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## OZAUKEE COUNTY

# NEWS GRAPHIC

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Tuesday, May 9, 2023

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## Roy Harms laid to rest



Photo by Mark Justesen/News Graphic staff

A member of the Army Honor Guard presents an American flag to the family of Roy Harms.

By Charley Hanney  
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GRAFTON — Hundreds of people paid their respects to World War II hero and Grafton native Roy C. Harms, who was laid to rest this past weekend, nearly 80 years after he was killed in the war.

1st Lt. Harms, whose remains were returned home April 28, was buried alongside his parents in Woodlawn Cemetery Saturday afternoon. Countless community members stood along North Street between 12th and 3rd Avenues in silent respect before following the procession to the cemetery for the ceremony.

"I just can't believe the community turnout. It's very uplifting ...," Harms' nephew, Timothy H. Murphy told the News Graphic. "I wish my mother was here. I wish all of the sisters were here."

Uniformed military and service organizations also lined the cemetery drive. "... it's a sad thing but I think this is great that they honor him like this," longtime resident Fritz Hilgart said.

Harms, a B-24 pilot flying in the 329th Squadron of the 93rd Bomb Group, perished along with seven of his crew members on Aug. 1, 1943, during the Operation Tidal Wave bombing raid on refineries near Ploiesti, Romania, making him the first Grafton resident to die in the war. The U.S. Army Air Corps lost



Photo by Mark Justesen/News Graphic staff

Roy Harms is given a final salute

more than 300 crewmen and 53 aircrafts in the attack, which is considered one of the largest bombing attacks of the war.

"At that time, there was no indication that he was going to ever be returned back home again," Rose-Harms American Legion Post member Les Williams said.

But when many unidentified remains were sent to Ardennes American Cemetery near Liege, Belgium after the war, some of those remains were exhumed and sent for testing by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) more than 10 years ago.

Laura Harms Murphy, the only surviving sister of Roy Harms, contributed a DNA sample before she



Photo by Mark Justesen/News Graphic staff

Honor Guard members carry Harm's urn to his place of burial next to his parents in Woodlawn Cemetery.

died in February 2020.

"Back in 2013-14 we were contacted, because the only way to really identify the remains is through DNA," Timothy Murphy said. "So I was contacted, my mother was contacted ... we decided that my mom and myself would do the DNA ... I think it was 2017, I believe, when they identified the co-pilot. I told my mother, I said

See **HARMS**, PAGE 4A

## Four adults overdose in Grafton home

### One man has since died from suspected fentanyl-laced cocaine

By Christina Luick  
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GRAFTON — One man has died and three other adults are hospitalized after Grafton police were called to a home for the report that multiple people had overdosed on fentanyl-laced cocaine.

When they arrived early Saturday morning to the home in the 1700 block of Falls Road, they also found that a woman had been "mauled" in her face by a dog in the home, according to police.

Grafton Police Chief Jeff Caponera said Monday morning that the adults — two men, ages 28 and 32, and two women, ages 30 and 31— were transported to area hospitals. One of the men and one of the women were residents of the home.

By Monday afternoon, he confirmed that the 28-year-old man, who was initially listed in grave condition, had died.

Also as of Monday, two individuals are in fair condition and expected to survive, Caponera said. The woman who was attacked by the dog was undergoing surgery.

According to Grafton police, they received a call at approximately 4:45 a.m. from someone in the home that four people had overdosed and CPR was being performed on one of the people.

See **OVERDOSES**, PAGE 5A



Photo by Charley Hanney/News Graphic staff

Four people who overdosed in this home on Falls Road in Grafton were renting the home from a man who bought it in 2020.

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## Grafton Chamber award winners announced

### RSVPs for annual dinner due Wednesday

By Christina Luick  
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GRAFTON — The Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce will be recognizing public servants, businesses and businesspersons for their commitments to the community during its annual Meeting and Awards Reception on May 17.

The event will take place at the Ozaukee Nonprofit Center, 2360 Dakota Drive in Grafton, and begin at 5 p.m. with a cash bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres, followed by the program at 6 p.m.

The public is invited to attend, with the cost being \$45. Those interested must RSVP by Wednesday by calling the Chamber office at 262-377-1650 or visit [www.grafton-wi.org](http://www.grafton-wi.org).

The following will be receiving awards during the dinner:

**Outstanding Business Award:**  
**The 024 Taproom**

The 024 Taproom, 1300 14th Ave. in Grafton, opened a little over six years ago by Paul and Liz Alexander, with a goal to foster community and connect people across generations.

