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11th November

HAPPY VETERANS DAY

Honor and Glory

THE NEWS SUN | THE HERALD REPUBLICAN | The **Star**



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First Class*



Walker Tackett
US Army



David Bolen
*Army Private
First Class*



Shelton Bolen
*US Marine Corps
Veteran of the
Korean War*

The roles of the various branches of the U.S. military

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Each November, people across the United States and its territories honor the brave men and women who serve and have served in the various branches of the country's military. Veterans Day is observed annually every November 11 and honors the service of all U.S. military veterans. The day should not be confused with Memorial Day, which is celebrated each year in May and honors all military personnel who have died in service.

Veterans Day is a great time for anyone to learn more about the various branches of the U.S. military.

Army

The U.S. Department of Defense notes that the Army is the largest and oldest service in the country's military. The Army provides the ground forces that protect the United States. Members of the Army are trained to defeat enemy ground forces and to seize and control enemy lands and resources. Army also are trained to control and interact with the general population in countries where members are stationed.

Marine Corps.

It might surprise some to learn that the Marine Corps is a component of the Department of the Navy. That's one reason why maintains amphibious and ground units for contingency and combat operations. The Marine Corps is divided into four groups: the operating forces that fight; the headquarters for leadership; the supporting establishment that provides logistical support; and the Marine Corps Reserve.

Navy

The Navy protects America at sea. Despite its massive land mass, the United States is a maritime nation, which underscores how important a strong Navy is to the safety of the country and its residents. The Navy works alongside American allies and partners to keep the seas open and free.

Air Force

The Air Force has five core missions: air superiority; global strike; rapid global mobility; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and command and control. The Air Force defends the country and its residents in air, space and cyberspace and is capable of



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

delivering forces anywhere in the world within hours.

Space Force

The existence of the Space Force may come as a surprise to many Americans. Organized under the Department of the Air Force and established in 2019, this branch of the military organizes, trains and equips space forces in order to

protect the interest of America and its allies in space.

Coast Guard

During peacetime, the Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security. In times of war, it operates under the Navy. The Coast Guard provides law and maritime safety enforcement as well as environmental protection.

In addition to promoting national security, border security and economic prosperity in the maritime environment, the Coast Guard saves those in peril on the sea.

National Guard

The National Guard is comprised of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The National Guard has a diverse array of responsibilities that range from supporting combat missions to responding during domestic emergencies to assisting in humanitarian efforts and more.

The U.S. military is made up various branches, each with its own unique missions and responsibilities. Veterans Day marks the perfect occasion to celebrate the many individuals who have served and continue to serve in the U.S. military.



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Thank You, Veterans



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William R Schimpf
ETSN Korean War 1947-1951.
Love and Miss you



Glen Sprague, Adrian Sprague, Frank Sprague, Jr.
(front row, left to right).
**Morris Sprague, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Sprague, Sr.,
& Louis Sprague** (back row)
Five sons in service at the same time in WWII.

Holiday Viewing

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Mix in some patriotic movies among your traditional Yuletide favorites

There are plenty of thought-provoking military-themed movies to be enjoyed, from 1970's "Patton" and 1986's "Platoon" to 1998's "Saving Private Ryan" and 2012's "Lincoln." But this time of year offers us all an opportunity to honor the particular sacrifices made by those who are serving in the military away from home and family during the holiday season.

Of course, time spent apart during this special time has always sparked films — as well as books and songs — but the plight of our service members and their loved ones has garnered an increasing spotlight lately.

Tributes to their service have proliferated in patriotic holiday movies, perhaps most consistently on the Hallmark channel. The network's patriotic holiday movies include "Christmas Bedtime Stories" (2022), "USS Christmas" (2021), "Five More Minutes" (2021), "Operation Christmas Drop" (2020), "A Homecoming for the Holidays" (2019), "Write Before Christmas" (2019), "Time for You to



22IMAGESSTUDIO - STOCK.ADOBE.COM

Come Home for Christmas" (2019), "Christmas Homecoming" (2017), "Home for Christmas Day" (2017) and "The Christmas Note" (2015), among others.

Filmed on location in Norfolk, Virginia, "USS Christmas" was written by TV news correspondent Andrea Canning, who is married to an ex-Marine Corps fighter pilot. "Five More Minutes" is set around

the former Fort Bragg, and was inspired by a song of the same name by Scott McCreery, winner of the 10th season of "American Idol."

