

St. Paul's is new home for holiday Santa Store

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The celebrated and unique Fort Madison Santa Store is gearing up again for the annual children's shopping season.

P.A.W. animal shelter Director Sandy Brown, who's been a part of the children's shopping event since its inception 10 years ago, said this year's event will take place at the St. Paul Lutheran Church on the corner of 19th Street and Avenue I.

Proceeds from this year's event will go to the services the animal shelter provides.

"This is our first year as far as P.A.W. organizing the event, but it's my 10th year," Brown said. "This is a fundraiser for the animal shelter and all the money will got to P.A.W."

The event was created in 2008 as a fundraising mechanism for the city's Convention and Visitors' Bureau and that group was disbanded, but the fundraiser kept going.

When the money stopped going to CVB, the five-member board putting the shopping spree on split the money and donated it to their favorite local charity.

The store will be open on Dec. 1 and Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and children ages 3 to 10 can come in and pick six gifts for \$5. Staff on hand will wrap and bag the gifts. Parents are not allowed to shop with the children. Volunteer elves will escort the children through the tables of gifts and help them get everything wrapped and ready to put under the tree at home. Brown said the volunteers are looking for gently

used donations for the store, but no clothing can be accepted. Donations can be dropped at the church on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. They can also be delivered to the P.A.W. animal shelter during normal business hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Brown said, in special circumstances, a pick up of donations can be arranged if necessary, but volunteers prefer to have the donations dropped off.

"We also welcome monetary donations that we can earmark for sponsorships of children. We do have families with four or five children that can't afford the \$5 per child and we use those donations to sponsor children," Brown said. "We want to make

See HOLIDAY, page 3

Class 1A State Volleyball Championship

Holy Trinity takes Class 1A runner-up trophy



Freesmeier polishing her legacy at HTC

 ${f I}$ can't drive 55...or 65 for that matter, there's just too much to do.

This week I've made the mind-numbing trek to the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids on what will be

three straight days following the wonderful unfolding story of the girls in blue that smack that freakin' pink, gray, and white leather ball all over the place - so fast, I might add, that I can't get stoppage on my Canon. That bugs me.

But Emily Box ... that's my problem - not

yours.



VANDENBERG

On Thursday night I had to put The Beast (that's my wife's Toyota FJ Cruiser) in 4-high because of the slushy roads, and had to slow to 45 going down Highway 103. That REALLY bugs me. I had to stop to get the ever-forming ice off my wipers. I have three of

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Your 2018 Class 1A State Title Runner-Up Holy Trinity Crusaders See story on page 5

those stupid little things and neither one could handle the elements. Puny wipers.

But in all that extra time and sliding, slushing, and cussing, I kept coming back to how this smaller squad of Crusaders keeps knocking off these physically bigger volleyball squads.

I don't know volleyball very well. I still have to ask Head Coach Melissa Freesmeier technical questions..."So... that was a serve, right?" "What's this 'rally'

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

GERALDINE GREGG GROSS

Geraldine Gregg Gross, 100, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 6:15 a.m. on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at The Kensington. She was born on October 20, 1918



in Burlington, IA to Hiram G. & Elizabeth A. Meierotto Chesnut. She married Ott K. Gregg on September 28, 1943. He preceded her in death on March 26, 1975. She then married C. Walter Gross on November 25, 1978. He preceded her in death on December 5, 1991. She retired as an operator for International Resistance Company with 32 years of service. She was a member of Holy Family Parish, C.L.A. and Good Hope Rebekah Lodge.

GROSS

Geraldine is survived by: 1-son: Thomas (Deborah) Gregg of Wever, IA; 2-daughters: Carolyn (Robert) Woolever of Davis, IL & Victoria (Bernard) Stephenson of Fort Madison, IA; 3-step daughters: Josephine (David) Kreuzenstein of Burlington, IA, Edna (Ed)

Van Lieu of Powhaten, VA & Elaine (Tony) Dixon of West Burlington, IA; 7-grandchildren; 5-step grandchildren & 10-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by: her parents, both husbands, 4-great grandchildren, 2-brothers & 1-sister.

