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# HONORING THE COURAGE OF OUR HEROES IN UNIFORM

On Veterans Day, we pause to reflect on the service and sacrifice of the men and women of the Armed Forces. We honor the memory of those who lost their lives protecting our nation's freedom. **Join us as we at Campbell & Fetter Bank salute these brave men and women.**



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PICASA

Close up of the U.S Air Force medals of honor



# What the Medals Mean

## BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Here's how to decode the incredible accomplishments each represents

Service personnel typically only wear their medals on special occasions. Otherwise, they're likely displayed at home or perhaps tucked away in a drawer. Those humble settings don't adequately tell the stories of bravery and valor behind each and every medal.

Familiarize yourself with their meaning before gathering at the family dinner table during the holidays. You'll have an entirely new appreciation for the sacrifices your relatives made in service of our country.

### Medal Of Honor

The nation's highest

military honor awarded by Congress is presented by the president, and honors conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. The medal was introduced in 1861, which created the Navy's Medal of Honor. Specific medals now exist for the Navy and Marine Corps, the Army, Air and Space Forces, and the Coast Guard.

### The Purple Heart

This medal is awarded in recognition and thankfulness to those who have been wounded in combat. Those who are eligible for a Purple Heart include anyone who served on or after April 5, 1917, when the U.S. joined other Allied Forces in World War I. Families of fallen troops also commonly

receive this award to honor their ultimate sacrifice for our country.

### Distinguished Service Cross

The distinguished service cross is the nation's second-highest award for military valor, and is awarded for acts of bravery that do not rise to the level of a Medal of Honor. The medal was established in 1918, and follows the Medal of Honor's

rules by having separate recognition for the Army, the Navy (the Navy Cross, which includes the Marine Corps), the Air Force and Space Force (Air Force Cross) and Coast Guard (Coast Guard Cross).

### Silver Star

The third-highest decoration for members of our armed forces recognizes gallantry in action with requirements below those of branch-specific service

crosses and the Medal of Honor.

### Distinguished Service Medal

This medal was established in 1918 and is awarded for meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility. The Army Distinguished Service Medal was established in 1918, followed by similar medals for the other branches of the armed forces.



## ORLAND AMERICAN LEGION POST 423

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Please contact Legion

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**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.



**James William Pierson Jr.**  
Corporal USMC  
Vietnam 1969-1971  
Jim, No matter how much time  
goes by, you are always in my  
heart and mind. I love you, Dinah



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

# Vietnam veteran speaks to John Houlton Chapter

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

AUBURN — Veteran Ed Placencia of Garrett revisited his service in Vietnam in a program he shared with members of the John Houlton Chapter, NSDAR at the Willennar Genealogy Center in October.

Placencia said he had a desire to serve his country

as soon as he graduated from high school, in part, to honor his father, who came to America from Mexico and daily shared with his sons “his deep gratitude for the privilege to live in this country.”

Placencia, who served in the 173rd Airborne Brigade, spent three years in Vietnam

from 1965 to 1968. His group was located along the Cambodia and Laos borders near the Ho Chi Minh Trail, the military supply route from North Vietnam to the South. He led his squad through jungle and terrain that demanded stealth and nerve. In trying “to take the hill” (Hill 875) at one time

they faced three regiments with 2,000 soldiers in each regiment. Caught in a deadly ambush by the Viet Cong, Placencia told of witnessing comrades being killed.

“We lost 147 men,” he said, adding, “They were the most courageous men who walked this earth.”

His story was informative as well as emotional. Placencia was wounded six times. “For some reason, I was supposed to come through this thing,” he said. Placencia confessed he became “angry and mad at God,” especially after learning “Father Waller was killed.” He then shared how he found peace.

At times Placencia is asked to speak to school groups.

“I tell them to be patriots,” he said. “I explain that being a patriot doesn’t mean being

a soldier. Don’t be a drag on your family, school, or your country.”

In closing, Placencia said the biggest thrill of his life was serving in the 173rd Airborne Infantry and jumping out of an airplane.

“I am happy I served my country,” he said simply.

After refreshments provided by hostesses Alice Richards and Jan Dantzer, Regent Nancy Brickley conducted a short business meeting. Karen Bash read the minutes, and Christine Steele gave the treasurer’s report. Sue Anderson introduced guests Darcy Armstrong and Julie Brindle, both potential members.

Members brought donations for Fort Wayne veterans. The next meeting will be Nov. 11.

