

MILITARY

SALUTE 2022

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THE VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW
AND THE THREE LAKES NEWS



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★ VETERANS SERVICES ★ ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY PROFILES ★



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EAGLE RIVER FORD





Services held across the North Woods honor and salute area veterans each year. Above, a Color Guard rifle salute is performed by local veterans in Eagle River. —NEWS-REVIEW PHOTO

Memorial Day services announced

Men and women who died in military action for their country will be remembered during Memorial Day services in communities across the North Woods.

Veterans, area residents, government officials and North Woods visitors are welcome to attend all the ceremonies.

Veterans organizations in Eagle River, Three Lakes, Land O' Lakes, Phelps, Conover, St. Germain, Rhinelander and Presque Isle have provided the following details of Memorial Day weekend programs:

Eagle River

The Vilas County Veterans Service Office will hold its annual Memorial Day Program Monday, May 30, at 11 a.m. in front of the Vilas Coun-

ty Courthouse in Eagle River.

The ceremony will include performances by the Northland Pines High School (NPHS) band and choir, and a bagpipe solo by Tom McKale, of the Greater Milwaukee Fire and Police Pipes and Drums.

Other highlights of the program will include the placing of poppies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by area Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, a reading of the names of the fallen by NPHS students and a laying of the wreath.

Additionally, a Color Guard rifle salute by Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, followed by a cannon demonstration and much more.

For more information, contact Vilas County

Veterans Service Office at (715) 479-3629.

Three Lakes

Memorial Day in Three Lakes will be observed Monday, May 30. The program will start at 10 a.m. with a traditional solemn procession from Gogebic Street down Superior Street to the Three Lakes Cemetery.

The Three Lakes American Legion Post 431 Color Guard will lead with only sounds of drumbeats from the Three Lakes High School band.

The ceremony at the cemetery will begin at 10:15 a.m. on arrival of the procession, and a memorial wreath will be placed at the foot of the flagpole. Legion Post Commander Michael Silber will reminisce about his time in Vietnam when he was a U.S. Navy

medical corpsman, serving with the U.S. Marines in combat in far Northern South Vietnam.

Several seniors from Three Lakes High School will offer present-day perspectives on the meaning of Memorial Day. The Three Lakes High School band, led by Bethany Puffer, will provide music.

The program will conclude with "Taps," three rifle volleys fired by the legion's firing squad and the National Anthem played by the band as the U.S. flag is raised to full staff.

The Band will then proceed to Cy Williams Park and will play the "Star Bangled Banner" as the U.S. flag there is raised to full staff.

For more information contact The American Legion at (715) 546-3431.

St. Germain

The town of St. Germain will hold a Memorial Day service Sunday, May 29, at 1 p.m. Details are still being finalized. For more information, contact the St. Germain Area Chamber of Commerce at (715) 477-2205.

Phelps

There will be a Memorial Day service in Phelps, Monday, May 30, at 1 p.m. at the cemetery. There will be a roll call for the dead and flags will be presented to families of deceased service members. Following the service, Phelps Historical Museum will host its annual open house.

For updated information, contact the town of Phelps at (715) 545-2270.

Conover

The Rev. John Kuziej of Pioneer Lake Lutheran Church will conduct a community Memorial Day service Monday, May 30, at 10 a.m. at Hildegard Cemetery, located three miles east of Highway 45 on Highway K. Services will include a 20-minute prayer service for veterans. For updated information, call the church at (715) 479-4966.

Land O' Lakes

The VFW Post 8400 will conduct a Memorial Day service at the Land O' Lakes cemetery Monday, May 30, at 11 a.m. For more information, contact the VFW Post in Land O' Lakes at (715) 547-3314.

Rhinelander

The Oneida County Veterans Council will host a Memorial Day ceremony Monday, May 30. Cemetery ceremo-

nies are planned for Newbold Cemetery at 8 a.m.; Northland Memorial Park at 8:30 a.m.; Forest Home Cemetery and Nativity of Our Lord Cemetery at 9 a.m.

The Memorial Day ceremony will be held at Rhinelander High School (RHS) auditorium beginning at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony will be emceed by Ty Welk, who is a RHS senior graduating three days before Memorial Day. The guest speaker for the ceremony is Jason Hazelton, SFC, Army Special Forces, retired.

For more information about the courthouse and cemetery ceremonies, contact the Oneida County Veterans Service Office at (715) 369-6127.

The Oneida County Veterans Council includes members of The American Legion, American Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corps League and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Presque Isle

The American Legion Post 480, in Presque Isle, will host three Memorial Day services Monday, May 30.

The services are as follows: 11 a.m. at the Winchester Memorial Cemetery, 1124 West Harris Lake Road.; 11:30 a.m. at the Presque Isle Cemetery, 12080 Highway W; and noon at the Wilderness Veterans Memorial located off Highway W.

A luncheon will follow the last ceremony and will be held at the Legion Post, located at 1662 Highway W in Presque Isle. For more information, contact (715) 686-2541.



Michael T. Busha

SMSGt. Michael T. Busha is the superintendent, Tradecraft Division, directorate of Intelligence (A2) at Headquarters Air Combat Command in Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

He enlisted in the Air Force in December 1998, and completed Intelligence Operations technical training at Goodfellow AFB in August 1999. He earned his Master of Arts, Intelligence Studies from the American Military University in Charles Town, W.Va. in 2020.

He has deployed in support of Operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Prior to his current position, he served as First Sergeant, 325th Medical Group, 325th Maintenance Squadron and 325th Operations Group, Tyndall AFB, Fla.

Busha has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, and Air Force Commendation Medal.



Brian C. North

Brian C. North is a colonel in the U.S. Army and has served 26 years.

He graduated from Ripon College and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1996 in the Signal Corps.

He has been stationed in South Korea, Virginia, Kansas, Colorado, New York, Texas and Wisconsin. He also was deployed to Iraq three times and Afghanistan once.

Brian has earned a Ph.D. in History at the UW-Madison and masters' degrees from American Military University in Land Warfare and the Command General Staff College in Military Arts and Sciences.

He is currently serving at the Pentagon as the director of the Army Initiatives Group, HQDA G3/5/7.

He and his wife Tanya, have two college-age boys, Alexander and Jonathon, and own a home on Pioneer Lake in Conover.



Thomas Hurtado

LCDR Thomas Hurtado is a physician assistant in the U.S. Navy. He has been stationed at Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill.; Marine Corps Base, Hawaii; Naval Hospital Bremerton, Wash.; and is currently stationed at the U.S. Naval Academy, Md.

He also served with a medical trauma unit tending to wounded warriors while in Afghanistan from 2011-'12. He received Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals.

His family has a strong tradition of military service. His grandfather, Thomas A. Thiele, served as a Seabee in the U.S. Navy, and his uncle, Arthur Thiele-Sardina, is a retired colonel in the U.S. Army.

Tom and his wife, Jenny (née Sobecke), have two children, 8-year-old Leo and 6-year-old Penny. Jenny's parents own a home and live in Eagle River.