If you're more interested in the classics, cue up 1954's Michael Curtis-directed "White Christmas" movie-musical starring Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney and Danny Kaye, among others. Crosby and Kaye run into their former Major

General while traveling as musical performers — only to discover that he's now penniless. They band together to raise money for their former officer, and to raise some Christmas cheer, as well.

Director Billy Wilder's '50s-era "Stalag 17" starred Oscar-winner William Holden as a World War II prisoner of war and was set during the holiday season. The star of 1946's

"It's a Wonderful Life," James Stewart, is a World War II veteran, unlike his character George Bailey. Stewart was heralded as the first American movie star to enlist, joining at age 33. More recently, 1992's "A Midnight Clear" told the fictional account of a brief Christmas truce between American and German soldiers just before World War II's furious Battle of the Bulge.

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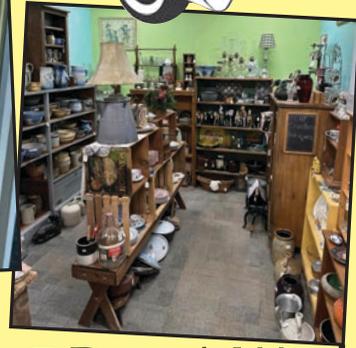
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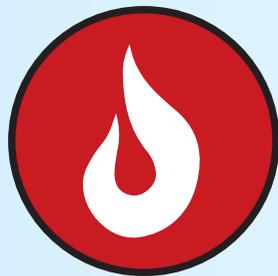
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Rory D. Young
Air Force, 1989-1992 Airman
1st Class
Served during Desert Storm
in Saudi Arabia



Robert S. Hartman
US Air Force, Korean War
Love and miss you, Dad



Robert A. Young
Air Force, 1956-1960, Cold War
Airman 2nd Class - Radio Repairman
Duty on Texas Tower 4 - Radar Tower
4 months after getting off tower, it went
down in ocean killing all 28 men on board.



Richard Hastreiter
Your free spirit amazed me,
it still does.



John Rupp
Army
We are so proud of you and
your service to our country!



James William Pierson Jr.
Corporal USMC,
Vietnam 1969-1971
No matter how far apart
we are, our hearts will
always be together.
I love you, Dinah



Harold Locke
1968-1970 Army
We love and miss you! Your
loving wife, Becky and your
children: Matt & Lori, Kim,
Heather & Terry, Chris & Amy
and families

NE Indiana Veterans Service offices

Veterans services at DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble and Steuben are offered free of charge at the following sites

Contact information for each office is as follows:

DeKalb County Veteran Service Officer Rhonda Hunkler, 260-925-0131

LaGrange County Veteran Service Officer Allen

Connelly, 260-499-6387

Noble County Veteran Service Officer Mike Clouse, 260-636-1298

Steuben County Veteran Service Officer Alex Dobson, 260-668-1000 ext. 1060.

Veterans Support Group (VETERANS 4 LIFE) meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month. The group provides a unique

opportunity for encouragement and to share common experiences and challenges. Meeting begin at 4 p.m. at 1752 Wesley Rd., Auburn at the Northeast Center Community Health and Outreach Center. Contact Tamara Goodman, U.S. Army Veteran at 260-610-0389 for information.



The American Legion Riders lead Chain O' Lakes Festival Parade down East Main Street in June.

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Saluting our heroes, friends,
and loved ones who served
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Your Community Network

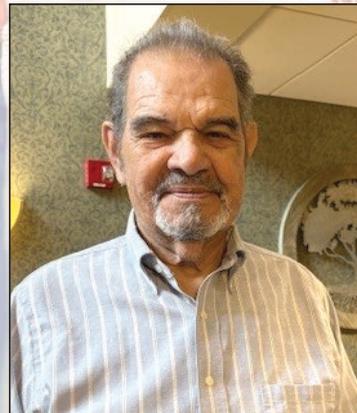
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Harry Koester
Army



Gordon Wolff
Navy, Korean War



Fausto Rodriguez
Marines, Korean War,
& Vietnam

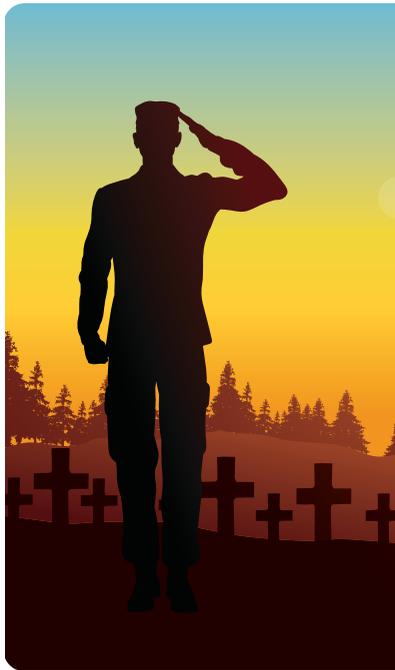


Jerry David
Navy, Vietnam



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Dennis Doerr
Sergeant, USMC
1966-1970. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam.