**FREMONT AMERICAN LEGION POST 257**

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CONTRIBUTED  
**Jan Dantzer introduced Vietnam veteran and paratrooper Ed Placencia as the speaker at the John Houlton Chapter NSDAR "Honoring Our Veterans" meeting.**



**Alexander Iwankowitch, Jr.**  
U.S. Army PFC. E-3  
Vietnam 1963-65. A man of honor and integrity, both in his service to his country and in his personal life. Love Forever, his fiance, Sharon Rose



**Ellen Marie (McNabb) Bates**  
World War II  
Army Nurses Corps  
101 years young, forever faithful & my inspiration for service.  
Love, Nancy



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



**Leonard Baughman**  
Auburn High School  
Class of 1967  
US Air Force, 1968-1972  
Vietnam Veteran, 1969-1970  
Germany, 1970 to 1972  
Member of the American Legion Post 97

# 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 Confed-

erate 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.

SEE MEMORIALS, Page A19



USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor

FRANK LEE



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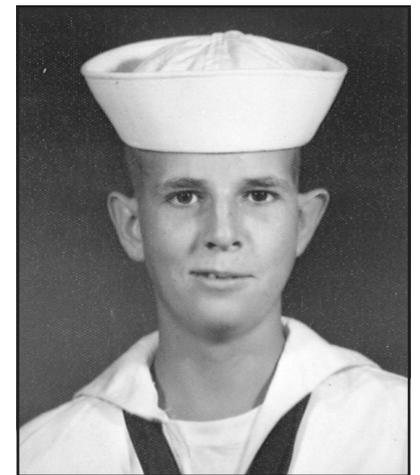
**Captain Gary Noll**  
1st Battalion  
293rd Infantry  
Army National Guard



**Clyde Handshoe SSGT**  
US Air Force 1971-1977  
Thank you for your service.  
Love and miss you, Nancy.



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



**Martin Snow**  
Honoring You For Your  
Service  
7th Fleet Aircraft Carrier  
1960-1963

# 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 conferencing 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.

**We Proudly Salute You!**  
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# How to Give Back

## BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Remember the military and their family during the holiday season

This time of year is all about family, but unfortunately members of our armed forces don't always enjoy that luxury. This puts an emotional strain on both those serving and the loved ones who've been temporarily left behind.

The good news is, there are a variety of ways for you to reach out and show gratitude for their service. You can volunteer your time, donate money, or help out with holiday-themed outreach efforts.

## Adopt A Military Family

Families who are celebrating without their service member may feel lonely, stressed and overwhelmed by financial problems. Make the season brighter by "adopting" them. That may mean stopping by to help with chores, baby or pet sitting, or assisting with their financial burdens. Purchase prepaid gift cards that can be directed to everyday necessities like gas, groceries or household essentials.

Buy a special present if there are



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small children who will miss their parent this holiday season. Offer to chip in so kids can continue to pursue their personal interests or hobbies, whether that means carpooling, serving as an assistant coach, or helping out by buying needed materials. Be open to the family's specific needs, and help fill whatever

voids are temporarily in place. It will be a great relief to our brave members of the armed services, while helping ease the pain of those they're so far away from.

## Volunteering Opportunities

Your local VA hospital is likely always in need of volunteer help, but

particularly during the holidays when there are special events and activities planned. Ask local representatives about volunteer opportunities, even if it's just to spend quality time with the patients. Other volunteer opportunities may be available through the local VFW, or human-resource directors at area veterans homes. Some older veterans may not have friends or family to spend the holidays with, and your presence could make all the difference.

## Make A Donation

Seek out local non-profits that distribute filled stockings to spread holiday cheer. They're typically given to both active-duty service personnel and veterans. These organizations may need help with donations, gifts or letters, filling the stockings themselves or delivering them. If no one in your area is participating in this fun and meaningful holiday activity, consider finding a community partner and starting your own stocking drive. Just make sure you have plenty of helpers to complete packaging and distribution.

# To Serve and Honor

Saluting our heroes, friends,  
and loved ones who served  
in the name of freedom.