Jesse E. Shady

Staff Sgt. Jesse E. Shady is an Airborne Systems engineer at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. He flies on the Rivet Joint Aircraft.

Jesse enlisted in the Air Force in his junior year of high school in 2012. He spent six years at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Ga., as an Airborne Systems Technician with J-Stars aircraft. He has deployed twice to the Middle East and received two flight medals.

Jesse is married and lives in Nebraska with his wife, Kyra.

Jesse is the son of Lori Schubring and stepson of Brian Schubring of Eagle River.



Adam J. Schubring

Adam began his Navy basic training at Great Lakes, Ill., and graduated in the top 3% of his class.

He was an honor graduate of Fire Control "A" School. Adam finished C school in Dahlgren, Va. He successfully completed Spy Baseline 7.

Currently Adam is stationed in Pearl Harbor. He is an FCA3 Spy Tech on the USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110).

Adam earned his ESWS, and ribbons for Humanitarian Aid, Rifle Shooting and Deployment.

Adam just ranked up to E5 Petty Officer 2nd Class and earned a ribbon for his outstanding work on the William P. Lawrence.

He lives with his wife, Ali, in Hawaii.

Adam is the son of Brian Schubring and stepson of Lori Schubring of Eagle River.



Jack Uhrine

Jack is a 2019 graduate of Northland Pines High School. He is a Private 1st Class soldier in the Army Reserves.

Jack received Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee in Virginia in 2021. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) is Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic. Jack belongs to the 445th Transportation Company of Waterloo, IA.

Jack is also an Army certified Combat Lifesaver.

Jack is the son of John and Jennifer Uhrine of Eagle River and the brother of Jenna Uhrine.

Becoming a Marine

Recruit Saffia determined to accomplish lifelong dream

By **Stephanie Dye**
News-Review Staff

Each year, hundreds of thousands of high school seniors are faced with the same decision: What they are going to do with their lives. Some choose college, while others choose to immediately join the workforce. However, one practical and advantageous choice that some of these graduating seniors make is to serve in one of the U.S. Military branches.

Approximately 180,000 United States citizens enlist in the military each year and only 38,000 of those new recruits enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps.

For Kieran Saffia, Jr., the decision was already made. In kindergarten he recalls meeting a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran that inspired his course of action in life. This marine shared his military experiences with Saffia and inspired him as a child with stories of how they accomplished many of their missions.

"I remember he told me that if I put my mind towards anything, I can accomplish it," recalls Saffia. "Ever since then, I've wanted to be a Marine."

The Marine Corps, with the exception of the U.S. Coast Guard, is the smallest military service branch in the United States and known for its elite status and training programs. Nearly 15% of the new recruits will

drop out or fail basic training.

"For as long as I can remember, Kieran has wanted to be a Marine," said Erica Wick, Saffia's mother. "The fact that he is following that dream speaks volumes as to how far he will go in life. I am proud that my son has such respect for his country."

Saffia joined the U.S. Marine Corps on July 16, 2021, at the age of 17. He has been training with recruitment officer, Staff Sergeant David K. Beck.

Beck, who received his order for recruiting duty in July 2021, has served in the Marine Corps for 14 years. Originally from Grand Prairie, Texas, Beck now serves at the Permanent Contact Station located in Rhineland.

"To join the military, recruits have a minimum criterion to meet for initial strength testing (IST)," Beck said. "Pull ups, crunches and planks, as well as timed runs all factor in to being accepted into the Marine Corps."

To help meet these requirements, the recruiters hold "pool functions" on the second Saturday of each month. These functions allow recruits to begin their physical training, learn Marine Corps terminology, rank structure and understand what it means to be a Marine.



Ssgt. David Beck (left) and Marine recruit Kieran Saffia Jr. participated in a recruiting event held recently at the Northland Pines High School. Beck regularly travels throughout the North Woods hosting events to provide information to potential recruits. Top right, Beck heads up a group, including Saffia, during a recent pool event hosted in Minocqua. Right, Saffia demonstrates the proper form for pull ups during a recruit event. IST standards require new recruits to be capable of three pull ups prior to their acceptance as a recruit for the Marines.

—Photos by Stephanie Dye

Saffia, as part of the Delayed Entry Program that the Marines provide to prepare new recruits for boot camp, attends these functions monthly.

"The recruitment process is educating, but also takes a lot of time and patience," said Saffia. "The recruiting officers, like SSgt. Beck work hard to give us their best interpretation of what it takes to successfully become a Marine."

Recruits must meet specific physical, mental and moral standards, pass the

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, pass a Military Entrance Processing Station medical exam and meet IST standards. Recruitment officers are there to guide and support the poolees through this process, to help them accomplish their necessary objectives.

"Being from a different country, I know how important freedom is. I've lived where you don't have any," commented Saffia's father, Kieran Saffia, Sr., who immigrated



here 20 years ago from Ireland and is now a U.S. citizen. "I feel very proud, knowing he is willing to serve his country and what it stands for."

Saffia will graduate from Northland Pines High School in Eagle River on June 5 and immediately leave for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Calif., to report to boot camp the follow-

ing day, June 6.

Although graduation is the end of a chapter for this young man and an emotional time for their entire family, Saffia added, "I am excited to join a military branch that offers a strengthened sense of brotherhood. I am eager to start the next phase of my life as a Marine and give more to this great nation."

American freedoms are vital to our nation

By State Sen. Mary Felzkowski

Our country is built on the concept of freedom. These freedoms are vital to our nation and yet, they only exist through the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands who have given their lives in numerous conflicts throughout our nation's history.

During the American Revolutionary War, farmers, merchants, sailors, laborers throughout the 13 colonies rose up in defiance against the tyranny of England. These brave men fought from the battles of Lexington and Concord to the siege of Yorktown and against all odds won their freedom from the crown.

Americans again answered the call of freedom in 1861, after confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter. Men quickly enlisted in the Union army and marched to war under the stars and stripes, spilling their blood not only to ensure that our country would remain whole, but also to free the slaves from their bonds of servitude.

Many of the troops

who fought and died during this conflict were from Wisconsin, forming such units as the famous Iron Brigade. By the end of the war, 1,131 soldiers of the Iron Brigade were killed or mortally wounded, sacrificing themselves so that others might know freedom.

In 1941, America joined her allies in a war for the freedom of the world itself as Germany and Japan plunged the globe into conflict. Forced into the war by the horrific bombing of Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, American troops fought with tenacity and courage until 1945.

By late '45, more than 16 million men and women served in the armed forces of the U.S., stationed or fighting across the globe. More than 400,000 Americans never made it home again to see their family and friends.

Victories were achieved in North Africa, Sicily, Normandy, Midway, Iwo Jima, and countless other locations through the tireless work



of our troops and the blood of the fallen who gave their all for peace and freedom.

Since World War II, American troops have seen military action in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the First Gulf War, Somalia, Kosovo, and the War on Terrorism. Americans enlisted and continue to enlist in the military, knowing that there is never a certainty they will return home.