The family will receive friends from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 11, 2018 with a Rebekah Lodge service to be held at 4:30, immediately followed by a rosary, at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, November 12, 2018 at Ss. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. Burial will be held at Fairview Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Holy Family Parish or Fort Madison Community Hospital Hospice. Online condolences to the family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

11/8/18 - 7:43 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Wyatt Lee McWhorter, 24, of Fort Madison at the police station on charges of no vehicle registration, no insurance, striking an unattended vehicle, failure to maintain control and driving while revoked. He was released upon citation. 11/8/18 - 1:31 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism 15 Storms Court. 11/8/18 - 2:35 p.m.- Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1600 block of 34th Street. 11/8/18 - 3:38 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 500 block of 7th Street. 11/8/18 - 7:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a vandalism in the 1100 block of Avenue E. 11/8/18 - 11:38 p.m. - Fort

Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3000 block of Avenue N.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

11/8/18 - no time listed - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher Edward Capps Guzman, 19 of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on warrants for violation of probation. 11/8/18 - 10:53 a.m. -Lee Countv Sheriff's deputies arrested Alexis Paige Pumphrey, 20, of Fort Madison in the 3000 block of Hwy. 103 on a charge of interference with official acts. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear. 11/8/18 - 11:18 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Adam James Huss, 30, of Fort Madison in the 3000 block of Hwy. 103. on a warrant for trespassing. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 11/8/18 - 12:32 p.m. - Lee

County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sylvia Mary Bittner, 35, of Keokuk, no arrest location provided, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was released on bond. 11/9/18 - 5:05 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Teresa Hull Meierotto, 50. of Fort Madison in the 2800 block of Hwy. 103, on a charge of operating a vehicle while intoxicated. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 11/9/18 - 7:47 a.m. - Lee Countv Sheriff's deputies arrested Phillip Christopher Schulte, 32, of Hamilton, III., on a judgment entry. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

11/8/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two burn complaints and two medical calls.

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9 pm	10:00 pm
9 pm	9:59 pm
9 pm	10:00 pm
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11/9

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Mega Ball: 5

Megaplier: 4



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Current-Lee/From the Front

CURRENT-LEE

Veteran's Breakfast at Sunnybrook

Each month on the third Tuesday of the month, Sunnybrook Assisted Living hosts a Veteran's Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at 5025 River Valley Road in Fort Madison.

Community Blood Drives

The following are November Fort Madison blood drives; Fort Madison Housing Authority Blood Drive from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 12 in the Hillview Community Room at 1102 48th Street. Contact Pati Toops to donate. Nov. 13 at the Madison from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Activities center. Contact Janelle Case at 470-4011. Lincoln Elementary gymnasium on Nov. 15 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. - contact LeAnn Cashman at 372-2896; Fort Madison Public Library, 1920 Avenue F.- contact Blood center at 800-747-5401 ext. 1281.

CURRENT-LEE

Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington

Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2:00 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded.

Business After Hours

The Kensington and the Fort Madison Chamber are hosting a Business After Hours on Nov. 15 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Kensington 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison, to celebrate the Kensington's 15th year in business in Fort Madison.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

Thanksgiving 101

The Fort Madison Public Library will host author Rick Rodgers "Thanksgiving 101", in a discussion Thanksgiving recipes Nov. 13 at 5:30 p.m.

RSVP Nutrition Class

RSVP/United Way of the Great River Region is hosting a free-nutrition class at the Resource Center, 3421 Avenue L in Fort Madison on Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. To sign up call 319-372-8043 or stop by the center.

Proceeds benefit P.A.W. shelter

HOLIDAY - Continued from Page 1

sure the families that can't afford it have the opportunity."

There will also be open hours on Dec. 10th and 11th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. where the public can come in and shop at the \$5-for-six gift rate, but Brown said there will also be some other items that will be priced to sell.

For more information on this year's Santa Store, call Brown at 319-470-3291.