**Harold Raymond Locke**

We love & miss you everyday!! Love your wife, Becky and children, Matt & Lori, Kim, Heather & Terry, and Chris & Amy and grandkids



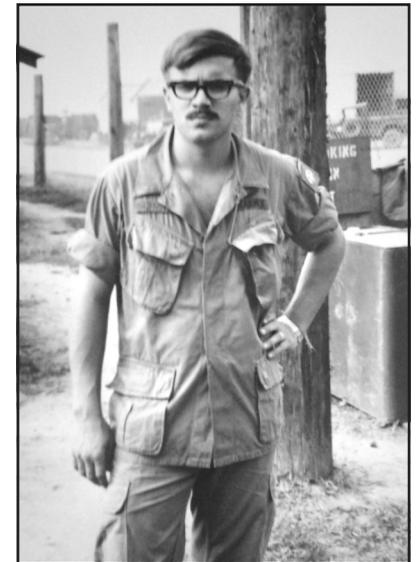
**Martin "Mike" L. Schwartz**

Corporal, Army Air Corp Okinawa, Japan, World War II



**Wayne Michael**

Wayne left for Korea 5 days after he married Carolyn Sue Withrow. He served the US Army there for the year 1952.



**Pat Frain**

Thank you for serving our country in Vietnam.

# Patriotic Displays

**BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA**

Show off your pride in America, but don't forget the rules

Displaying the flag outside your home is one of the most common ways we celebrate our country and the military's commitment to service. But before you do, familiarize yourself with the regulations

found in the U.S. Flag Code. There are specific ways Old Glory is to be handled, displayed and retired from service.

**Inside The Code**

The U.S. Flag Code was approved in June 1923, and is meant to guide patriotic residents through every step

of the process. Each element of the code ensures that the flag is treated with the dignity and respect befitting this symbol of our nation. All of the following rules are found in text from United States Code Title 4 Chapter 1.

**Outdoor Rules**

Correctly flying Old Glory

during the holiday season involves following a few simple rules. The banner should only be on display from sunrise to sunset, unless the building or outdoor staff is brightly lit. American flags should be flown at the peak of a staff or stationary pole, unless they have been ordered to half-staff. Purchase flags that are marked for all weather, since they are more durable in rain and wind and more resistant to fading or tearing.

**Flying At Half-Staff**

American flags are supposed to be flown at the peak of your staff or pole. There are regular occasions, however, when it's to be lowered halfway down – including Memorial Day, which honors military members who died in action. Elected officials may also

order flags to half-staff when there has been a local or national tragedy, the death of a high-ranking official, or during a national emergency.

**Retiring The Flag**

If your banner has begun to deteriorate over time, it's important to retire it with all due respect. The U.S. Flag Code provides strict guidelines. The flag should be folded, then burned in a fire that is intense enough to completely consume the material. As it burns, citizens should participate in a brief moment of silence, say the Pledge of Allegiance or simply salute the flag. Once the banner has completely burned, be sure to safely extinguish the ashes. If you have more questions, contact your local VFW post to find out more about local flag-burning ceremonies.

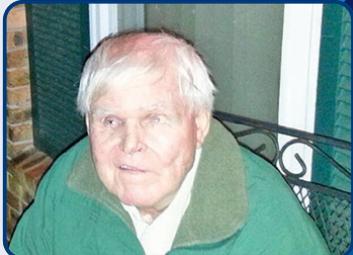


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# FAQ about Veterans Day

**BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION**

Each November, millions of people recognize the service and sacrifice of military veterans on Veterans Day. Initially commemorated as Armistice Day but renamed Veterans Day in the United States in 1954, the holiday is a federal holiday throughout the country.

The first Armistice Day was observed in 1919. Despite that lengthy history, the general public may still have questions about Veterans Day.

**When is Veterans Day observed?**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notes that Veterans Day is always observed officially on November 11, regardless of which day of the week that happens to be. In 2023, Veterans Day is Saturday, November 11. Because Veterans Day falls on a Saturday in 2023, the federal

observation date is Friday, November 10.

**Why is November 11 so significant?**

November 11 is a significant day in world history because it marks the signing of the armistice between the Allies of World War I and Germany at 5:45 a.m. on November 11, 1918. Though the formal peace treaty, the Treaty of Versailles, was not signed until 1919 and hostilities between the sides continued for hours after the armistice was signed, the day is still viewed as the end of World War I.