Without these sacrifices, we would not be able to enjoy the freedoms that America prides itself on; we would not be the nation we know and love today. On Memorial Day, we must take the time to honor those who sacrificed everything so that the U.S. might live on and prosper.

I ask that you join me in a moment of silence this Memorial Day, and remember that the freedom we enjoy comes at a cost — it is never free.

Vilas County Veterans Service Office helps navigate health care, benefits

By Brian Thomas

Vilas County Veterans Service Officer

AS I APPROACH the end of my third year being the county Veterans Service officer, I just wanted to share that it's an honor to serve our veterans and their families, but also explain a little bit about what this position means to me.

Most people that ever served will tell you that those you serve with and the units you serve in become a family to you. Memorial Day is a reminder that our service members are willing to die for one another out of love of country, and ultimately many have. That bond never fades, and as a matter of fact, it's taken back to our communities.

I'm here to serve those that have served us, and would like to share a little bit about what those services entail.

Of course, a big part of what we do centers around the various benefits such as Veterans Affairs (VA) health care, compensation and pension, and education, in addition to a list of other programs too long to cover in one story, but I'd also like to discuss what else I'm here for.

I'm here to listen about your experiences in service and if you need help of any type, I'll help you get it. I'm here to listen about how those experiences have shaped your — and your families' — lives since getting out of service and if you and your families need help

of any type, I'll help you get it.

There are a lot of elderly veterans and surviving spouses that simply cannot keep up with the ever-changing and very complex VA, and I'm here to help you each step of the way as well, even if it's just helping to understand something.

Last but not least, I'm here to listen if all you need is just to talk.

While serving, our military personnel have a support network consisting of each other, enlisted leaders, commanders, health care, chaplains, family support, etc. We understand the services that are available to us and have faith that our families will be taken care of if we were to pass.

All too often though, people leave the military and take with them the visible and oftentimes invisible scars without knowing who to turn to in a time of need. Some of our veterans even carry with them some toxins that wreak havoc on their health and take them from their families way too soon.

The Vilas County Veterans Service Office is here to help and if you can't come to us, I'll come to you.

Brian Thomas, Veterans Service officer, and Kevin Eades, assistant Veterans Service officer, can be reached by phone at (715) 479-3629, by email at veteranservices@vilas-countywi.gov, or by stopping in at the courthouse in Eagle River. Walk-ins are always welcome but appointments are preferred.

NAMES OF THE FALLEN

VILAS COUNTY VETERANS

CIVIL WAR

Samuel Odell

WORLD WAR I

Lyman E. Barnes
Emil H. Gherke
Olaf Thompson
John S. Chicog
Joe Grazis
Frederick J. Walsh
Willow Trapp
Albert C. Goranson

George Micholowski

WORLD WAR II

Edward A. Weber
William C. Ament
Ervin Matteck
Earl M. Esque
Arnold E. Simon
Robert E. Brooker
William A. Manbeck
Heino F. Busch Jr.
William L. Neumann

Careld J. Blackburn

William J. Wepfer
Harry E. Karwoski
William H. Weber
Reynold Soquist
Cecil S. Snow
Louis R. Hall
George E. Strong
Walter R. Hermanson
Edward A. Croker
Chancy A. Rogers
Clayton O. McLain
Harold E. Evenson

Norman E. Wegner

Joe Skye
Edward B. Kalous
William E. Jolly
Lyle W. Hawks
Joseph C. Trinka
Herbert H. Walbruck
Martin L. Bloom
Joseph C. Rowinsky
Nilo J. Albertson
Norman C. Schlarp
Robert F. Sayner

KOREAN WAR

Roland W. Kubinek

Charles W. Newberry

Carlton C. Valliere

VIETNAM WAR
Paul S. Gee
James H. Page
Chester A. Myers Jr.
Larry S. Jensen
John A. Mietus
Sheldon J. Burnett

PANAMA

John M. Price

WAR ON TERROR

Tyler Kritz





Last winter, the Conover Energy Mart provided support for the annual Soldiers on Sleds outing by providing snowmobile fuel, tissues, goodie bags, toothbrushes and other supplies for riders. —Contributed Photos

Soldiers on Sleds provides weekend snowmobile getaways for veterans

By Wally Geist

News-Review Correspondent

Soldiers on Sleds — a program based in St. Germain that provides a weekend snowmobile outing in the great North Woods for those who have served in the military — was recognized with the Pro Vita (“For Life”) award from the Al Assad Airbase Iraq, Troop Medical Clinic, for its service to active duty military personnel.

Participants in the annual Soldiers on Sleds outings enjoy a weekend of snowmobiling, dining and camaraderie with a focus on bringing awareness to the post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) often suffered by veterans.

The Wisconsin National Guard 135th Medical Company-Area Support award was accompanied

by a U.S. flag which flew over the installation on Nov. 21, 2021, and was presented to John “Jack” Bourgeois at the 2022 appreciation event held in Watersmeet, Mich.

SFC Cara Butterfield, who was serving at Al Assad at the time, is the honorary Medic Alumni of Soldiers on Sleds. She is part of the team put together by Bourgeois to be sure that any medical needs of soldiers on the outing are well cared for.

Soldiers on Sleds originated in St. Germain in response to local resident Bourgeois’ learning that his nephew, Captain Joseph Tricomi, had never been on a snowmobile. Bourgeois learned this when Tricomi returned from his first tour in Afghanistan.

Bourgeois, a former USN medic and civilian project engineer, created an experience for active duty military personnel to enjoy the North Woods and to show gratitude for their service. Bourgeois explained that the time spent in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan would be pressure-free,

and full of good food and beautiful scenery.

Soldiers on Sleds relies on Bourgeois’ leadership and organizational skills as well as on the goodwill and donations of area businesses. Day outings during the event include area-wide snowmobile trips, a visit to Bond Falls and ice fishing along the Cisco

Chain of Lakes in the Watersmeet area.

Soldiers also pitch in to cleanup trails as they ride. The group was presented with a Clean Trail Project grant in the amount of \$250 for their work.

Housing for the group is provided by Camp Shed Horn, which is owned by Neal and Renee Anderson, owners of Northland Docks in Arbor Vitae. The couple has provided lodging for the soldiers at their Watersmeet resort since 2014.

Bourgeois seeks grants for Soldiers on Sleds, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and this year has received support from local businesses including Cabalas (ice auger and fishing supplies), Kwik Trip, Wisconsin Public Service, Walmart, Conover Energy Mart, FXR (snowmobile suits), John

Sanker from Cisco Lake Resort, Ace Hardware, Trig’s, Harbor Freight, Ryden Marine, Kurt’s Island Supply, Stillwaters Bar and Restaurant in Star Lake, R&R Motorsports, and The Toy Shop in Eagle River.

While the event supports military service personnel, it also supports local snowmobiling. Local snowmobile clubs in turn supported the event with donations from Harshaw Wanderers Snowmobile Club, \$500; Bo-Boen Snowmobile Club, \$100; Sayner Barnstormers Snowmobile Club, \$100; and New-Tom Snow Fleas Snowmobile Club, \$250.

