

An opportunity to say Thank-You

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

How do you thank someone who risked his life so you could be assured of a life free from tyranny and injustice? There's probably no way to answer this question, particularly when this individual never asked for nor expected a thank you. I'm referring to World War II Veterans, members of our greatest generation, who answered the call to duty and responded heroically and unselfishly.

Now, through the efforts of the WWII Honor Tour, we are given an opportunity to show our thanks to all of these veterans. The American Legion Post # 27 of Muscatine, Iowa sponsored Iowa's first WWII Honor Tour by sending thirty WWII Veterans to Washington D.C. to visit their memorial in October of 2008. The Veterans spent three days touring Washington D.C., as well as visiting the memorial. This was at no cost to the Veterans, fundraisers and contributions paid all of the costs.

The Honor Tour is again sponsoring a trip to Washington D.C. on May 13, 2009, and six Louisa County Veterans have registered for the trip. The Columbus Junction American Legion Post and the Wapello VFW are teaming up with the Honor Tour to help raise funds to cover the costs of this trip. A public meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbus Junction American Legion building to explain the program. Anyone who has an interest in helping, has questions, or suggestions is encouraged to attend. Help can come



Mural in American Legion Building honoring all Veterans

from individuals, groups, families, or organizations.

We are losing 1200 WWII Veterans daily, and with them go stories of heroism, dedication, and the commitment to doing the right thing. We have already lost so many who deserved and would have enjoyed the trip, but there are still many we can

give this experience to. Even if your father or grandfather was a WWII Veteran and is now gone, you can still thank him by helping another deserving veteran make a trip of a lifetime.

Make plans to attend the meeting on February 12th, where representatives from the Honor Tour and the Columbus Junction American Legion

and Wapello VFW will be on hand to explain the program further. This is our chance to say "Thank You" to the remaining members of a generation that came forward to define those principles that our country was founded under, and through their actions allow us to continue to enjoy a life of freedom and security.

Stepping forward to help a family in need



The cleanup of the charred trailer

Saturday, January 24, friends of the Villagrana and Camargo families helped clear debris from the fire. The group included members of the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church, youth from Columbus Community Schools, and members of the Conesville community. Conesville City Council helped provide needed materials. Economart and the Dollar Store in Columbus Jct. provided food, as did the United Methodist Church in Mt. Pleasant. Tyson Foods provided materials and workers.

Work is still to be done but the major work of removing the trailer was completed. The workers, in their kindness, asked the immediate family not to help as some of the items that were partially destroyed stirred deep emotion as they were being removed. Instead, the family cooked food and provided coffee, pop, and hot soup to the workers. Please keep the family in your prayers and please promote the benefit dinner that is planning to do January 31 at The Circle of Pride in Conesville.

New Physician's Assistant at Community Health Center

Ella habla Español! (She speaks Spanish!) That's of great benefit in any town in the world today, but perhaps even more exciting in Columbus Junction because "she" is the new Physician's Assistant at the Southeast Iowa Community Health Center of Louisa County, Kathy Rashid. AND, she speaks English too!

She came to the United States from Peru at the age of 19. At the time, she was here for adventure and travel and excitement...it turned into love and marriage and an education, including a degree in Business at the University of Oklahoma.

Kathy says the United States has been good to her and she wants to give back. She does this by being an active member of the Burlington Fine Arts League and Civic Music organizations in Burlington, where she lives now with her husband, a doctor, and her two young daughters. She has been in Iowa for 12 years now and says she finds Iowans to be particularly friendly, honest, educated, intelligent and hard working.

Kathy believes medicine becomes part of you, it's a calling. She likes to make a medical and emotional difference to all of her patients at the Community Health Center. She would like to someday complete medical school and become a full MD. However, Kathy is impacted by the scourge of the new millennium: too many things to accomplish and not enough time. She feels that being a full time student would take time away from her family during years



that are critical in her daughters' development, so for now, additional education will wait.

Can you have it all? A great career, civic involvement, a strong marriage and successful, independent children? Kathy Rashid thinks you can have them all, but perhaps not all at the same time and so she helps patients 1 day a week as a Physician's Assistant in Burlington and 1 day in Columbus Junction, and for now that is enough. Perhaps someday she will fulfill those other dreams....

You can meet Kathy Rashid and the other staff of the Southeast Iowa Community Health Center in Louisa County on Friday, February 27th, between 4 and 6 pm at the Open House. (Next week, "In Deep Water")

CJSB Bancorporation stockholders learn of successful 2008

If you follow the national business news undoubtedly you'll read of heavy loan losses, capital problems, and bailout needs for banks. This may be the case for many large money center banks, but as stockholders of CJSB Bancorporation learned last week at their annual meeting, this is certainly not the situation in smaller well-managed banks.