Ervin Curtis Link
US Army 1959-1962
Germany
Love you,
Opal and Ryan Link



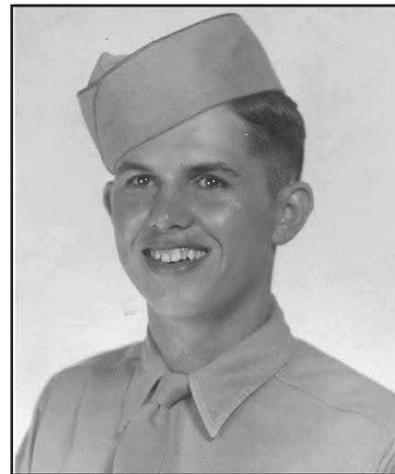
**Cpt. Ryan Abbott
& Spc. Nick Hartge**
Army Brothers
We love you. Mom & Dad



Anthony Marturello
Corporal, US Army
Tony served as a POW
camp guard outside of
London in World War II.



Charles Sanders
Tec 5 U.S. Army, WWII
Loving Husband, Father,
and Grandfather



Calvin A. Hull
141st Army Airways
Communication System
Squadron - Phillipines, WWII
PFC - Cryptographic
Tech/Radio Operator



Koty J. Reinoehl
Technical Sergeant
We are so proud of the
young man you have
become. We love you so
much, Your Family

CONTRIBUTED
Hamilton American Legion
Franklin R. Fee Post 467 recently
presented fourth grade flag
education in the classes of Alea
Brandt and Amber Deetz at
Hamilton Elementary School. The
program teaches the students
about 12 flags of the country,
rights and obligations to the
United States of America, flag
code guidelines, being a good
citizen and a patriot. Teaching
how to fold the Flag and the
meaning of each fold and some
patriots from our country was also
included. The students are tested
and write an essay about "What do
you think when you see our Flag?"
The top female and male winner in
the state can earn \$500 each.



Charities whose missions support veterans, active military and their families

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

The support Americans have for their armed forces is evident in how much they donate each year to charities with military-related missions. According to Charity Navigator, Americans donate more than \$2.5 billion annually to charities with missions dedicated to the military.

Individuals who want to donate to a charitable organization with a military-related mission may not know where to start, and that can be daunting given the number of organizations that fit that criteria. Charity Navigator indicates there are more than 40,000 American charities with military-related missions, which underscores how difficult it can be to find one to support. Thankfully, Charity Navigator, which has provided donors with free access to data, tools and resources to guide their philanthropic decision-making since 2001, has curated a list of highly rated organizations that provide a variety of services to military members and their families. The following is a brief rundown of that list that can serve as a solid foundation for prospective donors. The full list can be found at charitynavigator.org.

Wounded Troops

- Air Warrior Courage Foundation (airwarriorcourage.org)
- DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Charitable Service

- Trust (cst.dav.org)
- Fisher House Foundation (fisherhouse.org)
- Higher Ground (highergroundusa.org)
- Homes for Our Troops (hforusa.org)
- K9s for Warriors (k9sforwarriors.org)
- Operation Second Chance (operationsecondchance.org)
- Wounded Warrior Project (woundedwarriorproject.org)
- Yellow Ribbon Fund (yellowribbonfund.org)

Military Social Services

- AMVETS National Service Foundation (amvetsnsf.org)
- Hire Heroes USA (hireheroesusa.org)
- Honor Flight Network (honorflight.org)
- Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (iava.org)
- Operation Gratitude (operationgratitude.com)
- Operation Healing Forces (operationhealingforces.org)
- Soldiers' Angels (soldiersangels.org)
- The Mission Continues (missioncontinues.org)

Military Family Support

- Army Emergency Relief (armyemergencyrelief.org)
- Blue Star Families (bluestarfam.org)
- Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation (fallenpatriots.org)
- Folds of Honor (foldsofhonor.org)
- Operation Homefront (operationhomefront.org)
- Our Military Kinds (ourmilitarykinds.org)