Grants from larger businesses are awarded on an annual basis. Soldiers on Sleds is a Gold Star recipient from

Turn to **SLEDS**, pg. 8



On a snowy outing on the Cisco Chain of Lakes, Soldiers on Sleds stopped for a photo.

Sleds

FROM PAGE 7

Guide Star, the gold standard for charities and their missions.

Owners of the Con-over Energy Mart overwhelmed the soldiers with their generosity, providing free fuel for their snowmobiles, and gave each of the participants tissues, hand sanitizer, rice cereal cakes, candy, a toothbrush and more.

Other dining events during the outing included a stop at the Cisco Lake Resort Bar for lunch on Friday, and Roger's Bar provided dinner on Friday. Saturday, the Wild Turkey provided lunch and Trig's of Eagle River served pulled smoked pork and beans, and provided other cabin food.

In appreciation for community support, Soldiers on Sleds participates in the St. Germain Independence Day Parade. Bourgeois created larger-than-life photo silhouettes of active duty soldiers to exhibit on the annual parade float.

"The military aren't just people in uniforms," said Bourgeois. "They are real people and some have real problems related to serving our country."

Medical volunteers who participate in the event are also trained to detect and assist any partici-



The Pro Vita award was presented to Soldiers on Sleds by the Wisconsin National Guard 135th MCAS, Al Assad Air Base, Iraq. —Photo By Wally Geist

pants in the event who may show signs of PTSD.

Bourgeois said he received a letter from a former participant's wife stating that her husband's time with the group had a profound positive influence on him after he took the advice of the medics and sought counseling.

The full list of donors is available at soldiersonsleds.com and on Facebook at [facebook.com/soldiersonsleds](https://www.facebook.com/soldiersonsleds). For individual or corporate donations, visit gofundme.com/soldiersonsleds.

Prior to creating Soldiers on Sleds, Bourgeois was a volunteer fishing

guide at Camp American Legion in Lake Tomahawk, and also served as an officer of the St. Germain ATV Club.

"What better way to honor our heroes and give active duty soldiers a way to relax with no pressure, by giving them a weekend of snowmobiling and dining in one of the most beautiful and serene places on earth, right here in our backyard?" said Bourgeois.

Pro Vita continues to be the mission of Soldiers on Sleds as it seeks to enrich the lives of active duty military personnel, and in some cases, veterans.



Debt of gratitude owed to our nation's heroes

By U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany

As many of us take advantage of the long-awaited warm weather that is finally upon us after a lingering winter, through backyard barbecues and weekend family trips, it's important to reflect on one of the prime reasons we are here enjoying

Memorial Day weekend. Not only today, but every day, we pay homage to those who have given up so much for the freedoms we cherish and the nation we call home. We remember and honor the brave heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice fighting for our flag, values and way of life; for without their sacrifice, our stars and stripes would not be waving proud.

While we can never fully repay our veterans and the families of fallen service members, we can ensure that they are remembered and never forgotten. In doing that, it is my duty as your representative in Con-

gress to make certain that our veterans are receiving the best care and benefits they are entitled to.

If you or someone you know is having trouble receiving benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), my Wausau district office is just a phone call away at (715) 298-9344. They stand ready to help. To date, we have assisted nearly 200 constituents with their casework requests, ranging from help with the VA, Social Security Administration, IRS and more.

Furthermore, veterans and their care remain one of my top priorities in Congress. Recently, I cosponsored the Patient Advocate Tracker Act, which would help give veterans the quality of care they deserve by requiring the VA to create an electronic system for veterans to submit complaints regarding the health-care service they received.

Therefore, if veterans are receiving insufficient care, this will make it easier for them to submit and track their complaints online. I also am working to address the backlog at the National Personnel Records Center to ensure veterans and their families are receiving proper access to services such as emergency correspondence for burials, medical emergencies and homelessness. I will not waiver in supporting our brave men and women in uniform.

If I know one thing to be true, we are the home of the free because of the brave. The debt of gratitude we owe to our veterans, fallen heroes and their loved ones is a debt that we should remember not only on Memorial Day, but every day. So take time this weekend to reflect and honor those who courageously gave their lives for each and every one of us.

HONORING OUR HEROES



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EAGLE RIVER LAND O' LAKES ST. GERMAIN

Phelps resident selected for unique honor flight celebrating women vets

By Teresa Dorn

Special to the News-Review

A very special day came earlier this month for a very special Phelps resident, LuAnn Gardinier.

Ms. Gardinier was nominated and accepted to participate in The Alice Ladwig Female Veteran Flight on May 14. The women veterans-only event is rare in that as of April 5, only 61 of the 3,453 veterans who have flown with Badger Honor Flight so far, have been women.

The all-day event departs from Madison and lands in Washington D.C. to tour Arlington National Cemetery and many other national monuments and memorials. Veterans then return home the same day with the honored and celebrated Never Forgotten women veterans and their escorts.

LuAnn has been looking forward to the event ever since she was notified of her accepted nomination. Honoring fellow veterans, connecting with other women who served with her, and during times of conflict and closure are primary goals for many women planning to attend.

The special flight and pending tours only further amplify the honor these modest and humble women feel in accepting their invitations.

Ms. Gardinier was the oldest of eight children, six of whom chose to serve in the U.S. Military.

Born in 1955 in Bur-

lington, her family moved to Phelps in 1969. She graduated as valedictorian from Phelps High School in May 1973.

Having known and been inspired by two Phelps women who had served in the Women's Army Corp. (WAC), sisters Ida and Erna Albrecht, LuAnn made the decision to join. By the end of June 1973 she was one of five women sworn into the Women Army Corp in Rhineland-er.

From there, they were sent to Milwaukee for testing and health checks, then sent to Fort McClellan in Alabama to start basic training. Female recruits in that day were referred to as "ladies," not "soldiers."

The basic training included among other things, how to put on makeup and paint their fingernails.

In the seven years that Ms. Gardinier served in the United States Army, including the WAC, she was promoted from Private to Private E2, to Private First Class PFC, earning her way to Specialist SP5.

A Specialist comes with the expectation of excellent job performance. It was later in life that LuAnn submitted the names of fellow WACs, Ida and Erna to the World War II memorial wall, planning to look for their names on this trip.

A member of the Phelps Congregational United Church of Christ,



LuAnn Gardinier displays the honor flight shirt she received ahead of her Alice Ladwig Female Veteran Flight on May 14. —Contributed Photo

LuAnn carried family values, dedication to detail and hard work to her military service. LuAnn felt respect, listening to others, and training others to be self-sufficient were key steps in her day-to-day operations.

The detailed audits she performed later helped verify that veterans were receiving their full share in benefits and veterans services.

LuAnn served during an interesting time as the WAC was eliminated in 1976. As times changed so did the roles of those serving.

LuAnn had to learn to fire and qualify with a weapon. The M16 was the weapon she was trained on and she qualified as Expert. Other changes included that

women soldiers began training along with the men. In basic training and beyond, the military focus for women shifted from how they looked to how physically fit they were.

