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# CHASKA HERALD

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Robert Cormican, left, and Ryan Wales stand at the The Forge's counter.

PHOTO BY AMY FELEGY

## 'Victoria's hero'

### Remembering Sgt. Notermann

BY CHUCK RUPNOW

Hugs, tears, reminiscing and congratulatory comments were everywhere Friday afternoon at the Charlson Thun Community Bandstand area in Victoria.

Most of that emotional atmosphere centered on tributes for Sgt. Michael W. Notermann, the sole Victoria resident killed in action during the Vietnam War.

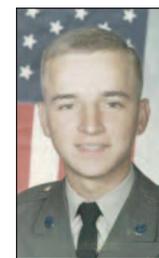
Many of Notermann's 12 siblings, along with a handful of his 1967 Chaska High School graduating class, were in attendance for the city's volunteer appreciation program, that included recognition of Notermann.

Ann Miller, one of Notermann's sisters, said she contacted city officials about a possible tribute for her brother.

"I knew that other cities name streets and things for fallen soldiers, so I approached the city of Victoria last summer, asking them respectfully if they would consider something, since my family has deep roots in Victoria," Miller said.

"I was hoping for something last year, which would have been the 50th anniversary of his death, but COVID took that away," she added. "The city put this together and we are extremely thankful. It means so much to all of us who think of and miss Mike every day."

Miller, of Owatonna, is using old letters, cards and notes, as well as interviews with relatives and friends, to write a book about



Sgt. Michael Notermann

Noterman to 11 >

# IN FULL FORGE

## 'Living the dream' at game shop

BY AMY FELEGY  
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Plenty of people are familiar with D&D, the story-based tabletop game Dungeons and Dragons. But how many know R&R — Robert and Ryan? Friends and now-business partners Robert Cormican and Ryan Wales teamed up to create something new: Chaska's only game store.

It all started with a seemingly simple question.

"Hey, you want to do something really dumb?" Wales asked in the middle

of the pandemic, referring to opening the game store.

Cormican's immediate answer? "Yes." Now, that question has shifted to, "How will you 'Forge' your adventure?"

It's the tagline atop the website of The Forge, Chaska Commons' newest addition in Beadville USA's old lime-green and purple-painted space. Since opening in February, just four weeks after taking over the space, customers have been streaming in.

Walk inside and you'll notice the atmosphere immediately. Tattoo parlor meets coffee shop meets game store, as the two put it.

"You know what I mean? All the cool lo-fi (music), really fun feelings, but at the same time like you could also walk in and we're jamming metal," Cormican says.

"We're living the dream. Yeah, there's work, but I get to do the things that I love everyday."

**Ryan Wales**  
The Forge co-owner

Wales grew up in game stores just like the ones they spend 70 hours a week working in now. The two play everything, for the most part: Dungeons and Dragons, Magic: The Gathering, Warhammer, the list goes on.

Wales lives in Cologne with his wife and two dogs; Cormican is moving from St. Paul to Chaska with his wife and child (and an

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