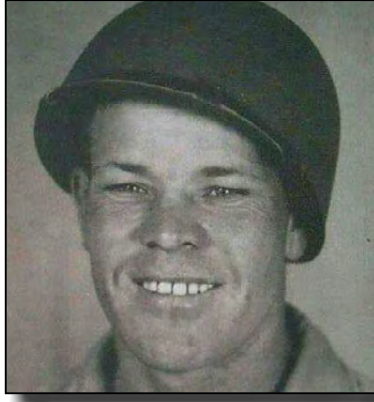
#3 John Bennett Drive  
Fort Madison  
319-372-5225  
[www.LeeCountyHD.org](http://www.LeeCountyHD.org)

# 2019 Honoring our Veterans

# We are forever grateful for your service.



**Gary Steflik**  
US Navy  
Vietnam



**Floyd Strode**  
US Army  
WWII, Korea



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




**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.*





# VETERANS DAY

★★★★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★★★★★


## VETERANS' DAY 2019

*We honor all who have served our great nation today and always.*



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New London Dental Care 319-367-2311	Mediapolis Dental Care 319-394-3255




**HAPPY**

**VETERANS DAY**

**We remember your service with pride**  
**THANK YOU, VETERANS**



**GRRWA**  
Great River Regional Waste Authority

Ft. Madison Main Office: 2092 303rd Ave Fort Madison, IA 1-319-372-6140	Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-6175
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## 2019 Honoring our Veterans

# We remember you with pride and honor.



**Dan Vice**  
US Army  
Vietnam December 1968 -  
July 1970



**Michelle Welborn**  
US Army  
*Thank you for your service*



Residents of The Kensington who served with pride are pictured here. Seated: Frank Bentler – Army, Derald Dressler – Coast Guard, Melvin (Mike) Ammer – Air Force, Dale Fraise – Navy, Pete Menke – Army. Standing: DF Coons – Army, Larry Privia – Army, Bud Pieper – Marines, Leonard Kirchner – Army, Bill Kerr – Army, Richard Brul – Army

# THANK YOU, VETERANS



**THANK YOU**  
TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED  
AND PROTECTED OUR FREEDOM!



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Your Total Purchase



Thank you for your service.  
We appreciate you!

**Open 9-6 Monday**  
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