(ourmilitarykids.org)

- Travis Manion Founda-

tion (travismanion.org)

- VFW National Home for

Children (vfwnationalhome.org)



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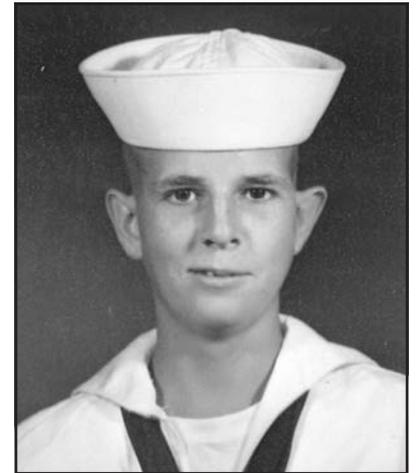
Buck Collins
USMC, Vietnam 1968
Love you and miss you,
Your Daughter,
Michelle Krause



Michael J McNamara
Our amazing dad is an
air force vet with
Armed Forces radio and TV.
We love you!
Kristin and Kelly



Max E. Treesh
Spc. 4 Army
Served March 1969 -
February 1971, Medic 3rd
Bn. 35th Field Artillery,
Wertheim, Germany



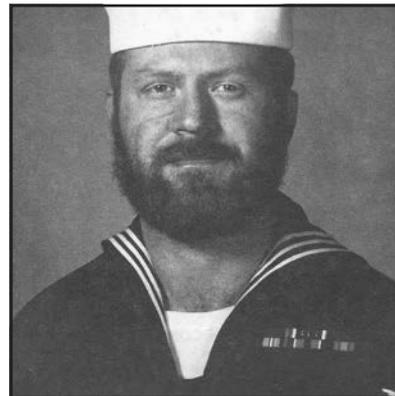
Martin Snow
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Service
7th Fleet Aircraft Carrier
1960-1963



Cody R. Burniston
Sgt. U.S. Army Military
Police
2013-2018
We're all so very proud of you
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Clyde Handshoe SSGT
US Air Force 1971-1977
Thank you for your service.
Love and miss you more.



Chriss Keaton
E6 AMH USN Sailor of Month,
Quarter, Year. Norfolk.
Carriers: America, Ike,
Kennedy
1975-1988. Thank- you.
Love you, wife, sons,
daughters, grandkids.



Larry Scheiber
Lance Corporal, USMC,
Vietnam, Purple Heart.
Love and miss you.

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the Town of
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"In memory
of those
who served."



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The Pokagon Chapter of the
Daughters of the American
Revolution's Annual Day
of Service took place Oct.
10 at the Northern Lakes
Rehabilitation Center in
Angola. The women spent
time painting pumpkins and
gourds with residents and
veterans. Jeanann Childers,
DAR member, is a resident at
Northern Lakes and enjoyed
spending time with her chapter.
Attending DAR members were,
from left, Secretary Star Noble,
Joni Timpe, Regent Cheri
Carpenter, Treasurer Janet
Stiller, Chaplain Judy Hostetler
and Linda Boyer.

The Amercian Legion Veterans Day Message

BY

Americans never forget. This is what Veterans Day is really about.

We remember the brave and honorable men and women who have served in our Armed Forces since the founding of our nation.

Ten years ago, a veteran received overdue but well-deserved recognition nearly a century after his brave and legendary service. William Shemin was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his World War I heroism.

While fighting in France as a member of the Army's 47th Infantry Regiment, Sergeant Shemin repeatedly left cover and exposed himself to enemy machine gun and rifle fire while rescuing wounded comrades over a three-day period. Even after being shot in the head, he refused to accept medical help until his platoon was safely withdrawn.

His bravery inspired his fellow soldiers to recommend him for the nation's highest military award. Senior brass rejected the request reportedly because Shemin was Jewish, and discrimination was far too common. The request at the time was downgraded to a Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest award for military valor. Shemin responded with the humility that epitomizes so many heroes, saying, "War is not about medals. I love my country. I love my men. That's all that counts."

While Medal of Honor recipients are an elite class among the special group of people that we call "veterans," Shemin's love for his country and his fellow soldiers is typical of the men and women we honor today.

It is a brotherhood and a sisterhood. A bond cemented with blood. Just this summer, six soldiers risked their lives and gave

aid to the wounded while subduing a shooter who opened fire at Fort Stewart, Georgia. The instant reaction of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team was credited by law enforcement with preventing fatalities.