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Opinion/Weather

Freesmeier generously shares legacy

FREESMEIER - Continued from Page 1

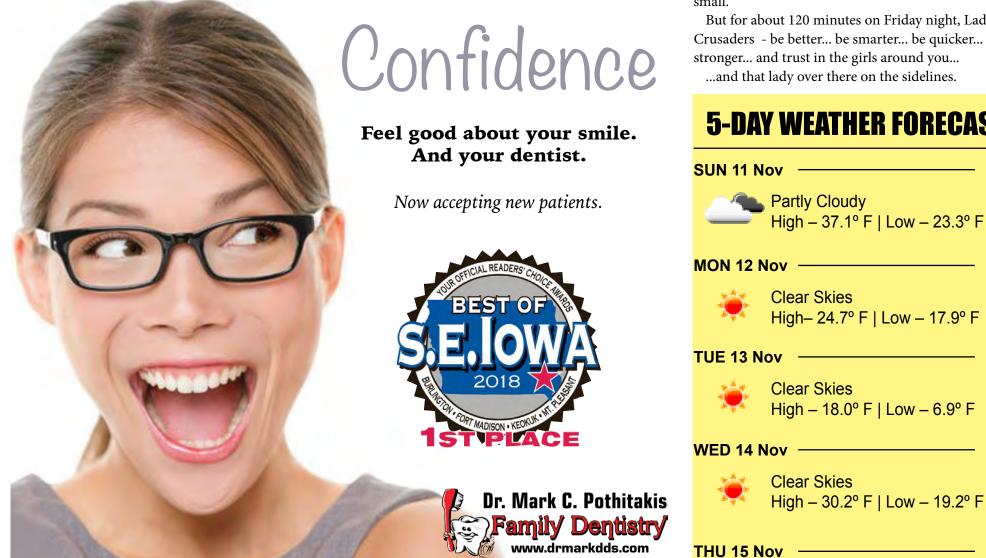
scoring and when the heck did that start?"

But one thing keeps coming back to me. This lady, who looks all of 30, but has been coaching longer than that - she knows volleyball. And very well.

I asked Holy Trinity Catholic Athletic Director John Goetz before the Crusaders knocked off 2nd-seeded Gehlen Catholic on Thursday to advance to the Class 1A title match on Friday - "Howz come our girls never



PCC File Photo



get called for carries and doubles, John?". I know he thought of back-handing me, but gently said, "Don't say that. DO NOT SAY THAT!...you'll jinx us. They are coached very, very well."

We got called for two doubles Thursday night. I know he shot me a look, but I wasn't dumb enough to look up from my notes. Then I added salt to the wound by tweeting that HTC was one set away from a shot at the championship. After I hit "send now" I looked across at John who's face was in his phone. I hope he was trolling Brietbart.

I've interviewed presidential candidates, national musicians, scumbag murderers, and broke a story on the largest national beef recall of its time. I'm a seasoned reporter, dare I say journalist. I am not intimidated.

Melissa Freesmeier intimidates me.

She's been coaching almost as long as the Daily Democrat's Chrii-is Faulk-ner clap....clap...clapclapclap has been covering Fort Madison sports. Just let that simmer for a moment... (and please refer to the "looks all of 30" comment exactly three paragraphs above).

I watched Wednesday night against Montezuma and I realized what it was that makes this, and past Holy Trinity Catholic volleyball teams, so tough to beat. They know "how" to play within the nuances of the moment...the opposing players weaknesses and strengths, the court, the officials... the environment. Montezuma got beat up on a lot of carry calls and double hits that kept giving HTC side outs. (See, I'm learning - side out: when a team scores a point and takes control of the serve).

These girls in blue drill... a lot, and therefore don't get caught up in the smaller errors that can plague other teams. I suspect the perennial powerhouse Janesville Wildcats are fairly well-versed in not carrying or doubling, too. Top-seeded Janesville stands between Holy Trinity Catholic and its second state title in five years. I don't know when the Wildcats last





lost to a Class 1A school but they'll be tested starting at 7 p.m. Friday night.

Doing the little things and doing them well, taking what your opponents give you, believing in yourself and trusting your teammates, minimizing mistakes and seizing opportunities- that's what wins championships. We've seen a lot of that at HTC.

Freesmeier has three state titles under her belt, two with Marquette and one with HTC in 2014. She's taken the Crusaders to nine straight state tournaments. She passed 900 career wins this year and is on pace to hit 1,000 before the next decade rolls around. Don't get me going on the '0' or '1' being the official start of the next decade - I do not care. Either way I'm sure I'll be right. I asked her once why she wasn't making big bucks coaching in college and she said the opportunities have been dangled, but her answer is a simple - 'why?'. She said she has everything she needs right here. A great support system, current and former players that really are more family than players, and a tradition that she simply holds hands with. High-fiving everyone, including reporters, giving and getting hugs from Tom, Kelly, Stephanie, and everyone in the HTC system in tow as she hauls the Crusaders around the state testing... and coaching... and teaching.

Win or lose, its the girls first. And she's there for them... always coaching and not just volleyball - but life. Failure begets success on and off the court. I'm not really sure where she's had too much failure - she's certainly had success. She calmly molds young, raw talent into productive, veteran experience. And she does it year... after year... after year.