After retiring from the Army in 1980, LuAnn worked at Coleman Products until 1985 when she returned to Nicolet College.

She obtained an associate's degree in accounting and then started work as bookkeeper for Ray Lorch Chevrolet in Eagle River where she worked for 10 years.

These days, LuAnn serves at the Senior Craft Shop in Eagle River and enjoys other part-time work in her community.

She resides in her quiet retreat back home in Phelps.

Post 480 maintains community ties in Presque Isle-area

By Stephanie Dye

News-Review Staff

THE VETERANS and families of American Legion Post 480 strive to maintain strong ties within their community.

The post, currently lead by Commander Larry Gorrilla, has recently been expanding its programs and events to better suit the needs of the community. Gorrilla served three tours overseas in the United States Navy and has been a member of the Winegar Post 480 American Legion for 17 years.

"Being involved with the community to the best of our capability is important," said Gorrilla. "We host and organize several public events and programs throughout the months we are open."

Members feel that community involvement is key to the success of the veteran-run organization. The club, like most of the American Legion Posts, was once private but is now open to the public during the warmer months in the North Woods.

The post is a member of the Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce, participates in community parades and festivals, and its honor guard provides services during local events.



The Presque Isle American Legion Post 480 is open to the public and hosts several community events throughout the summer months.

—Photo by Stephanie Dye

opening of the club each spring.

The club also hosts community bingo each Sunday at 6 p.m. from spring through September. The proceeds from this program sponsor the post's Good Neighbor Program. This program provides free services to citizens in need in the community. Daily phone check-ins, transportation services and meal delivery are only a few of the services this veteran-funded program assists with.

Legion Post 480 is currently fundraising towards building a new facility that will allow them to remain open year-round, as the current post is not winterized.

For more information on Winegar Post 480, its programs and events, contact Larry Gorrilla at (715) 686-2517.

"We have a prime location here in Presque Isle," added Gorrilla. "It is our responsibility to utilize it to the best of our ability for the community."

The post building is located on water and is directly off the ATV and snowmobile trails. Other community organizations work with the legion and utilize the space to hold their own events.

The Presque Isle Lions Club annually holds its lobster dinner at the facility as a kick-off to the



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Honoree Wayne (Philip) Valentine is shown in front of the the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. during his recent Never Forgotten Honor Flight on May 2. —Contributed Photo

Five North Woods area veterans take part in honor flight to D.C.

By Wally Geist

News-Review Correspondent

Never Forgotten Honor Flights out of Wausau made its first journey to Washington, D.C., May 2, after more than two years of not being held due to the Covid pandemic.

Five area veterans were part of the 99 veterans in northern Wisconsin — including 15 from the Korea War-era and 84 from the Vietnam War-era — who boarded the 39th Never Forgotten Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., May 2.

Raymond Ondraseck's Navy service was honored when he went on the May 2 Never Forgotten Honor Flight.

A Boulder Junction resident, Ondraseck served in the Vietnam-era aboard a specialized ship. The ship was a 1945 World War II piece of naval inventory that was refitted as a shallow draft barracks ship.

The ship housed 800 combat soldiers and 145 crew members. Shallow draft ships were used in

what is known as the "Brown Water Navy."

The Mekong Delta was notorious for its muddy, brown water from which Ondraseck's ship delivered combat soldiers and medical evacuation personnel to battlefields in the region where they would engage the enemy in "search and destroy" missions. The ship itself was outfitted with 3- and 5-inch guns and 12 machine guns.

Ondraseck's job was to maintain the machine guns on a daily basis, and clean and check the larger weapons after

they were used. He was recognized for his skills with machinery and upon returning from Vietnam, was assigned to maintaining and recalibrating submarine instruments (gauges).

Straight from the service, Ondraseck taught industrial arts at North Lakeland Elementary School for 11 years. He served the Army branch of the Wisconsin National Guard and eventually, became responsible for the maintenance and grounds at three armories in Tomahawk, Rhineland and Merrill.



Raymond Ondraseck
Boulder Junction

State armories fall under the jurisdiction of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. Ondraseck remains

a member of the Mobil Riverines Force Association which tracks the history of ships such as the Coronado upon which he served his country.

When asked about the honor flight, Ondraseck's response was "There will be 99 people on the flight and there will be 99 stories."

Wayne (Philip) Valentine lives in St. Germain. His military history begins in Whitewater, where he joined the U.S. Army and was stationed

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D.C. FROM PAGE 11

in Berlin. He served his country for 21 years in the Milwaukee National Guard and continued to serve his community as a Walworth County Sheriff's deputy for an additional 25 years.

Richard Indemuehle served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He is a 91-year-old veteran whose military career was spent in Alaska.

During his service, the U.S. Army kept watch over the Russians who were stationed not far from Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska. He was armed with a Browning automatic rifle and, he says, was upgraded to a typewriter.

During the Cold War,



Richard Indemuehle
Arbor Vitae

record keeping became an important part of Army life and Indemuehle's dedication served him well. He lives in the Manitowish River area.

Philip Monday was drafted 10 months after he graduated from high school in the Milwaukee area. His time in the Army put him in harm's way as he rose to sergeant and was assigned to a reconnaissance platoon.

Monday recounts having been in many fire-fights and having lost comrades while serving side-by-side.

Stops along Monday's military journey included Forts Bragg, Polk and Meade. Service in Vietnam was the typical year from October 1966 to September '67.

Following service to his country, Monday was employed by the West Bend Co. as a



Philip Monday
St. Germain



James Gardner
Eagle River

maintenance electrician. He also has been an employee of the town of St. Germain and you may remember him plowing the road in the cold of winter.

Monday said he was impressed with the Never Forgotten Honor Flight trip and the staff. The amenities, he recounted, were exceptional. He added that the Hilton Garden Hotel in Wausau has donated 60,000 nights' stay for the honored travelers.

James Gardner of Eagle River, who spent his service "jumping out of airplanes" during his stint from 1953-'56 stateside in the Korean War, was part of the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, N.C. His chaperone for the trip was his son, David.

Gardner's division was put on alert for active duty in Korea



Philip Valentine's son, Steve Valentine, was his chaperone during the recent trip to Washington D.C.

in late 1953, but the peace agreement went into effect prior to the division being sent to war. Without having to experience combat duty, Gardner was honorably discharged in June of 1956.

Now 86, Gardner said he had a very good experience during his trip to D.C.

"The people in charge were fantastic. The volunteers were everywhere; you couldn't have gotten lost if you

tried. They did roll call every time you got off the bus," he said.

He said the most memorable part of the trip was the changing of the guards at the gravesite.

Following what is a long and grueling trip that begins for these veterans at 6 a.m., and doesn't wrap up until after 11 p.m., Gardner stayed in one of the rooms donated by the Hilton Hotel.

"When we got back

to the hotel, I slept like you wouldn't believe," adding that he was still recovering for two days after returning to his home in Eagle River.

