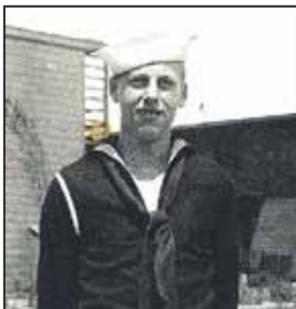


# Honor Tour to depart from Columbus Junction

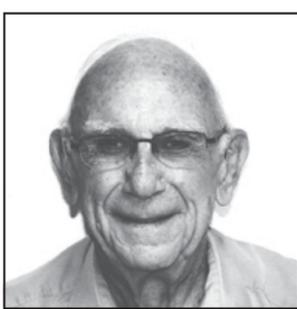
Twelve Louisa County Veterans to make the trip to Washington D.C.



Merwyn Buster military photo



Dwight Clark military photo



Dwight Clark today



Robert Evans today



Paul Leinbach military photo



Paul Leinbach today



Cleo Orris military photo



Cleo Orris today



Milo Orris military photo



Milo Orris today



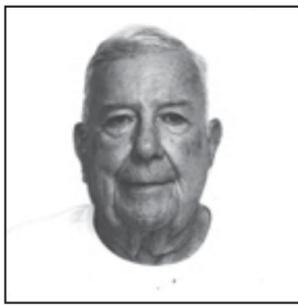
Herman Redwine military photo



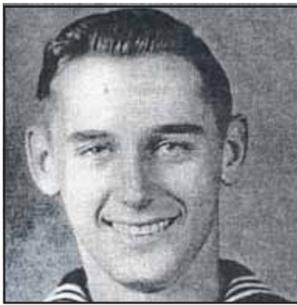
Herman Redwine today



Tommy Thomas military photo



Tommy Thomas today



Robert Walker military photo



Robert Walker today



Raymond Werner military photo



Raymond Werner today



Ray Whittaker military photo



Ray Whittaker today

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

When I was a kid growing up I knew that my Dad, my uncles and their contemporaries were in the war, but I never really gave it much thought. When these men got together war stories were never traded, discussions generally centered on sports, jobs, raising families etc. So I just took it for granted that these were the topics on their minds, the war was old news to them.

But today, as we lose thousands of these World War II Veterans daily, stories of their heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to duty are coming to the forefront. It's obvious to me now, after learning of their deeds, that the war was never old news to them. It certainly was always on their minds, but just pushed back as they dealt with day-to-day life. I wish now, as I'm sure that many of us do, that I would have given some indication to Dad of my respect for his involvement in nine invasions in the South Pacific, to my uncle Bernie for the many sea battles in the Pacific that his ship participated in, locally to Ralph Ortberg for being on Iwo Jima and witnessing the famous flag raising, to Doc Divency

for enduring a German Prisoner of War Camp. The list could go on, but regrettably these men are gone now, as are so many.

However, through the World War II Honor Tour, we have been given a new opportunity to show our respect and appreciation for what these Veterans gave us. And the citizens of Louisa County have responded overwhelmingly in their generosity to give every Veteran that wishes the opportunity to travel, expense free, to Washington D.C. to tour the World War II Memorial along with several other sites.

And now we can even do more. On Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, the next Honor Tour will depart from Columbus Junction. It is our chance to not only participate in the send-off, but also express in person to these, as well as all veterans, our appreciation for their sacrifices. Thirty-one veterans will be traveling on this tour, with twelve of the veterans having Louisa County connections. The Louisa County Veterans are: Cleo Orris, Mike Orris, Merwin Buster, Tommy Thomas, Howard Hobbs, Paul Leinbach, Herman Redwine, Ray Whittaker, Ray Werner, Bob Evans, Bob Walker and Dwight

Clark. The send-off will be held at the Columbus Junction American Legion. A meal will be served to the veterans, with the public program beginning at 1:00 p.m. The colors will be presented by the Wapello VFW, the Columbus Junction American Legion's Honor Guard will present a twenty-one gun salute, and the Columbus Community High School Band will provide music. An invocation will be given by American Legion member James Braden, and Legion Commander Kenny Martin will address the veterans.

After the program the veterans will board a bus and, before departing town, will drive past the Columbus Community School and Roundy Elementary. The bus will then be accompanied by the Louisa County Sheriff's Department to L-M School, where the bus will drive past both the High School and Elementary School. The Muscatine County Sheriff's Department will then accompany the bus to Muscatine where it will drive past the schools before departing to the Quad City Airport.

This send-off is truly a stirring ceremony, and will be something that will not only be remembered forever



Howard Hobbs military photo

by the Veterans, it will also be a lifetime remembrance for those witnessing it. It is our chance to finally, even if in memory, say thanks to our dads, our uncles, our relatives and friends who gave so much for us to enjoy the freedoms we have today. So be sure to reserve the afternoon of September 28<sup>th</sup> to help be a part in giving a long overdue THANK YOU to a group of Americans who will humbly tell you "we were just doing our job." A complete schedule of events and logistics will be in next week's Gazette.