This is her legacy to share. And she generously does. We watch the story unfold from the front edge of our seats - and clap and breathe and cheer with each ball that hits the floor on the other side, and then hold our breath when it rudely falls to the floor on ours.

Whether they're hoisting the big trophy on Friday, or the small (and if it's all the same to everyone else, I'd rather do interviews after hoisting the big trophy), I'll be damn proud to talk to them all - even if it's the small.

But for about 120 minutes on Friday night, Lady Crusaders - be better... be smarter... be quicker... be





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State Volleyball Lady Crusaders finish season runners up

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

CEDAR RAPIDS - A storybook season came to an end Friday amidst the tears and anguish of a Goliath that David couldn't slay.

Janesville sent the Holy Trinity Catholic Crusaders home with a runner-up trophy at the Class 1A Iowa State Volleyball championship 25-16, 25-14, 25-22. The Crusaders couldn't get really get anything going against a Wildcats team that hasn't dropped a set to a Class 1A opponent in four years.

2017 All-tournament captain Bree Thompson was as good as billed and finished with 19 kills, but on 53 attacks which was a conference low for her at 16%. Holy Trinity Seniors Emily Box and Eryn Anderson were also named to the squad.

After Box started the game with a kill in the middle of a tight set from Bailey Helweg, the Crusaders went flat with Thompson and Alisa Bengen getting three quick kills to set a pace that had Holy Trinity on its heels down 2-7. The blue fought back after a Gergen tip landed just outside the line and then Box got another attack from left center to find the floor. Thompson's next kill down the left line went deep and Anderson had an attack in the next rally go long to make it 5-9. Senior Taylor Boeding would get a kill in the next point to close it to 6-9 but the Crusaders would get no closer in the first game.

Janesville put a swarming rotation defense that got to almost every ball the Crusaders offered up. Thompson recorded her fifth kill of the set to give the Wildcats a 17-9 lead.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Crusaders hoist the Class 1A state title runner-up trophy Friday night at the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids.

Holy Trinity would put a couple points together on a baby 3-0 run to cut into the lead 14-23 and then made the Wildcats work for the win with another 3-0 run to make it 16-24, spurred by an Janesville error at the net and then Wildcat junior Bailey Hoff sent an attack deep right, but Bengen would clean things up on the next point for the 25-16 win.

The Crusaders trailed from start to end in the second set but stayed within one to three points. A Thompson kill at 13-8 seemed to take the gas out of the Crusaders' tank. Box would try to keep HTC in it with two kills at 9-14 and 10-17 and then Thompson got uncharacteristically wild with some spin balls and

the

a hard cross court shot that just missed the line. The Crusaders were called for a double hit to push the lead to 9 at 21-12 and HTC would get just two more points off a missed Gabby Gergen serve and a long attack that sealed the second set 25-14.

With the third set tied out of the gate at 1, senior Mya Lawlor recorded three aces in a row with the third hitting the net climbing up the tape and rolling about six inches to the left before falling and getting tangled in the net. Thompson got a kill on the next point in the left center to end the run and then recorded two more coming up from the middle to knot the score at 4. With Bengen serving, Thompson was called for

a double hit to give the Crusaders the lead at 5-4 and they pushed that lead to 9-6, when Thompson continued to miss trying to find the lines and corners.

Janesville would put together a 3-0 run on a Gergen kill and a Thompson ace to tie things up at 9 all. The match would tie again at 10 and 11. A Bengen kill from the right side of the court gave Janesville a 14-11 lead, but junior Julia Meister would miss on a serve and Thompson would shank an attack and the Crusaders were back in it 13-14. They would tie the match at 16 and 17 with a couple Wildcat errors. Thompson would miss again in the next rally and then Box scored a big

block on Thompson to put Holy Trinity up 19-17. They would keep the two point lead to 21-19 when an Anderson kill shot out the back right side of the court to make it 21-20. Hoff then stepped up with two big kills from her left

outside hitter spot to tie the Crusaders at 21 and 22, after Anderson got a kill at 22.

HTC would get whistled for a center line error when Lawlor slid along the floor under the net to dig up a ball and then sent an attack long on the next point before Bengen got a kill to end the night.

Anderson said nerves were a problem at the outset.

"I think we started off the first two set with nerves," she said. "I'd never been in this situation before. We had some freshmen and sophomores that have never even played in the tournament. The nevers really got the best of us. The third set was how we know we can play and I just wish that we would have showed that earlier."