Gardner's complete outfit he jumped in including his main parachute, reserve parachute and full gear is on display at the Eagle River Historical Society Museum. He also added some of his Never Forgotten Honor Flight gear to that display after returning.

"The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him." - G.K. Chesterton



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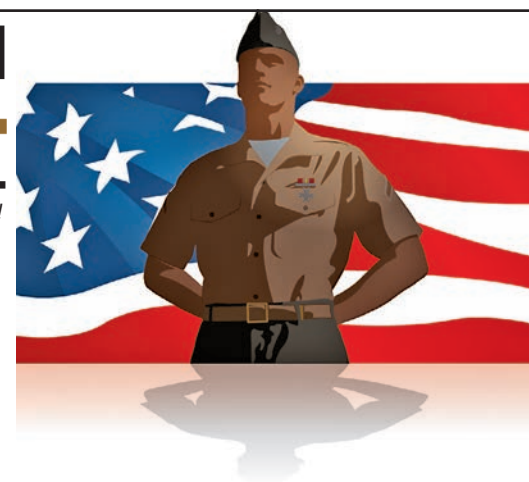
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Although nearly complete, the Sugar Camp Veterans Memorial is continuing fundraising efforts by selling engraved memorial bricks. —Contributed Photo

New veterans memorial located in Sugar Camp nearly complete

By Michelle Drew
News-Review Staff

The new veteran's memorial in Sugar Camp is almost complete after much planning and construction.

The Sugar Camp Veteran's Memorial, located on Highway 17 North in Sugar Camp at the intersection of Highway A, was constructed in 2021. The site will commemorate and honor all members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have risked and sacrificed their lives in service to their local communities and country.

The memorial consists of a 30-foot flag pole flying the flag of the United States of America. Flanking the U.S. flag are six, 25-foot poles bearing the flags honoring the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines,

Coast Guard and Space Force, all of which are the required flags specified by the U.S. government. The poles form a semicircle around a landscaped circle in which engraved stones will be placed in the center.

According to Barry Wallis, Sugar Camp Veterans Memorial Committee member, the Sugar Camp Town Board was presented with the idea of developing the memorial park by the organizers of the Sugar Camp Polish Square Fun Run/Walk. They were looking for a meaningful recipient of the funds raised by the run/walk. The town chairman, Scott Holewinski, along with the town board were interest-

ed in the idea and worked hard to get the project approved and underway.

The future addition of a large, engraved rock will be placed in the center of the memorial, and memorial bricks also are available to members of the public for purchase.

"Fundraising continues with the sale of memorial bricks to be placed on the ground radiating out from the center rock to each of the seven flag poles," Wallis said.

Each brick measures 4-inches by 8-inches and can contain up to three lines with 14 characters per line. Bricks cost \$100 each. Order forms are available from the town of Sugar Camp web page at sugarcamp.org. Wallis urges those purchasing a brick to follow instruc-

tions on the order form carefully so no mistakes are made in the engraving.

Bricks will be engraved and placed in the veterans memorial at least two times per year, Wallis said.

"A heartfelt thanks go out to the many donors providing financial assistance as well as local businesses who donated time and materials," he added. "These include Pitlik & Wick, Schneider Electric and King Quarry.

"Because of the support and generosity from the community, the veterans memorial has become a reality and a true and beautiful asset in the town of Sugar Camp which honors veterans and their service in giving us the freedom we all share."

New program aims to build tiny houses for homeless vets

By News-Review Staff

NORTHWOODS VETERANS HOMESTEAD (NVH), formerly called Northwoods Home for Heroes, is a program that is seeking to build tiny homes for homeless area veterans to live.

According to Tammy Javenkoski, veterans service officer for Oneida County, NVH was a concept thought up by Sandra and Gordy Edington of Rhineland. When they talked to their friends about it, all their friends were excited and interested in being a part of it.

"After five months of meetings and a lot of planning and outside help, there's now an official board of directors," Javenkoski said. "We're close to obtaining property, we have an employer identification number and we're officially a nonprofit organization."

NVH, when complete, will house homeless veterans. Each veteran will have a tiny home of their own on a temporary basis while they are provided food, clothing, physical and mental-health care, job skills, and résumé writing and job hunting assistance.

"Once property is obtained, we will be looking for businesses or individuals who are willing to build a tiny home at their expense," said Javenkoski, adding that NVH would provide the blueprints or contribute the amount it would take to build one. "That home will then contain the business or individual's name on it. The homes will only contain a bed, closet, small refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker."

In addition to the tiny homes, there will be a community building which will contain the kitchen where meals will be prepared by the residents. There also will be a lounge area, bathroom/shower facilities, laundry, conference room, and offices for staff and volunteers.

"We also will have a community garden so our residents can grow and eat their own fresh fruits and vegetables. Residents will have responsibilities such as cooking meals, tending the garden, mowing lawn, snow removal, etc.," she said.

Most homeless veterans have mental-health issues and many of their issues are due to their service to our country, said Javenkoski.

"We feel not only do they deserve our help, but we owe it to them. Our goal is to make the life better for every veteran who stays at the Northwoods Veterans Homestead and to give them an opportunity at a life they may not have otherwise had," she said. "We feel this is the best community in which to do that because we've seen how patriotic people in the North Woods are and how much they value their veterans."

For more information, veterans or those who would like to take part in the program can call or text the board of directors President Gordy Edington at (715) 493-5328 or Vice President Carla Ruuskanen at (715) 367-5853 in the evening hours.

The board also is available via email at northwoodsveteranshomestead@gmail.com.

NAMES OF THE FALLEN

ONEIDA COUNTY VETERANS

WORLD WAR I

Carl Aasland
Alex Ahlborn
Fred Anderson
Alban Asmundson
Charles Bissonnette
Frank Blaschka
Carl C. Boden
Anton Botozeski
Edward Carley
George W. Chapman
Sam J. Charpie
Abner Dahlberg
Raymond Dawson
Calbert DeLapp
Lloyd W. Dolan
Arnie F. Duhn
Frank Dziewiatkowski
Walter Evenson
Ernest J. Fay
Harry W. Fenelon
Henry Folker
Emil H. Gehrke
Louis A. Grill
Leon Holewinski
Alva Howard
John Hughes
Clarence Johnson
Hjalmer Johnson
Joseph F. Katariski
Harry H. Labug
Carl J. Madson
Reginald Rice
Arthur Rousseau
Ray Rousseau
Albet H. Rozell
Edwin Samuelson
Charles Saxe
Maurice Stafford
Joseph Szuminski
Ingewald Tallackson
Leno Tate
Douglas A. Taylor
Walter E. Thomas
Ora N. Tidd
Carl Weight
Frank J. Wines

WORLD WAR II

Stanley Ahlborn
William Ament
Charles R. Ashton
Joseph C. Belanger
Orvia H. Belongia
William F. Boelter
Charles S. Brown
John N. Brown
Anton Burzynski
Edward R. Cairnes
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Duane P. Cook
Francis J. Craig

Wayne E. Cabbage
Thad S. Cyzak
Roger Dery
Warner B. Dinger
Lloyd T. Dolan
Edward J. Dolejs
Alex J. Dominski
Roy A. Dumas
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KOREAN WAR

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Billy E. Buck
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Eugene C. Rhode
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Andre J. Swanmann
Valent Warrichaiet
Martin E. White

VIETNAM WAR

William Bodenhausen
Robert J. Davies
Henry Duellman
Harry W. Ehmman
Donald B. Lowe
Richard A. Roesler
Gary B. Gehrke
Gustave Gudleske
Duane Helmick
Arthur R. Henning
James R. Taplin
Donald D. Watson
Wm. S. Hurkmans Jr.
Robert Kotarski

WAR ON TERROR

Stephen G. Martin
Ryan C. Adams

Oneida County Veterans Service Office honors soldiers who paid the ultimate price

By Tammy Javenkoski

Oneida County Veterans Service Officer

MEMORIAL DAY, formerly known as Decoration Day, is observed on the last Monday in May each year. The actual date is May 30, which is the date that was observed from 1868-1970, and is the date it will be observed this year.