## Briefly -

### FCCLA to host blood drive

Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is announcing a blood drive sponsored by Columbus Community High School FCCLA on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 from 1:30-6:30 p.m., at the American Legion Hall in Columbus Junction. To donate, call Lois Mincks at 319-728-2231, ext. 3332 or email her at: lois.mincks@columbus.k12.ia.us.

### CCIC to meet

C.C.I.C. will meet on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m., at the Columbus City City Hall. There will be a potluck meal - hot dogs, table service and drinks will be furnished. Mike and Arlene will be hosts.

### Ice Cream Social in Columbus City

The Columbus City United Methodist Church invites the public to an ice cream social and cakewalk on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 4 p.m. A free will offering will be accepted for the ice cream and toppings. The price for the cakewalk is \$1.00 for 4 tickets. Come and enjoy some old fashioned fun! This event is sponsored by the Columbus City United Methodist Adult Fellowship.

### CCHS Class of 1974 to hold reunion

The Columbus Community Class of 1974 will hold their 35-year Class Reunion on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at Cedarcrest Country Club. Meal served at 6:30 PM. \$15.00 per person. Please contact Jan Wagoner 319-728-2638, or by mail at 623 2nd Street in Columbus Junction, 52738 with your reservation and meat choice (ribeye steak or chicken breast). I would also ask any parents that still live locally to contact their children that no longer live in the area to remind them to respond. We would love to hear from them even if they aren't able to make the trip.

### CCHS Class of 1979 to hold reunion

Join us for an informal 30-year reunion on Columbus Day October 10th. Watch the parade, meet for dinner at Thirsty Camel Supper Club at 5 pm, and then enjoy the downtown entertainment at night on Main Street, Columbus Junction. For more information please email [columbuscommunityclassof79@hotmail.com](mailto:columbuscommunityclassof79@hotmail.com).

### Free community entertainment

Bring your family, friends, blankets and chairs and enjoy an evening of entertainment under the stars. The classic movie E. T. will be shown beginning at dusk at the Senior Center parking lot this Saturday night, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Free popcorn will be available and everyone is welcome! Community movie nights are made possible with support from the Columbus Junction Public Library, the Senior Center, and the Community Foundation of Louisa County.

### Greene Family reunion planned

The Greene Family Reunion will be held on Sunday, September 27, 2009 at the cabin in Chautauqua Park in Columbus Junction, IA. Bring a covered dish and table service for your family. Try to attend, as the next reunion will be in 2 years. Lunch will be served at 12:15 PM.

### Master Gardeners to meet

The Louisa County Master Gardeners will be meeting on September 22, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Louisa County ISU Extension Office (317 Van Buren in Wapello). Shane Mairet, Mairet's Garden Center, LLC., will be presenting the program on Colorful Fall Plantings, Fall Gardening Tips, and 2010 Perennial Selections. Business meeting to follow. Please remember to bring "Garden 4 X 4 Bounty Basket" items for our final delivery. All Master Gardeners/Interns welcome.

### Cruise-in at Heritage Center

WAPELLO - Memory Lane Cruisers will hold a cruise-in beginning at 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Louisa County Heritage Center, 609 N. James L. Hodges Ave. (Highway 61), Wapello. Everyone is invited to stop by and view the classic cars, talk to the owners and visit the museum, which will be open 5-7 p.m.

### Rural Water meeting set

The Louisa County Rural Water Committee will hold a public informational meeting on Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the L-M High School Gym.

### Williams Family plans reunion

The family of Richard and Jane Williams will hold their 73<sup>rd</sup> annual Williams family reunion on Sunday, September 20, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. in the cabin at Chautauqua Park in Columbus Junction.

### Farmers' Market this Friday

Fridays 4:30 to 6:30 at the American Legion parking lot, through October 9. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, homemade noodles, jams and jellies, frozen meat, plants, iced tea and lemonade, crafts and even dog treats! Buy fresh and local - taste the difference. Support the local economy. For more information including how to participate as a vendor contact Mallory or Nitzza at 319-728-7971.

### Community Club to meet

The Columbus Community Club will meet this Thursday at Noon at the Senior Center. Please note change of location.

### Columbus City seeks candidates

The City of Columbus City will have the following seats up for election this year: Two Council member seats and the Mayor. If you would like to run for election, please pick up nomination forms from the City Clerk. City Hall is open on Monday nights from 4-6 p.m., or you may call Lisa Hills at the Columbus Junction State Bank at 319-728-2436. Last day to file for office will be September 17, 2009.

### Columbus Jct. seeks candidates

The City of Columbus Junction will have the following seats up for election this year. Mayor: 4-year term; Two Council: 4-year terms. Nomination papers can be picked up at City Hall between the hours of 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nomination papers must be turned back in by 5 p.m. on September 17, 2009.

### Visual Support Group to meet

The Louisa County Visual Support Group will meet on Thursday, September 17th at 1 p.m., at the Sub Station in Wapello. Ginny Maine, a MASTER GARDENER, will talk to us about our fall flowers. To ask questions, please call Lois Richers at 319-527-2630.