

Veterans Day

Tribute





Parker J. Jahnigen, Versailles, Navy E-4, currently serving since 2018, seated, is pictured with Jerald Jahnigen, Army Veteran of the Korean War.



Dan Cyrus,
Osgood,
United States
Marine Corp
69-71



Pictured from left Ed Schmidt, Mike Greco, and Carl Moore, Osgood veterans who recently taught fourth graders at Jac-Cen-Del Elementary proper flag etiquette.

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Veterans Day

Tribute



PFC Casey Burdette, Milan,
active duty Ft. Bragg
Airborne and Mechanic



Reid Meyer
Batesville
Sgt. US Marines
Fought in Somalia and Iraq

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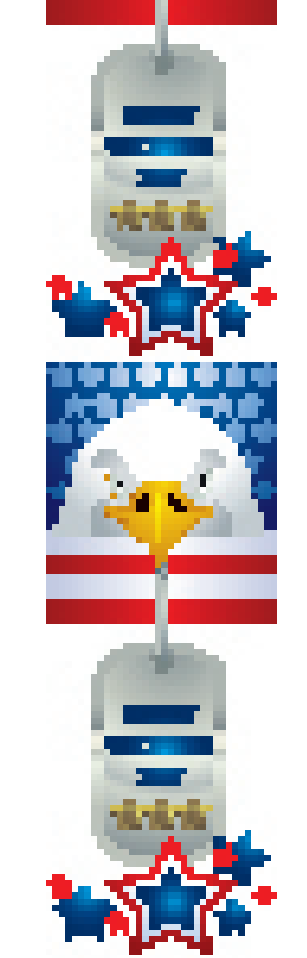
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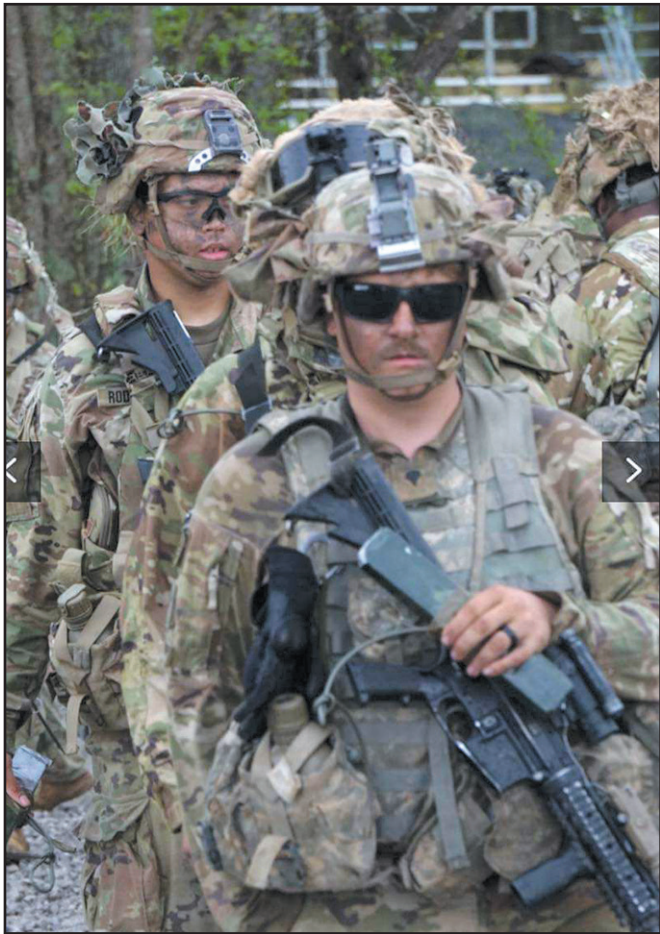
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Veterans Day

Tribute

Help lay a wreath on the grave of a local veteran

A dream one day and reality the next is just how Wreaths Across America – Ripley County initiative was born.

According to Owen Menchhofer, who initiated the event last year and together with Ross’ Run DAR and Ripley County Historical Society, put wreaths on all veteran graves in the Tanglewood Cemetery, this year all cemeteries in the county will have wreaths on the graves of those who have served.

“This first year is a challenge,” Menchoffer noted, but thankfully he’s not alone. After taking his idea to Amy Streator of the Ripley County Community Foundation (RCCF), the wheels are in motion to raise the \$60,000 needed to place these wreaths on every local hero’s headstone. However, help is needed.

The RCCF needs to raise the money before November 15. They are well on their way to that goal with only \$27,000 remaining to be raised.

“Working with the Wreaths Across America Program allows our organization an unique opportunity to show our appreciation for the sacrifices our family, friends, and neighbors made to protect our freedom,” stated Streator, Executive Director of the Foundation. She said, “Wreaths Across Ripley County is just one way that the community foundation is able to connect willing donors with a cause that unifies us as a community.” That is the mission of the Foundation is to connect people who care with causes that matter.

As Veterans Day is celebrated, the realization that over 4,000 veterans are laid to rest in the county brings the message directly home. This is a county of selfless people who served and are still serving in the Armed Forces. There are military graves all the way back to the Civil War and some as new as the conflict in Iraq. Some were killed while serving, others served, came home, and quietly blended into society still baring secret scars of war.

Menchhofer said the ‘back’ story to this event is he was at the Tanglewood Cemetery cleaning up when a little piece of paper fell off a wreath. It was from the Wreaths Across America project from last year. He put it in his pocket and thought he would check it out. He did, but it was a while later. By the time he realized what it was about, he had gone to Hawaii with his family and there saw the Punchbowl Cemetery where thousands of military graves were decorated with those same wreaths.

Some of the wreaths at the cemetery in Hawaii had fallen over. Menchhofer and his granddaughter, Ava, began to pick them up and the magnitude of the meaning of those wreaths was bearing on his mind. “I knew we had to do this in Ripley County,” he said. He used the moment as a teaching tool for his granddaughter, but he said it was really him who learned something that day.

“I knew Amy (Streator) and thought about how she is always looking for ways to use the Foundation to bring the county together,” Menchhofer said.

The beautiful balsam wreaths made in Worcester, Maine, will be coming to Ripley County with the help of many people. “We need money, volunteers, and people to participate in the ceremony, which is designated for December 17 on National Wreaths Across America Day. The mission of this organization is to: Remember those US veterans who have fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the value of freedom to our children.

How can you help? There are four sponsorship levels: Individual (1 wreath) for \$15; Family (5 wreaths) for 475; Small Business (10 wreaths) for \$150; or a Corporate Sponsorship (100) wreaths for \$1500. To donate or learn more about sponsoring a wreath for a local hero, you can visit www.rccfonline.org or call 812-933-1098. You can also stop by the Ripley County Community Foundation office located at 13 E. George Street, Suite B, Batesville.

Ripley County is once again leading the way by being the first county in the state to have all veterans honored with a wreath this year.



Tec 5
Ralph Scott Hehe
HQ Co 2 Bn 3 Inf.
Division
World War II



Corporal Robert E.
Flodder
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U.S. Army Air Corps
World War II



SSgt Joshua Flodder
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- Charles Blair Jr., Versailles, U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne
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- Lance Corporal Joseph Steven Dean, Napoleon, USMC
- E4 Brandi Jo Dean, Napoleon, U.S. Army
- Sgt. Benjamin Howard Dean, Napoleon, USMC
- Cpl. Steve Spencer, Batesville, U.S. Army Reserves
- E5 Donald Comer, Osgood, U.S. Army
- E3 James Comer, Osgood, U.S. Navy
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