Memorial Day is the day we honor the brave men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice so we could continue living in a free country.

For me, personally, living by a Gold Star family, I also say a prayer for all the loved ones left behind who will be grieving their loss for the rest of their lives.

I recently met with the surviving spouse of a Vietnam veteran who recently passed away from service-related disabilities. He was only 71, too young to die in my opinion. It goes to show you not every hero is killed in combat.

Many of our combat veterans have numerous disabilities that prevent them from having the quality of life they deserve. Many of them pass away way too young. Many of their spouses become their caregivers. Many of them have post traumatic stress and are regularly tormented by their war experience. And sadly, many of those veterans take their own lives. They may not have been killed in action but they still died because of their military service.

If it's not snowing and the ice on the lakes is melted, I hope you enjoy your Memorial Day weekend. I'm sure those who gave their lives for us would also want you to. But please take a moment to honor our heroes in some way.

If you have disabilities you believe are related to your military service, or if you suffer with post traumatic stress, we're here to help you. You deserve to live your best life possible.

Please reach out to your county Veterans Service office. In Oneida County, our number is (715) 369-6127.



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Retired Army Sergeant Max Rockafellow displays some of his memorabilia collection kept in his home (left). Rockafellow also provided a striking photograph of himself cutting a fine figure during his time in the service.

—Photo By Joan Meeder

Sergeant Max Rockafellow reflects on service as foundation of his life

By Joan Meeder

Special to the News-Review

“A value in giving yourself permission to go after the big dreams is that big dreams require you to grow in order to achieve them. The greatest benefit you will receive from pursuing your dreams is who you become in the process. Who you are, what you have learned, and the new skills you have developed never go away. These are the true prizes of success.” — Jack Canfield, “Decide What You Want.”

Retired Sergeant Max Rockafellow, 83, of Eagle River, asserts that he came out of military service a better person and citizen stating, “Military service provides our

young men and women a whole new perspective of life and affects their life decisions. I wish to salute our military veterans and what they experienced while in service for their country.”

Born upstairs in a southern Michigan farmhouse, Rockafellow learned early on the value of hard work, discipline, choosing right over wrong, and the consequences of decisions.

He participated in Boy Scouts of America, earned his God and Country award and at the age of 12 began to deliver newspapers to half of his community.

Rockafellow said an important step in his life



A framed shadowbox displays Rockafellow's many patches and tokens of achievement during his time in the service.

was when he bought his first car — a 1934 Chevy Sedan with no rust — for \$15 with the money he'd saved.

Graduating from Grand Blanc High School, Grand Blanc, Mich., like his grandson Johnathon

years later, Rockafellow wanted to join the Army right away but his father overruled that for a year.

After he eventually enlisted, he discovered that “You gain maturity very quick and learn respect. Almost like a

shock treatment — ‘Yes, Sergeant.’ You were told what to do and when — eat, sleep, go to the bathroom. It follows real life.”

Both Rockafellow and his grandson to this day still think enlisting was one of the best decisions of their lives.

Rockafellow served from 1958-’64, a time of no war for the U.S. His first three-year commitment was extended by three months and nine days due to President Kennedy’s mandatory military service mandate in response to the Russians building the Berlin Wall.

He began his military service during a cold winter at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He then moved on for military police (MP) training at

Fort Gordon, Ga., and next went to Fort Bragg, NC., for the 503 Military Police Company, home of the 802nd Airborne.

While at Fort Gordon, Rockafellow recalled a night in the nearby town of Fayetteville when he was attempting to breakup a fight with the U.S. Airborne guys, and he ended up getting beat up by “a huge guy.” Although he had a 45 handgun with him, he said he wouldn’t use it unless the other guy pulled one first.

Rockafellow served in a C-130 Transport unit that was tasked with picking up prisoners from east coast military bases and transferring them to the St. Louis

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Rockafellow

FROM PAGE 15

Detention Center at Fort Leavenworth.

From there, his unit proceeded to Heidelberg, Germany in late 1959. He commented on how there was no one from his part of Michigan or Wisconsin with him.

Part of the duties as a MP included service in an Honor Guard platoon for the U.S. Army headquarters base, for all of Europe, and NATO forces.

If there were no visiting dignitaries, the MPs stood guard at the barracks gate, the information center and at the commanding general's residence. Rockafellow added that as sergeant of the drill team, "we were pretty good."

He reminisced how time off included three-day passes to visit France or Switzerland, and a longer trip to Italy, all the way down to Pompeii with a week on the Adriatic Coast.

On base was a German citizen hired by the U.S. Government. He taught the soldiers how to take pictures and develop film. Rockafellow said he took lots of photos. There were also six German national women in the MP

barracks who took care of ironing the men's uniforms.

En route to Honor Guard duty, Rockafellow recalled that MPs had to stand on the bus so their pressed uniforms wouldn't wrinkle. The first sergeant set the rules, making sure that out of the pay given, the first expense went to the women.

In 1960, Rockafellow was sent to Paris to guard President Eisenhower's helicopter for a summit talk with Premier Khrushchev, which was canceled at the last minute. It was there he received his first challenge coin, from an aide on behalf of President Eisenhower.

"A challenge coin is a small coin or medalion, bearing an organization's insignia or emblem and carried by the organization's members. Traditionally, they might be given to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale. They also are collected by service members and law enforcement personnel. Historically, challenge coins were presented by a member of the unit," Rockafellow added.

"They could also be



Rockafellow served from 1958-'64 and has a hefty collection of military memorabilia displayed in his home like the ones shown above. —Contributed Photo

exchanged in recognition of visits to an organization. Today they are given to say thank you for your service, special achievement and a special gift to say thank you for our freedom. I carry challenge coins with me today and give them to veterans and military personnel as my way of saying thanks."

Rockafellow also went to Berlin to observe. As a young man he didn't really understand the importance of its wall. He saw Checkpoint Charlie and the Bran-

denburg Gate, which was the main entrance between East and West Berlin.