Freesmeier said the girls were having trouble getting reads on Thompson's tips and spins early on but when they started picking up the motion, things got better.

"We expected her to do that, but we weren't getting the read early. Once they started to see that, we picked up and then the score got a little closer," she said.

"In game three they came out and played like they can, but you can't get yourself down 0-2 against

See FINALS, page 9



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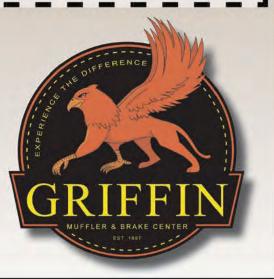


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State Volleyball





At top, senior Eryn Anderson goes for an attack in the first set of HTC's championship match. At left, senior Mya Lawlor catches a dig in the third set.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC sophomore Claire Pothitakis (8) slips an attack right between the hands of Janesville's Bree Thompson (2) in the third set of Friday night's Class 1A championship state volleyball match. Below, Moses parted the student section during one of the breaks in action.



Two set deficit was too much for HTC to overcome

FINALS - Continued from Page 5

Janesville and expect to win. But the kids gave their all and I thought our seniors, who have been great for us this year, kept pushing and never gave up." just couldn't get our offense running. But I played as hard as I possibly could tonight and making it to the championship game, not everyone can say they did that. That's all I can ask for." Freesmeier said she couldn't have more pride in what the team accomplished during the season.

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Box said she felt the nerves in the early going, as well.

"We came out with nerves and we knew that would happen because we had some younger underclassmen. Our serve receive wasn't as good as it usually is and we couldn't get it to the hitters and setters," she said.

"A tighter set is better for me with the big blocks, but we just couldn't get that going."

The senior said she was surprised at Thompson's tactics in the game, but said at the end of the day, the Crusaders put as much into the game as they could.

"We gave them a fight in the third set and that's all that matters. The seniors left it all out there. What we didn't really expect was for them to tip as much. We were waiting for the big swing and then she started roll shotting in the middle all the time and that didn't help. We "When the season started, we were playing all right, but we knew we could get better. As the season progressed, we took a loss that maybe we shouldn't have to Central Lee, but that was a turning point for us where we said you wanna go - or go home and we haven't had a bad practice since," she said.

"We had a great weekend up here and I'm not going to take anything away from that."

For the game, Box had 10 kills on 40 attacks, Boeding and Anderson each had three kills. Freshman Kassi Randolph had eight assists and Hellweg had nine to lead HTC in setting. Lawlor had 22 digs from the back row to go along with the three aces. Randolph had 10 digs. "Health care has always been a passion, because it allows you to change people's lives for the better and to provide hope for those in need."



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VETERANS DAY HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



Leonard Anderson US Army Korean War





Robert Arnold National Guard Operation Enduring Freedom: Afghanistan (Feb. 2004-June 2005); Kosovo (July 2007-June 2008)

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



Specialist Mark Ballard National Guard 1991 Desert Storm

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



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









We're humbled by your patriotism.

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



THANK YOU

for your service & sacrifice

Today and every day, we are thankful for the freedoms you fought for and we are forever grateful.



To those who courageously gave their lives and to those who serve our country today.

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We salute you with respect, honor, and gratitude.



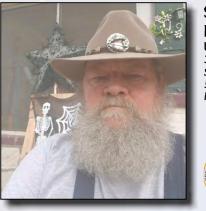
Kenneth Collins US Army WWII





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





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

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

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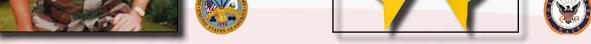
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Dad, thank you so much for your service to your country. You and the men that fought for our freedom, in the skies over Europe, will never be forgotten. Know that your family is so very proud of you. I love and miss you every day. Your Son.



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





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.





H. Everett Mungan Navy Served from 1959 - 1963

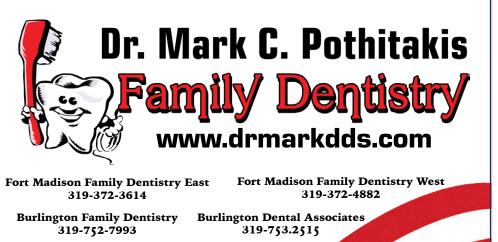






We honor all who have served our great nation today and always.





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We thank you for your service and sacrifice.



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



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





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!





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Jeffrey R. Smith **US Marines**



Specialist Franklin Statler National Guard 1991 Desert Storm



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.





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

AV.







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