"The fast action of these soldiers under stress and under trauma and under fire absolutely saved lives," Army Secretary Dan Discroll said, before adding: "They are everything that is good about this nation."

While not all veterans see combat, an expressed willingness to sacrifice one's life is a requirement. It has been part of the commitment for military service since George Washington commanded our first troops. And it is not the only commitment to service that our veterans make.

Only about six percent of American adults today have served in the military. Yet it is this small and talented group that enables our communities to function.

Chances are that if you surveyed your local police or fire departments, you would find that a disproportionately high percentage of their members are veterans. When an emergency hits, there is a good chance that it is a veteran who is first to respond.

In most American communities, July 4, 2025, was a day of celebration.

For central Texas, it was a day of horror. Flash floods ravaged Kerr County and killed 138 people, many young girls attending a summer camp. The death toll could have been more than double had it not been for the extraordinary actions of Coast Guard rescue swimmer Scott Ruskan and his crew.

The 26-year-old New Jersey native led the search and triage operations at Camp Mystic and is credited with rescuing 169 victims in distress.

Ruskan's actions were personally recognized by

the Secretary of Homeland Security. He responded with the

modesty that is so common among U.S. veterans.

"I'm just doing a job. This is what I signed up for, and I think that any single Coast Guard pilot, flight mechanic, whoever it may be, would have done the exact same

thing in our situation. We just happened to be the crew that got the case," he told the media.

Whether it's hurricane
SEE MESSAGE, Page A19



To all our veterans

thank you.

LigTel

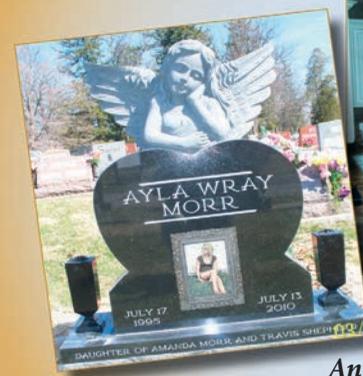
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DAR dedicates LaGrange cemetery signs

FROM STAFF REPORTS

LAGRANGE — The LaGrange de Lafayette Chapter Inc. of the National Society,

Daughters of the American Revolution, announced that the first phase of the chapter's County Historical Cemetery

Sign Project is completed. The DAR chapter and Clearspring Township dedicated the signs Sept. 20

for five cemeteries, Beulah, Jordan, Osborn, Sloan, and Steinbarger.

The dedication ceremonies were attended by DAR chapter regent Alesia Feiertag, treasurer Sandra Klausing, secretary Sharla Thompson, historic preservation chair Dalonda Young, conservation chair

Ruth Bontrager, Carver and Wendy Stump of the Jacob Leer Children of the American Revolution, and Clearspring Township Trustee Melissa Eichelberger.

Jacob Leer is the name of the local chapter of the Society of the Children of the

SEE CEMETERY SIGNS, Page A13

THANK YOU VETERANS

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CONTRIBUTED

Beulah Cemetery had its first burial in 1838. From left are Sandy Klausing, Township Trustee Melissa Eichelberger, Alesia Feiertag, Dalonda Young and Sharla Thompson.



CONTRIBUTED

Jordan Cemetery had its first burial in 1838. From left are Sharla Thompson, Sandy Klausing, Township Trustee Melissa Eichelberger, Alesia Feiertag and Dalonda Young.



CONTRIBUTED

Sloan Cemetery had its first burial in 1820. From left are Sandy Klausing, township trustee Melissa Eichelberger, Alesia Feiertag, Dalonda Young and Sharla Thompson.

Veterans DAY
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Osborn Cemetery had its first burial in 1845. From left are Sharla Thompson, Sandy Klausing, township trustee Melissa Eichelberger, Alesia Feiertag and Dalonda Young.



CONTRIBUTED

Steinbarger Cemetery has its first burial in 1842. From left are Sandy Klausing, Township Trustee Melissa Eichelberger, Alesia Feiertag, Dalonda Young and Sharla Thompson.



CONTRIBUTED

Wendy Stump, left, and Carver Stump represent the Jacob Leer chapter of the National Children of the American Revolution at the dedication of the historical cemetery sign at Steinbarger Cemetery.

CEMETERY SIGNS: Milford, Johnson township cemeteries next to get signs

FROM PAGE A12

American Revolution, also known as C.A.R. The national society website is <https://www.nscar.org>.

The signs at Beulah and Sloan cemeteries complement the two new memorials placed by the Veterans Headstone Project in honor of veterans

from the War of 1812, World War I and World War II.