In October 1964, after three years of inactive service, he went back to school for engineering. He worked for General Motors first as an industrial engineer, and then as a computer systems designer for Chevrolet Manufacturing, retiring in 1993.

He moved to Eagle River in 1998, where he continued his principle of service through involvement in varied community organizations.

In 2003, Rockafellow took pictures for a commemorative book, "Farewell to Heidelberg," because its mayor wanted the Americans out. There was even a News-Review article that year about his photos.

In the Eagle River area, he served as vice president of the Sno-Ea-

gles from 1999-2004; president of the Sno-Eagles from 2004-'10; president of the Genealogy Society from 2016-present; director of the Eagle River Cemetery Board from 2017-present; and has been a member of American Legion Post 104 for over 15 years.

In 2012, Rockafellow prepared a list of over 30 "things I learned in my lifetime" from 1938-2022. He said these principles include what he learned when he was young from his parents, some when he was older and some things he wishes he had learned earlier in life.

He went on to say that the principles he included are: "Set life goals and prioritize in order of God, family, country and occupation; attend church of your choice with spouse and children, follow the golden rule — never compromise your integrity; sup-

port the Constitution and Bill of Rights of the United States of America; and obey the law.

"Vote in every local, state and national election; do a good deed for someone every day; give back to your community by volunteering in some way; teach your children the difference between right and wrong and to be responsible for their actions; exercise 20 to 30 minutes daily and always keep moving; laugh every day; always understand your surroundings — keep your antenna up, local, state, national, and world events; and review this list every six months to see how you are doing."

As Memorial Day approaches, Sgt. Rockafellow extends his appreciation and thanks to all veterans for their service to this country and wishes them a great Memorial Day.



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Memorial Day is a time to honor fallen heroes

By State Rep. Rob Swearingen

The past year has been a challenging one as our nation deals with the pandemic, record-high inflation, the conflict between Russia and our ally, Ukraine, and skyrocketing gas prices.

In light of these disconcerting issues, our future may seem bleak, but it's not. We are Americans. We are born with more grit and determination than any other nation in the world. We have overcome far worse in our history.

During this Memorial Day, we honor and remember those who have sacrificed their lives in the defense of our freedom. Because of them, our nation is a prime example of freedom, hope and prosperity to the rest of the world.

On Memorial Day, we also can think about the important aspects of what it means to be an American. Our founding father's mission was to establish a nation that cherishes and protects individual liberties.

When Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941, Americans of all walks of life came together to join in the fight against evil.

Sept. 11, 2001, we were attacked by radical Islamic terrorists. Our nation responded, unified in the name of freedom.

Rep. Tony Kurtz, a friend and Army veteran himself, provided some thoughts that I will reflect on.

In last year's session, he spoke of an American flag that is under the care of the Wisconsin Historical Society and Wisconsin Veterans Museum, which sparked my interest in researching its history.

Nov. 25, 1863, Union troops of Wisconsin's 24th volunteer infantry regiment marched up Missionary Ridge near Chattanooga, Tenn. They came under such heavy fire from Confederate forces that they were nearly forced to retreat.

The soldier responsible for carrying the unit's American flag was killed. He dropped the flag, which had come with them all the way from Milwaukee.

Moments after the flag bearer fell, 18-year-old Lt. Arthur MacArthur of Milwaukee picked up the flag. As he grabbed the colors and led the regiment upward into battle, running full speed toward the Confederates, legend has it that MacArthur yelled "On Wisconsin!" He was shot twice before planting the flag in the middle of the enemy's defensive fortifications.

Lt. MacArthur survived and his valiant actions provided the inspiration that Union soldiers needed to win the battle and put the nail in the coffin of the Confederacy. This brave soldier, who achieved the rank of colonel at age 19, was the son of the fourth gover-

nor of the state of Wisconsin and later, became the father of Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Nicknamed the "Boy Colonel," Arthur MacArthur earned a medal of honor for his heroic actions during the Battle of Missionary Ridge. This act of courage and selflessness is a perfect example of why we are here today.

Our traditions, freedoms and opportunities would not exist without the heroic sacrifices of our fallen soldiers, like Arthur MacArthur.

This Memorial Day, our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of fallen soldiers; with all the children who have lost a parent, spouses who have lost their significant other, parents who have lost a child and friends whose lives have been forever changed by such a loss.

In recognition that Memorial Day is a time for remembering the fallen, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the workers at the Vilas and Oneida County Veterans Service offices, as well as to our incredible Veterans Affairs health-care specialists.

Last but not least, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all military members, past and present, for their selfless service. God bless you all and God bless the United States of America.

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Eagle River Fire Department offers CPR, AED training

By Michelle Drew
News-Review Staff

The Eagle River Fire Department (ERFD) is an American Heart Association (AHA) Training site that offers cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), automated external defibrillator (AED) and first aid training for the community.

According to Mark Zima, ERFD lieutenant and training center faculty person, in the past year the department has held 19 classes teaching 124 students in the area.

Zima is an Advanced EMT, an AHA Basic Life Support instructor, a Wisconsin certified Fire and Emergency Services Instructor II, and a Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Instructor II. He has been teaching CPR/AED and first aid for the American Heart Association for 15 years.

The department offers two basic types of training. For persons in the health care field, from nurses and certified nursing assistants to dental hygienists and firefighters, ERFD offers Basic Life Support CPR and AED initial and renewal training. For the layperson, the department offers Heartsaver CPR/AED and first aid, both initial and renewal courses.

"We also offer the AHA Bloodborne Pathogens course and we do skills testing for those persons who take the AHA course online," Zima said. "In addition we offer Basic Life Support and Heartsaver Instructor courses for those persons trained in CPR who would like to



Members of the Eagle River Fire Department lead a CPR training session in December. Any organization or business that would like to set up a session should contact the department at (715) 479-8835. —Contributed Photo

become American Heart Association instructors. Most of our course offerings are four hours in length; the Basic Life Support Initial course is six hours; and the combination Heartsaver CPR/AED and First Aid is seven hours, but can be broken into two sessions."

The American Heart Association requires one instructor for every six students, and ERFD currently has five experienced instructors on staff and is in the process of training another five new instructors, Zima noted.

"Every one of our instructors are local firefighters, emergency medical responders, or work in the healthcare field in our area," he said. "Each successful student receives an American Heart Association provider card and they will need to take a renewal course every two years."

For more information or to schedule a training, call the Eagle River Fire

Department at (715) 479-8835.

In order to successfully provide a quality experience with the necessary number of instructors, Zima asks that requests for courses be made at least two weeks in advance of the proposed date.

"All courses are provided on request, although due to the growing popularity of our program we are considering offering one evening course per month at the fire station," he added.

Zima noted that classes can be booked to fit a variety of schedules.

"Our instructors are very flexible and we are able to offer day, evening and weekend courses. Students may come to the fire department, or we can bring the entire course to their location," he said. "Currently class sizes range from four to 18 students, and we are planning to buy additional equipment so that we can accommodate classes of up to 24."

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If you have any questions or need help with a federal agency, please visit my website at tiffany.house.gov or contact my offices at:

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