

Remembering these Louisa County Veterans who made the Ultimate Sacrifice

Following are Louisa County Veterans who gave their lives during various wars to help preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. A special thanks goes to Tim Wink who researched those Louisa County Veterans who gave their lives during the Civil War. Please let us know if there are any omissions, and we will be sure to include them in our November Veterans' Day issue.

CIVIL WAR

George B. Livingston, Columbus City; Theodore Pallett, Port Louisa; Joshua B. Sullivan, Grandview; William Butler, Fredonia; Alexander E. McConnell, Morning Sun; Alexander Britt, Fredonia; Levi M. Roberts, Columbus City; Franklin A. Royer, Columbus City; Joseph Neal, Columbus City; George Easton, Columbus City; William W. Edmondson, Columbus City; Leslie Gambell, Columbus City; Cicero H. Shephard, Columbus City; Justis L. Stauber, Columbus City; John J. Ellis, Fredonia; John A. Matthews, Columbus City; Aaron M. Ashford, Columbus City; Wesley Smice, Fredonia.

WORLD WAR I:

William Bazil, Harold Cochran, Leo Cochran, Franklin Gaylord Darrow, Friend L. Glidden, Allen Wright Hanft, Milton Hardman, Fred Hays, Fred Lieberknecht, Joseph McAvoy, James O'Toole, Robert W. Salladay, Leland Scott, Carl Stone, Garland Teel, Luther Vollmer, Robert Weber, Clifford White.

WORLD WAR II:

John J. Arihood, Phillip W. Bailey, Arthur Bass, Dean Bisher, Robert Alan Blair, Donald T. Blake, Roy E. Bond, Robert Keith Buffington, David W. Cassabaum, John W. Cassabaum, Hugh Carroll Davis, Ted Davis, Royce Dickerson Jr., Thomas Eland, Hershel L. Finke, Ben Finley, Forrest R. French, Kenneth Gerling, Eugene R. Gookin, Raymond Gunnells, Joe Harris, Harold F. Harter, Sam Herr, Lawrence Herrick, Everette C. Holliday, John Isom, Lee Jones, Maurice J. Kerr Jr., James M. Mickey, James Mitchell, Thomas Alan Moore, Jakie P. Moran,

Rex Richard Orris, Lawrence L. Owen, Roy E. Pendell, George W. Person, Merle E. Scott, Kenneth Shellabarger, Vernon Shellabarger, Robert Smith, Walter Smoger, Wayne Sutton, John William Swan, John N. Thompson, Theodore R. Tucker, Charles Baker Venard, Perry D. Venard, Philip M. Walsh, Frank Richard Williams, William Robert Williams, Claude (Billy) Wolford

WWII MIA:

Glen Lewis Alan, Cyril Cline, John Tedford Duncan, Charles Thomas Odle, John Henry Springer, Roy S. Swan, John Walker, Glen L. Winder

KOREAN WAR:

Raymond Chapman, Gerald Faber, Fred Goss, Merlin McKeeber, Wayne Nicewanner, Lawrence H. Stigge

VIETNAM WAR-KIA OR MIA:

James D. Johnson, Craig B. Wolford, Brian D. McConahay, David L. Siverly, Burton E. Small, Dean A. Jackson, Max Lukenbach, Manzelle Alan Ford, Bruce Hankins.

DESERT STORM:

Eloy Angel Rodriguez Jr.

IRAQ WAR:

Bruce A. Smith, Trace Dossett

Memorial Day Services will be held on Monday, May 31, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Columbus City Cemetery with Post # 100 Chaplain James Braden as the speaker, and at 11:00 a.m. at the Conesville Cemetery with Rev. Rick Crooks as the speaker.

Briefly -

Relay For Life golf tournament

A 4-Person Best Shot Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 5, 2010 at the Cedar Crest Country Club in Columbus Junction to benefit the Louisa County Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society. Tee times are 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Teams may consist of 4 men, 4 women, or any combination (co-ed). Entry fee is \$100.00 per team. There will be hole prizes, a 50/50 drawing, drawing for prizes, and a \$1,000 prize for a hole-in-one on Hole #9. Contact Cedar Crest Country Club at 319-728-8461 to sign up and reserve your cart.

Roundy Elementary thank you

A Thank-You celebration for the Roundy and Smylie Families will be held at the Roundy Gym on Friday, May 28th from 8:45 to 9:15 a.m.