The Veterans Headstone Project, non-profit organization, was founded in August

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'Operation Green Light' illuminates courthouse

FROM STAFF REPORTS

AUBURN — The DeKalb County Courthouse will be illuminated green as part of Operation Green Light, an initiative between the

DeKalb County Veterans Service Office, the DeKalb County Commissioners, the National Association of Counties and the National Association of County

Veteran Service Officers. Operation Green Light's mission is to show support for veterans of all military conflicts, as well as raise awareness about the unique

challenges faced by many veterans and their families. Additionally, the operation highlights the resources that are available at the county, state, and federal level to assist veterans and their families.

In 2023, DeKalb County Veterans Service Officer Ronda Hunkler and former DeKalb County Deputy Veterans Service Officer Travis Holcomb presented the Operation Green Light program and a supporting resolution to the DeKalb County Commissioners. The Commissioners unequivocally supported the proposal and adopted the resolution that same day.

Per the resolution, Operation Green Light will be an annual event at the courthouse starting on Nov. 1 and ending on Veterans Day, Nov. 11 every year. "By shining green light on the courthouse, we're expressing our profound gratitude for the sacrifices and contributions our veterans and their families made on the battlefield and at home," Hunkler and Holcomb said. "At a time when our country is faced with so many issues, we can all agree that those individuals who risked, and sacrificed their lives fighting to protect our country and our way of life deserve our

support."

Hunkler and Holcomb encourage everyone to join the county government by displaying a green light for our veterans and their families. Hunkler and Holcomb wish to extend a special thank you to the commissioners for their support and Mr. Larry Lane who was instrumental with the installation of the green bulbs and green lenses used to illuminate the courthouse.

DeKalb County residents are encouraged to participate by simply changing one light bulb in their house to a green bulb. This can be an exterior light that neighbors and passersby see, or an interior light that sparks a conversation with friends. By shining a green light, we are letting our veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported. Participants are encouraged to share their participation on social media using the hashtag #OperationGreenLight.

For more information about Operation Green Light and links to resources available to veterans, visit: naco.org/operationgreenlight or the DeKalb County VSO website at co.dekalb.in.us/departments/index.php?structureid=38.

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."
- Joseph Campbell

Remembering Our Nation's Heroes on
Veterans' Day

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Freedom smiles, her fate secure
Beneath its steadfast stars

**Our freedom is secure because of the faithful service of our American Veterans!
We honor you and thank you!**

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CONTRIBUTED

The DeKalb County Courthouse will be bathed in green lights through Veterans Day to show support for veterans and the sacrifices they made in service for the United States.

Sending Your Thanks

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Take a moment to thank those who keep us safe every day

Sending an encouraging message has never been easier, thanks to email, video upload and social media. Even if you prefer to communicate with old-fashioned letters, it's a great time to take a moment and reach out. Being away from loved ones during the holidays adds another layer of emotion to their everyday sacrifice. Here are three easy ways to express your gratitude.

By Email

Sending an email may seem more impersonal than a handwritten note but for those who you know personally, it's the easiest and fastest way to reach out. Pack your note with lots of news from home, with updates on friends, family and things of local interest. Ask if there is anything you can do to make their service any easier.

They may want you to check on people back home, or send pictures of loved ones or their pets. Close with a note of gratitude. Ask your service member if there are others who may need

an encouraging word, and get their email addresses, too. These warm reminders of home provide welcome distractions anytime, but particularly during the holidays.

By Letter

There's a reason this is such a tried-and-true method of communication with soldiers. Receiving a personal note when you're miles away opens a conversation while providing an instant keepsake. Let them know how important their sacrifice is to everyone back home. Letters also give you a chance to share photos. There are ways to connect, even if you don't have a family member or friend who's serving elsewhere during the holidays.

Military pen-pal services like Forgotten Soldiers Outreach, Operation Gratitude and AnySoldier can connect anyone with service personnel who might appreciate an encouraging note. Begin these notes with generic salutations like "Dear Hero," while thanking them for their service. If you feel comfortable, share stories of your time or a family member's time in the military.

Include a return address in case they want to respond.

By Video

Services members may have access to video confer-

encing software like Skype or Google Meet, which allows real-time conversations with family and friends. Unreliable internet service might make these connections difficult to

maintain, in particular with overseas military installations, but it's worth the effort to pass along face-to-face holiday greetings.



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Veterans Day programs in Steuben County

Veterans Day programs are being planned across the greater Steuben County Community in the coming days.