**What distinguishes Veterans Day from Memorial Day?**

The VA notes that Veterans Day honors all those individuals who served honorably in the military during both wartime and peacetime. Memorial Day is a day to honor and remember military personnel who died in the

service of their country, particularly those who lost their lives in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

**What is the significance**

**of red poppies?**

Red poppies are ubiquitous on Memorial Day, but they're also visible on Veterans Day. Though

it's not taboo to wear red poppies on Veterans Day, it's a tradition that aligns more with Memorial Day. That's because the poppies are

SEE FAQs, Page A19



CONTRIBUTED

**Noble County veterans take Honor Flight 45**

These seven Noble County veterans went on the 45th Honor Flight on Oct. 11. In the left row, from top, are Jim Boss and Tom Rose, both of Wawaka, Loren Winebrenner of Albion, and Kenny Gehring of Kendallville. In the row on the right, from top, are Bob Eyer, Kenny Stringfellow and Mike Kendall, all of Wawaka. Stringfellow has a letter to the editor about the experience on today's opinion page.

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# Know Your Military Holidays

**BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA**

Each of these annual commemorations has its own special meaning. The service and risks

taken by members of our armed forces while defending America should be remembered year-round. We also have specific holidays

dedicated to honoring the military which are spread out across the calendar and highlight their courage, bravery and sacrifice. Unfortun-

nately, some confuse the meanings behind Memorial Day, Veteran's Day and Armed Forces Day. Here's what they recognize:

days, though the Marine Corps Day continues.

**Memorial Day**

Memorial Day honors those who died while in military service. Originally celebrated on May 30, the date has been permanently moved to the last Monday in May as part of the Congress' Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1971. This holiday was originally called Decoration Day, and commemorated sacrifices made by Civil War soldiers beginning in 1868. A small flag is now placed on each grave at the sprawling Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day.

**Armed Forces Day**

Held on the third Saturday in May, Armed Forces Day pays tribute to all active personnel in our armed forces. Prior to 1949, each individual branch of the military had its own day of recognition for those currently serving. Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced a single holiday in conjunction with the unification of all branches under the new Department of Defense. The Army, Air Force and Navy discontinued their specific

SEE HOLIDAYS, Page A19

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**Orland Riders say thanks to veterans**

Orland Legion Riders Post 423 thanked Veterans residing in Angola's Nursing Homes last December. "We were so honored to be able to thank them personally and with gifts for their services in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines," a statement from the riders said. They also extended their thanks to the staffs at Lakeland and Northern Lakes nursing homes and rehabilitation centers for making Sunday special for the veterans and for these Riders pictured (not in order): Jim and Cheryl Horstman, Ryan Welch, Kris Briggs, Barry and Brenda Cork, Mike and Wendy Yoder, Frank Faust and Billie Oliver. This has become an annual event for the Orland Legion Riders.



# Veterans Day programs planned

GARRETT — Three Veterans Day programs are planned at Garrett schools on Friday, Nov. 10 in the Performing Arts Center.

Trent Zolman is guest speaker at each program.

High school programs will be from noon to 12:30 p.m. for freshmen and juniors, and from 12:35-1:05 p.m. for sophomores and seniors. The middle school program will be from 2-3 p.m.

Students will present a flag to the speaker as part of the program.



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# Sharing their stories

Veterans are interviewed by high school students

**BY JEFF JONES**  
jjones@kpcmedia.com

AUBURN — Documenting living history is important for current and

future generations. Students in DeKalb High School's New Tech program sat down with veterans from many backgrounds and experiences in March

at Auburn American Legion Post 97.

This is something that students did in 2019, but this year's effort introduced improved audio recording devices.

"It didn't quite pan out (the first time) so we wanted to try it again to better capture with high quality (audio) veterans stories," teacher Briana Schrock explained.

"We're running it parallel to a novel we're reading called 'Salt of the Sea' by Ruta Sepetys," teacher Cindy Boyd added. "It's a World War II novel and it's a little different perspective on the war than the traditional Holocaust novels are."

"We've been trying to come up with a project that we can run parallel and include veterans in," Boyd said. "This is the one that's stood out the most to us."

The teachers reached out to Travis Holcomb, Deputy Veterans Service Officer in DeKalb County. Holcomb and Veterans Service Officer Ronda Hunkler invited a group of veterans from different branches, backgrounds and experiences.

Male and female veterans who participated included

recipients of the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Silver Star, those who served in the Army, Navy and Air Force, and served either in peace or in Vietnam, the Gulf War, as well as in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With the interviews complete, students will write biographies about the veteran they interviewed. Those biographies will be paired with photos and displayed in businesses throughout the community.

In addition, the audio recordings will be donated to the Willennar Genealogy Center in Auburn, Boyd and Schrock said.