Colonial Manor Remembrance Service

You are invited to attend a Remembrance Service today, Wednesday, May 26th, at 3:00 p.m. in the Colonial Manor Activity Room. We will be remembering: Charles Buser, Evelyn Finke, Lillian Fisher, Wilma Flanagan, Ray Galitz, Dorothea Gambee, Dean Gipple, Howard Griffith, Lois Houseal, Anna Hamilton, Velma Lee, Charlotte Morrison, Roger Pretz, Stanley Randolph, Gerald Scotton, Woodrow Shearer, Lucille Wenger, and Irv White.

Empowerment Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa County Caring CommUNITY Empowerment Board will be meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle Street, Mediapolis, IA, today, Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

Farmers' Market this Friday

The Columbus Junction Farmers' Market is held Fridays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. through October 8 at the American Legion parking lot, 99 Second St., Columbus Junction. The market features regional vendors selling Iowa-grown produce, plants, baked goods, eggs, snacks, crafts and more. Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards, IFMNP/WIC checks, Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition checks and Louisa Bucks are welcome. Buy local and taste the difference! This week we'll have free CJ Farmers' Market refrigerator magnets thanks to the community Foundation of Louisa County and free marigold seeds courtesy of Keep Columbus Beautiful.

Fish tales from the brush

You are cordially invited to a free breakfast Saturday, June 5 at 8 a.m. at the Briggs Center, Wapello. The speaker will be Rob Norton a former bush pilot and registered Alaskan fishing guide. Norton has tied a record for fly-fishing by catching Chinook salmon weighing 52 pounds on a fly rod. He will be sharing some of his experiences as a bush pilot, marine and fishing guide. Come join the fun!

Flag volunteers needed at cemetery

Volunteers are needed to place flags at the Columbus City Cemetery on Saturday, May 29th at 7 a.m. and taken down on Wednesday, June 2nd at 5 p.m.

Legion seeks flag help

On Thursday, May 27th the Legion, Sons and Auxiliary members are invited to come to the Columbus City Cemetery at 5:30 to put up grave marker flags for Memorial Day.

City Council meets tonight

City of Columbus Junction will hold their regular meeting on Wednesday, May 26th, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the New Civic Center / City Hall.

Social at Pleasant Grove

The Pleasant Grove Church is having a neighborhood ice cream social and potluck supper, Sunday June 6 at 5:00 p.m. Please bring dish to pass, lawn chair, and sunshine. If the weather does not cooperate for being outside we will have it in the church basement. Table service and drink provided. Mark your calendars for an evening of good food and fellowship.

School retirement party

Sunday, May 30, 2010 please come and help us honor our music directors Steve Helscher and Jay Hauenstein as they retire from CCHS. We have some construction-taking place at the high school, so there are a few amendments to the open house for Steve and Jay. It will still be held at 2 p.m. but everything will be in the auditorium and there will be a reception following, but it may take place in the hallway outside the auditorium. The program will begin at 2 p.m., the first half of the program will recognize Steve and the program for Jay will follow immediately after, with a reception following where refreshments will be served.

Message to Fredonia residents

To Fredonia Residents: We, the City of Fredonia, are informing you that we are holding two information meetings on June 7th at Noon and again at 7:00 p.m. These meetings will be in regard to water damage to homeowners' properties from 1993 to the present date. We, the City of Fredonia City Council members are applying for grant money and need proof of damage and man-hours spent cleaning and fixing the damage. Any documentation, photos, bills and insurance bills that were not reimbursed by FEMA brought to these meetings will help us solve this problem. Contact City Council members or the Mayor if you have questions. Thank you, Mayor Al Sonderberg.

Fly-in breakfast in Winfield

The Winfield Lion's Club will be serving the 32nd annual Memorial Day Fly-In breakfast hosted by Sheldon and Sandy Kongable on their farm two miles NE of Winfield on Monday, May 31st. Everyone is welcome to come enjoy a breakfast of biscuits and sausage gravy, egg casserole, rolls, juice, milk and coffee, all for a freewill donation. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. So whether you come by plane or train, bus or car, on foot or horseback - everyone is invited to come and enjoy the food, fellowship and fun. The proceeds go to support local projects sponsored by the Winfield Lion's Club.

Blood drive in Wapello

The University of Iowa DeGowin Blood Center along with UI Health Care Wapello will be conducting a blood drive from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, June 25, 2010 at the Wapello Ambulance Barn, 400 US 61 S. To schedule a time to donate, call UI Health Care Wapello at 319-523-8205. Walk-ins welcome! Donors who last gave blood on or before April 30, 2010 are eligible. Donors must be in general good health, be cold and flu symptom free for 5 days, weigh at least 110 lbs and bring a photo ID. Donors must be 17 years of age to donate, 16 with an approved UI DeGowin consent form. If you have questions concerning your eligibility please call the UI DeGowin Blood Center at 319-356-2058.