Here are some that are scheduled. And be sure to check with your local American Legion post or Veterans of Foreign Wars for special programs they might provide.

In addition, a number of restaurants in the community will be feeding veterans for free on Nov. 11.

Angola Middle School

The Angola Middle School Veterans Day Celebration will be on on Nov. 11.

As in previous years, veterans in the community will be honored and folks at

the school will show their appreciation for their service.

Veterans who have sent in reservations will be treated to breakfast at the Middle School cafeteria at 8 a.m. The celebration program will follow at 9 a.m. in the newly renovated gym.

Hamilton Schools

Hamilton Community Schools in conjunction with the Franklin Fee Post of the American Legion will team up for a Veterans Day program on Nov. 7.

The event will be held in Hamilton Jr.-Sr. High School starting at 9 a.m.

The public, and especially veterans, are invited to attend.



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CEMETERY SIGNS

FROM PAGE A13

2011 to ensure that every military service man or woman buried in LaGrange County has his or her grave identified and marked with a proper gravestone. Headstones that are damaged by neglect, weather or vandalism are replaced by a supplemental headstone or memorial.

The chapter's Historical Preservation Committee is spearheading this five-year cemetery sign initiative. Each phase will identify and work to preserve LaGrange County's historical cemeteries. The chapter plans to provide the signs to those cemeteries in need of signage. The township trustees are asked to provide the materials and labor for sign installation and upkeep.

Currently, 22 cemeteries throughout the county have been identified as lacking signage. Phase 2 is expected to begin in spring 2026, with a focus on signs for Milford and Johnson townships.

For further information about this project or to donate to this project, contact Sandy Klausing at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church at 260-463-3624; or email darlagrange@gmail.com; to the attention of the Historical Preservation Committee.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a women's service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. Today's DAR has more than 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad.

DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. More than one million members have joined the organization since its founding in 1890.

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Paying Your Respects

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Consider a holiday trip that honors our soldiers' ultimate sacrifices

With time off each year, there's ample opportunity to schedule visits to monuments and memorials that honor America's fallen service members. Here are several recommendations, found from one side of the country to another — with a few stops in between.

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, Virginia

Our country's best-known military cemetery sits on land once owned by Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Arlington National is the final resting place for hundreds of thousands of military veterans and their dependents. Visitors are encouraged to visit the solemn Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a white marble sarcophagus created in 1921 to recognize anonymous service members who were killed in action.

Elsewhere, you will find the graves of former presidents John F. Kennedy and William Howard Taft, among others.

National Memorial Arch

Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

The fledgling Continental Army struggled through a brutal winter in 1777-78, as more than 2,500 soldiers lost their lives due to disease, exposure and starvation at their encampment in Valley Forge. The National Memorial Arch honors their service and their memory. Of course, Valley Forge is also known as

the spot where Gen. George Washington's war-turning advance later began.

National World War I Museum And Memorial

Kansas City, Missouri

The Liberty Memorial opened in 1926, and was designated by Congress as the country's official World War I memorial in 2004. Exhibits retrace the Great War and related events from 1914 through the peace conference in 1919 in Paris.

National World War II Museum

New Orleans, Louisiana

Formerly known as the National D-Day Museum, this facility was likewise designated as the nation's official World War II memorial by Congress in 2004. Rotating exhibits are paired with an impressive array of memorabilia. The museum was built in New Orleans to recognize the city's role in winning the war in Europe: Amphibious boats used to transport troops were designed and built by the local Higgins Industries.

Uss Arizona Memorial

Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii

Nearly 2,000 crewmen died when the USS Arizona took a direct hit during the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor that drew America into World War II. The shipwreck was declared a national shrine in 1962, and now honors those who were killed on a date which President Franklin D. Roosevelt rightly said "will live

in infamy."

National Medal Of Honor Heritage Center

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Officially opened on Feb.

22, 2020, the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center serves as a lasting tribute to the recipients of the first Medals of Honor and all recipients since. The center

reverently underscores both the heritage of the Medal of Honor and the sacrifices made by various recipients from the Civil War to the Global War on Terror.

Honoring all the men and women who have selflessly served our country.

Happy Veterans Day!

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FRANK LEE

How to help aging veterans

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

According to data from the Department of Veterans Affairs, surveys from the Pew Research Center and the U.S.

Census Bureau, there were more than 18 million living military veterans in the United States by the end of 2023. Seventy-two percent of those veterans are age 50

and older, and many served during wartime.