Each fall, New Tech students research famous and influential people from DeKalb County's history, turning that information into a wax museum at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum.

"This story is really important to us," Schrock said of the veterans. "Using the genealogy so much, we want to be able to have their stories on file for future generations."

"In our research, there's not a lot of information about people. People didn't

**SEE SHARE, Page A13**



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JEFF JONES

Lady, a service dog for U.S. Army veteran Bill Gibson, poses for a photo after Gibson was interviewed by students at Auburn American Legion Post 97.

# SHARE

## FROM PAGE A12

write biographies, didn't write autobiographies, so this is a way to preserve their stories for future generations."

"The focus of our classroom all year is on empathy and really putting yourself in someone else's shoes so you can understand the life they lived," Boyd added.

Some veterans prefer to keep the things they saw and experienced bottled up inside while others share just about everything.

Army veteran and retired National Guard member Larry Uehlein served in Vietnam.

"I love to see this," he said. "I think it's awesome.

"They asked me everything and I answered them and gave them more so they would understand better what it was about," Uehlein said.

"It's worth it. I think these kids will learn a lot," he continued. "It's good for them. You've got to remember; they're our future."

Army veteran Bill Gibson had a natural attraction with his service dog "Lady" by his side, wearing a vest that said "Service Dog. Do Not Pet."

As Gibson's interview wrapped up, Lady, who spent most of the time lying on the floor by his chair, on command, hopped up

onto an adjacent chair and received lots of loving from Gibson and several students.

"I think it's wonderful these young ladies and men are getting involved in the history of our country," Gibson said.

During his interview, Gibson said he shared information about his experiences in Vietnam, as well as how he became paired with Lady just over two years ago.

Lady is trained to alert on Gibson's post-traumatic stress disorder as well as when his blood sugar goes too low or high.

"She sleeps with me at night and wakes me up when my sugar drops or goes high," he said.

Gibson recommended students seek out a book about the Siege at Firebase Ripcord that happened in July 1970. Gibson explained about a third of the soldiers in his company were killed during this battle. Several Medals of Honor and Distinguished Service Crosses were awarded to participants in the battle.

During his interview, Lady laid on the floor beside Gibson's chair and later hopped up into an adjacent chair to give the students a closer look at her pretty face.

While Gibson said he doesn't talk much about his experiences, he decided to participate Monday. "They asked me to come and show her," he responded, gesturing to his four-legged



JEFF JONES

**U.S. Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient Jan Frazee, left, shares information about his service with students Maddison Odom and Luke Arnett.**



JEFF JONES

**U.S. Navy and Gulf War veteran Sarah Reasner, right, shares stories with DeKalb students Lilly Clark, left, and MacKenzie Smith at Auburn American Legion Post 97**



JEFF JONES

**Vietnam veteran Ed Placencia, left, a recipient of the Bronze Star and Silver Star, talks about his service with DeKalb New Tech students Michael Smith, Kole Davis and Braylen Shearer, right.**

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# SHARE

## FROM PAGE A13

companion. “Lady’s a lot of help to me.”

“Being in the veterans service arena, what we try to do, me and Ronda, is just outreach,” Holcomb said. “In the veterans’ circle, vets talk to each other but they don’t often get their stories out there to the outside.”

“This was a good opportunity for both programs to highlight what the New Tech program is doing at DeKalb but also to get 15 of our local veterans in here to tell their stories,” Holcomb said. “We thought that was important.”

Documenting the veterans’ experiences – to the point of which they’re comfortable talking – is important, Holcomb said.

“I think it’s important that a veteran, that he or she is able to share their story the way they see fit as they see fit,” he said. “The students

in my group did a great job. They had a list of prepared questions.

“Within those questions, the veteran has the ability to go to the limit on that they’re comfortable with. I think every veteran wants to share; it just depends on how much they want to share.”

“With the combat veterans here that aren’t comfortable, they can talk up to that point, not have to go past it, but still be able to get that experience out there,” Holcomb said. “That’s important for a lot of them.”

Holcomb served in the U.S. Army and National Guard, serving from 1995 until 2020, including service in Iraq.

“My experience was a little bit different from a lot of the veterans,” he explained. “Most veterans don’t retire from the service; I spent 25 years in the military. It was a good opportunity to share with a couple of students what it’s



JEFF JONES

**Service dog Lady lays close to her owner, U.S. Army veteran Bill Gibson, plaid shirt, as student Isaac Tuttle conducts an interview. Veteran Jan Frazee is shown at the right being interviewed by more students.**

like to live in the military your whole adult life.