Local parents proud of sons serving in military

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

With Memorial Day upon us once again I am bringing two local families stories to you. Both families have sons who are actively serving our country now. The first couple is Rod and Suzie Staats of rural Columbus Junction.

Below, written in their own words, are how proud they both are of their sons and of all military personal.

We are proud that both of our sons are currently serving their country in the US military. Both of our sons are Columbus Junction natives. The oldest is SPC Robert "RJ" Staats of the 267th Quarter Master Co, US Army. He and his wife, Ashley, are currently stationed at Ft. Lee, Virginia, although, he is currently deployed to the Balgram Air Force Base in Afghanistan. RJ served in the National Guard for 2 years before joining the Army. He has now been on active duty for 4 years. Our second son, CPL Mitchell Staats of Scout Platoon, 1st Tank Battalion, US Marine Corps is an infantry assaultman. He and his wife, Emily, are currently stationed at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in 29 Palms, CA. He is currently deployed to Constanta, Romania serving in the Black Sea Rotational Force. Mitchell is on his first enlistment; he has been in the Corps for two and a half years now.

We are not sure how we got here. RJ and Mitchell each pursued their military careers on their own, without any provocation from us. We will admit that it wasn't our first choice for our sons to choose such dangerous jobs. But as always we have supported their choices, especially with the war going on. Yet with all the time spent worrying, we have learned to adapt to military life. We have learned how to continually support our sons through boot camp and recruit training to schools and new duty stations. We have visited both bases and enjoy the opportunity to travel. There is nothing that can compare to military life. Even those who don't have someone in the military should go to a base and experience the life our Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, and Marines live every day. There is so much pride and respect there. We have two daughters-in-law, a grandson, and our

own parents that are carrying the burden, too. It really helps to have such a supportive family. There are no words to express our thanks to any of our military or their family members. The sacrifice is great, but the rewards are greater. And I do not want to forget my brother-in-law who has served in the Air Force for almost 30 years. Maybe it was from him that our boys got their inspiration? Thanks Uncle Todd! It has been a pleasure meeting all the great military buddies that have come home to share the holidays with us. There is no better feeling than that of being a military parent. And even when their careers end and they finally come home, I'm sure that feeling will never go away.

The next story comes from Mike and Pam Braun of rural Columbus Junction their son; Sam serves in the Army and is home on a 2-week leave from Iraq.

SPF Samuel Braun serves with the 10th Mount Infantry Division based out of Fort Drum New York was sent to Iraq in October of 2009. Pam's Special Education class at Columbus Community School wanted to send items to the 10 members of his squad to let them know they were thought about by not only their family but by kids of the community where Sam grew up. So with the help of Pam and her Associates, Barb Carlson, Mabelle Milder and Tammi Castillo, the kids at Christmas made and decorated cardboard stockings filled with goodies. Then once again on Valentine's Day they made and collected more items to send to the squad.

Sam was stationed at an Outpost in Iraq, where they did not have access to a PX, so when they received the items and treats from the kids, they were grateful for everything they received. They also appreciated that the kids took the time to show them how much they cared.

When Sam's Squad leader knew Sam was going to get to come home for 2 weeks, he gave Sam an American Flag that flew over their camp to bring home and present it to his mom's classroom as a thank you from all 10 servicemen.

When Sam joined the Army in 2009 he was sent to Fort Drum following Basic Training and Paratrooper training and left a few short weeks later for Iraq. The Braun's feel having a son serve in the military has



SPC Robert "RJ" Staats and Cpl Mitchell Staats



SPF Samuel Braun presents his base camp flag to his Mother's class at Roundy Elementary

been a big adjustment. Mike and Pam are very proud of the work Sam, as well as all men and women serving their country, are doing to protect us. The Brauns' family appreciates all the support the community, the school, and St. Joseph's Parish have done to send boxes and give moral support to Sam, while he has been gone.

As another Memorial Day comes and goes and we stop to remember those who served before us let us not forget those that are serving us now proudly, bravely with honor, pride and patriotism. God Bless the troops and God Bless our Great Country.

After doing the story above I re-

alized we have a lot of proud family members with sons/daughters serving in the military. My hope is to bring you more of these stories in the weeks ahead. So if you are a family or know of a family I would be honored to tell their story for you. Please call the Columbus Gazette for more details.

Due to the Memorial Day weekend, the Gazette deadline for news and advertising for next week's issue will be noon on Friday