Military personnel make significant sacrifices to protect the freedoms Americans enjoy each day,

and it's vital that those efforts are never forgotten, even if it's been decades since service personnel have been on active duty.

Thirty-seven percent of living veterans are age 70 and older, and these brave individuals must face the challenges of aging as well as some, including chronic injuries, that might be traced to their time in the military. That makes helping aging veterans an especially worthy endeavor, and those interested in doing just that can consider the following ideas.

- **Offer your expertise free of charge.** Working professionals can help aging veterans by providing advice or services free of charge or at steep discounts. For example, accountants can offer to prepare and file aging veterans' tax returns free of charge or, if the returns are complicated, at steep discounts. Financial advisors can visit a local veterans hall or home and speak to members or residents about managing money after retirement.

- **Invite veterans over for special events or gatherings.** The Department of Veterans Affairs reports that veterans who served in the last 30 years make up the largest number of living veterans. Though there are still plenty of veterans who served prior to 1994, they may no longer have

extensive social networks as more and more aging veterans pass away. Social connections are vital to long-term health, and researchers at the Center for Healthy Aging at Penn State University found that adults between the ages of 70 and 90 who reported more frequent, pleasant social interactions exhibited improved cognitive performance in the ensuing days. Individuals who want to help aging veterans can invite them over for special events, such as game watches, holiday gatherings or even weekly family meals.

- **Pitch in around the house.** Whether they suffered injuries during their time in the service or not, many aging veterans face the same physical limitations as others approaching or past retirement age. Offer to help aging veterans around the house. Mobility issues can make it hard to mow a lawn, tend to a garden or clean the interior of a home. Such tasks are made much easier when others pitch in, and these gestures can be a great way for families to show their appreciation to the brave individuals who protected the freedoms Americans enjoy each day.

There's no shortage of ways to help aging veterans, many of whom could use a helping hand as they navigate their golden years.

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MESSAGE

FROM PAGE A11

relief, defending our interests abroad, or search and rescue, America is fortunate to have such people willing to voluntarily risk their lives for us.

When a veteran leaves the military, he or she is likely to be a key contributor to our communities. It may be as a schoolteacher, construction worker or first responder. They may be a business owner, real estate agent or medical professional.

Regardless of occupation, veterans take their missions seriously. They vote in higher percentages than nonveterans. They are more likely to volunteer in their communities. And they are less likely to live in poverty.

In short, veterans make our neighborhoods better.

By virtue of your attendance here, you have shown an appreciation for veterans. The people here are veterans, friends of veterans, families of veterans, co-workers of veterans and neighbors of veterans. It is up to us to ensure that every veteran feels that his or her service to this country is appreciated by their fellow Americans.

For many veterans, our nation was important enough to endure long separations from their families, miss the births of their children, freeze in sub-zero temperatures, roast in faraway deserts, lose limbs, and, far too often, their lives.

Their families serve and sacrifice as well.

Military spouses have had to endure career interruptions, frequent changes of address, and a disproportionate share of parental responsibilities.

The children often had to deal with changes in schools, separation from friends and, hardest of all, the uncertainty of whether or not Mom or Dad would live through their next combat tour.

Warriors need advocates, and that is why The

American Legion exists. We are here to serve veterans, their families and our communities. Veterans need each other, but, more importantly, our country needs our veterans.

You cannot fight a war without veterans and while the idea of a society without conflict is appealing, let us not forget that wars have liberated slaves, stopped genocide and toppled terrorists.

The memories of war, the sacrifices made and difficulties transitioning to civilian society have taken a toll on too many veterans.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 17 veterans a day take their own lives. Some believe the number is much higher. Regardless, The American Legion believes one suicide is too many, and we call on all Americans – all of us at this gathering – to be the one to save one.

Reach out to a veteran you think may be struggling. Ask how he or she is doing. Most of all: LISTEN.

Remember the three numbers – 9-8-8. This is the national crisis line for anybody who is having suicidal thoughts. A situation that may seem hopeless today will certainly look better tomorrow when you realize that you have the support of people who truly care.

There is no better way to thank a veteran for their service than to let him or her know that we got their back. After all, veterans have had America's back for 250 years, humbly and proudly keeping our nation free, no matter the danger.

Just "doing their job" as an Army sergeant from World War I and a Coast Guard rescue swimmer from 2025 alike would say with the same measure of modesty.

Thank you, God bless America and God bless our veterans.

The American Legion National Headquarters Media & Communications

Indianapolis, Indiana

Veterans Day

★ November 11, 2025 



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