“We talked about my combat experience, but we also talked about that

the military is a career,” Holcomb said.

“It was pretty cool to hear the stories they had to tell and all of the experience

they gained from being in the military,” student Aiden Tschebykin said.

“The news exaggerates a  
**SEE SHARE, Page A15**

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# DeKalb High School hosting Veterans Day program

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

WATERLOO — DeKalb High School invites all area military, veterans, law enforcement personnel and their families to attend its upcoming Veterans Day convocation.

The event will take place on Friday, Nov. 10, at 10 a.m. in the high school gymnasium. Honored guests are encouraged to attend a reception with light refreshments at 9:30 a.m.

DeKalb High School has been chosen by the Wounded Warriors Project: Warriors Speak team to host distinguished guest speaker Jennifer Jenkins at the convocation. Jenkins is an award-winning author, military caregiver, and an advocate for veterans and their families.

She is a devoted caregiver for her brother, Specialist

James W. Smith, US Army Retired, and a mother of a United States Marine. Additionally, she is the wife of a Navy veteran, making her deeply connected to the military and veteran communities.

A graduate of Indiana University, Jenkins has dedicated her career to advocacy and communications in support of veterans and their families. She is also a co-author of the book "Friends for Life: Strangers Brought Together by the War in Iraq," which received an Eric Hoffer Award for Legacy Non-Fiction.

Her work has touched the lives of many and has been recognized with numerous awards, including the President's Volunteer Service Award, the Girls' Inc. Strong, Smart, and Bold Award and the Herald-

Times Everyday Hero Award.

Jenkins is a Fellow with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and a proud member of organizations such as the

American Legion Auxiliary, VFW Auxiliary, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Veteran's Day Convocation will provide

a unique opportunity for those attending to hear Jenkins share her inspiring journey and insights on the importance of supporting our military and veterans.

## SHARE

### FROM PAGE A14

lot of what we see. The news makes it seem like a lot of bad that happens and a lot of death and killing.

"From what I heard from Travis (Holcomb), you make a lot of friends, and not everyone where you're stationed is bad people."

Students Kole Davis, Braylen Shearer and Michael Smith interviewed U.S. Army Vietnam veteran Ed Placencia, who is a recipient of the Bronze Star and Silver Star. The students said Placencia was very forthcoming in sharing his experiences.

"I loved his story," Smith

said. "It was amazing. I wanted to hear more and more, but he stopped before I knew it was over ... just an excellent story."

"We were able to learn so much that we weren't able to learn in school," Davis said. "It was very motivational."

"It really opened my eyes to the experiences that our vets had when they went to Vietnam and all the other places they ended up going to," Shearer said.

"It was really eye-opening and really expanded what I knew and how I felt toward it. Going into this, I was like, 'I don't know how I feel about killing.' I'm leaving this experience having learned a lot more than I expected to coming in."

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# Veterans honored with patriotic quilts

CONTRIBUTED

VFW Post 2749 Auxiliary presented Patriotic Quilts of Honor on Dec. 10 to three veterans nominated by VFW Post 2749 and Auxiliary members. Top left, Phil Morr served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He was a recipient of the Presidential Unit Citation from President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Presidential Unit Citation from the South Korean government, and the Korean Service Ribbon and Bronze Star. The quilts were presented to thank them for their service and for the sacrifices that they and their families made. Top right, Richard Wiard is VFW Post 2749's adjutant. Rich served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam era. Rich worked on aircraft while stationed in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967. Bottom left, Max Franklin has held many positions of support at VFW Post 2749. He is the 4th District member on the Noble County Council. Max retired from the U.S. Army as a master sergeant after 23 years of service. Max served in the Cold War and Desert Storm, being deployed four times to Iraq and Afghanistan.



CONTRIBUTED

Richard Wiard is VFW Post 2749's adjutant. Rich served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam era. Rich worked on aircraft while stationed in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967.



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Max Franklin has held many positions of support at VFW Post 2749. He is the 4th District member on the Noble County Council. Max retired from the U.S. Army as a master sergeant after 23 years of service. Max served in the Cold War and Desert Storm, being deployed four times to Iraq and Afghanistan.