The 024 has been a Chamber member since they opened and have participated in many community and Chamber events, including the Grafton Christmas Parade, Ladies Night Out, and hosted Young Professionals events and the Beer Garden at the Giro d'Grafton.

"In a relatively short time, The 024 Taproom has made a big differ-

ence in our community," said Pam King, executive director of the Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce. "It's a great spot, enjoyed by many. Paul and Liz are always working on new ways to involve residents and promote Grafton. Their positive attitude and welcoming attitude make The 024 Taproom so deserving of this recognition."

The Alexanders also host an annual fundraiser for St. Baldrick's Foundation, a nonprofit organization with the aim of raising funds to help find cures for children with

See **CHAMBER**, PAGE 6A

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**Dave Campbell**

# Harms

From Page 1A

‘mom, your brother was sitting right there.’”

Ozaukee County Historical Society Vice President Allen Buchholz said it was last August when the DPAA met with the Harms family to present details of Roy’s remains, how they were identified and how they would return to Grafton.

“It’s pretty incredible what they do and the amount of work they go through,” Timothy Murphy said about the DPAA, also noting that there may be one more crew member they’re still waiting to identify.

Harms was the only son of five children, and the son Ben and Jenny Harms, who operated a general store on Bridge Street. He was a Boy Scout leader and graduated from Grafton High School.

Harms, who enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1938, flew six bombing missions



Photo by Mark Justesen/News Graphic staff  
A military helicopter conducts a flyover.

before his final, fateful operation in Romania, according to Buchholz.

According to Grafton American Legion post Cmdr. Ken Kasprzak, five Medals of Honor were awarded the day of the attack, the most in any single conflict in American military history. Harms received the Distinguished Flying Cross, in addition to the Purple Heart.

Formerly called the Fred Rose Post 355, the Grafton Legion was renamed in 1946 to honor the 26-year-old Grafton native.



Photo by Mark Justesen/News Graphic staff  
Crowds line the streets of North Avenue, saluting and paying silent tribute as the hearse of Roy Harms passes by.

# A warm thanks for his service



Photo by Art Dahlke/ to the News Graphic  
Kay Schroeder of Ye Olde Schoolhouse presented a Quilt of Thanks to Brad Curtis of Cedarburg, far right. John Arity, center, and his wife, Barb, suggested that Curtis be a recipient of the honor.

By Kay Dahlke  
Special to the News Graphic

CEDARBURG — Brad Curtis recently received a warm hug of appreciation from the quilters at Ye Olde Schoolhouse in Cedarburg. The hug came in the form of a Quilt of Thanks.

Curtis, of Cedarburg, served with the United States Marines from December 1977 to January 1998. He was a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit depots at Parris Island in South Carolina and San Diego. His tours of duty included Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia. He retired from the service as

a gunnery sergeant. Quilts of Thanks are assembled by volunteers to show appreciation for the war time service of men and women who serve in the military, with a focus of presenting quilts to area veterans and active duty military personnel.

Volunteers select the pattern and fabrics to create the quilt tops, made of cotton fabrics in patriotic colors. The cost of materials and machine quilting can range from \$100 to \$250, which doesn’t include volunteer time to make the quilt.

It can take from 50 to more than 100 hours, depending on the complexi-

ty of the pattern. Thanks to donors, there is a “Quilt of Thanks” account available to volunteers at Ye Olde Schoolhouse and My Material Matters in Thiensville for fabric, batting and backing. Donations are appreciated and can be sent directly to the two quilt shops with a QOT notation.

For more information, potential quilters are invited to attend a sewing day. They are held the first Wednesday of each month at My Material Matters, 221 N. Main St. in Thiensville and the fourth Thursday of the month at Ye Olde Schoolhouse, 318 Green Bay Road.

## Public welcome to attend GCF Civic Award event at Cedarburg Legion

CEDARBURG — The Greater Cedarburg Foundation will honor the Cedarburg American Legion with the GCF Civic Award in memory of James W. Coultts on May 17.

The public is invited to attend the GCF

Civic Award celebration at 7 p.m. at the Legion Post, located at W57N481 Hilbert Ave. To reserve tickets for the event, which will include desserts and a cash bar, email CedarburgFoundation@gmail.com, or call 262-204-7387 by Wednesday.

### Recording a Milestone

To submit a birth, engagement, wedding, anniversary or military announcements or multi-generation photo, contact Lisa Curtis at lcurtis@conley.net.com or 262-305-8934. Birth and military announcements and multiple-generation photos are free. Engagement, wedding and anniversary announcements are \$10 for the text, plus \$10 for each photo submitted. Wedding anniversaries 50 years and over are free to our regular subscribers.

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