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# Veterans Service Department services

Every county in Indiana, (92 in total) has a Veterans Service Department funded by county government, In Northern Indiana our Veteran Service Departments are a brother and sisterhood, all working together for the greater good of our Veterans, both deceased and alive, along with their families Some of the different types of services we provide are applications for access to VA Health-

care, information regarding burial benefits, such as VA National Cemeteries, free government headstone, assisting with filing VA Disability compensation claims, pension claims for Veterans and Surviving Spouses, along with information about Indiana State Benefits such as Military Family Relief Fund, Disability Veterans Property Tax Deductions, tuition and fee exemption

for the children of disabled veterans, reduced fees for fishing and hunting license for disabled Veterans, information about Golden Hoosier Passports for

Disabled Veterans, GI Educational Benefits and VA Home Loan information. The DeKalb County Veteran Service Officers, Ronda Hunker and

Brandon Lee, are available at 925-0131 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Office hours are by appointment only on Wednesday mornings at 220 E. 7th St. Auburn.

## Did you know?

### BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Estimates from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicate that there were around 19 million veterans in the United States in 2021. Veterans Day, observed each year on November 11, honors all those who served honorably in the U.S. military during both wartime and peacetime. Data from the VA indicates that, as of 2016, Gulf War veterans account for the largest share of all U.S. veterans. Roughly 7.8 million veterans served during the Gulf War. Vietnam veterans also make up a sizable percentage of U.S. military veterans, as VA estimates indicate there were approximately 5.9 million veterans who fought in the Vietnam War in 2021. Though veterans need not have served in wartime in order to be recognized and honored on Veterans Day, the vast majority of U.S. veterans served during wartime. According to the VA, 78 percent of veterans in 2021 had served during wartime.

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

Happy Veterans Day!



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# Courthouse illuminated in green through Nov. 11

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

AUBURN — The DeKalb County Courthouse will be illuminated green Nov. 1-11 as part of Operation Green Light, a new initiative between the DeKalb County Veterans Service Office, the DeKalb County Commissioners, 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.

On May 1, 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 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," Holcomb stated.

Hunkler and Holcomb encourage everyone to join the county government by displaying a green light for veterans and their families.

Hunkler and Holcomb extend special thanks to the commissioners for their support and Larry Lane who was instrumental with the installation of the green bulbs and green lenses used

SEE COURTHOUSE, Page A19



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Thank you to our very own veterans!



Richard Notestine  
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## MEMORIALS

FROM PAGE A5

### 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.

## HOLIDAYS

FROM PAGE A10

### Veteran's Day

Celebrated annually every Nov. 11, this holiday celebrates American veterans from all wars. The date was originally chosen to commemorate the end of World War I, as Allied Forces and Germany signed an armistice on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. The holiday was originally known as Armistice Day, before being updated to honor all service members in June 1954.

### Other Key Dates

Other key military-related dates throughout the year include the Navy Reserve's birthday on March 3, Gold Star Wives Day on April 5, the Air Force Reserve's birthday on April 14, the Army Reserve's birthday on April 23, the Army's birthday on June 14, the Coast Guard's birthday on Aug. 4, the Air Force's birthday on Sept. 18, Gold Star Spouse's Day and Father's Day on the last Sunday in September, the Navy's birthday on Oct. 13 and the Marine Corps birthday on Nov. 10.

## FAQS

FROM PAGE A9

typically worn to honor fallen military personnel. A 1915 poem written by a Canadian Lieutenant Colonel named John McCrae referred to the fields of poppies growing around the graves of World War I soldiers in Flanders.

### Do other countries honor their military veterans?

Many countries across the globe honor their

military veterans, and many do so on November 11 as well. For example, Canadians and Australians observe Remembrance Day in honor of their nation's respective veterans on November 11. Great Britain observes Remembrance Day on the Sunday nearest to November 11.

Veterans Day is a day to honor and commemorate the brave men and women who have honorably served in the U.S. military during wartime and peacetime.



## COURTHOUSE

FROM PAGE A18

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.

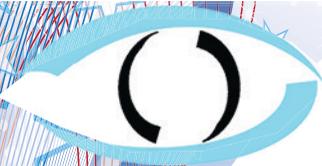
Participants are encouraged to share their participation on social media using the hashtag #OperationGreenLight.

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

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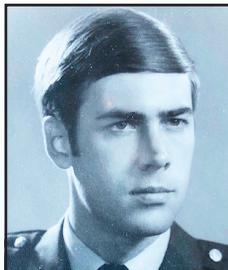
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