CJSB Bancorporation management was able to report to stockholders that the Columbus Junction State Bank experienced one of their better years in 2008. Increases were seen in nearly all areas of the balance sheet. Assets grew by over 2.5 million dollars, with deposits increasing by 2 million dollars. 2008 earnings were up \$112,000 over 2007 results. The bank's primary capital increased from 8.57% to 8.84%, well above regulatory guide-

lines.

President Mark Huston attributed the strong results to a number of factors. The agriculture sector experienced a good year in 2008, and although prices have declined some and input costs are expected to be up in 2009, Huston felt that their farm customers have a cushion that will help them weather these declines. He also emphasized that the bank has always stuck to basics. "We don't do anything fancy here, especially in real estate lending," said Huston. "We still require down payments, and we look at the borrower's financial ability to repay the loan." The bank presently has no real estate loans in a problem status. "We will be monitoring our consumer loans in 2009," said Huston. "Although we have not heard of many layoffs in our customer base, it is always a possibility. We'll

just deal with whatever situation arises, and work with our customers to solve any issues. We are cautiously optimistic for next year."

Chairman Tom Huston discussed the bank's employee situation. "Our employee base is very stable," said Huston, "and we are fortunate to have a pool of young tellers who are bilingual that we can call on during heavy times." He explained that the situation in banking today does not require a full line of tellers on a daily basis, but there are heavy days. And also, many of the bank's customers speak Spanish. "These young people are willing to work on an on-call basis, and willing to work weekends," said Huston, "so it works out to be an ideal situation for us. They are also very valuable when communication issues arise." He noted that long time officer Marvin Prior retired dur-

ing the year. Huston thanked the employees for their work this past year, and thanked the Board of Directors for their direction during the year.

The Stockholders voted to set the number of directors at eight, and re-elected Thomas H. Huston, T. Mark Huston, Kevin A. Van Heiden, Jack Estle, C. Eugene Walker, Stephen Wilson, Larry Mincer and Daniel Wilson. A Director's meeting followed the annual meeting, and the board elected the following officers: Thomas H. Huston, Chairman and Trust Officer; T. Mark Huston, President and C.E.O.; Kevin Van Heiden, Vice President and Cashier; Tom Sands, Assistant Vice President and Loan Officer; Heather Kingsbury, Assistant Vice President and Compliance Officer; Nancy Brown, Assistant Cashier; and Doris Mouglin, Assistant Cashier.

Briefly -

Etude Club to meet

Etude Club will meet in the United Methodist Church of Columbus Junction on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at 7 p.m. Marilyn Rees will present the lesson on "Happy Music of Broadway", and will also be in charge of refreshments. Please be ready to inform the committee of what special contribution you plan for the Spring Show Program which will be presented to the public on April 14, 2009. Unless the hostess or president are notified ahead of the meeting, 100% attendance is anticipated.

Benefit for Irving Camargo Family

On Friday, January 9, 2009 17-month old Irving Camargo died from injuries sustained from a fire at his home in Conesville. The family lost everything in the fire i.e., clothes, furniture, as well as their home. There will be a benefit on Saturday, January 31, 2009 at the Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds, located South of Conesville on Hwy. 70 from Noon to 7:00 p.m. Mexican and American food will be served. Cost of the dinner will be a \$10.00 donation per plate for adults or \$5.00 and an article of new clothing (sizes include - Raul Camargo (father): pants - 32/32, shirt - large, shoes - 9 1/2; Brenda Villagrana (mother): pants - 1 or 2, shirt - medium, shoes - 6; and Bryan Camargo (8 years old): pants - 10 or 12, shirt - medium, shoes - 2 1/2 or 3). Kids 12 years and under \$5.00 per plate. Other activities include General Raffles, Kids' Raffles, 50/50 Drawing, Bake Sale, "Pick Your Own Raffle" and a Pinata for the Kids. For more information or to make a donation contact: Becky Johns (319)725-6612 or Rosie Perez (563)571-0189.

El Viernes, 9 de Enero, 2009 Irving Camargo murio por heridas causadas por un incendio en su casa en Conesville. La familia perdio todo en el incendio, ropa, muebles, y tambien su casa. Habra una beneficencia Cuando: Sabado, 31 de Enero 2009. Donde: Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds, Sur de Conesville en Hwy 70. Hora: 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Habra comida Mexicana y Americana. Habra una donacion de \$10.00 por plate. Solo \$5.00 si dona una prenda de vestir nueva (Raul Camargo (Padre): Pantalón - 32/32; Camisa - grande; Sapatos - 9 1/2; Brenda Villagrana (Madre): Pantalón - 1 o 2; Blusa - mediano; Sapatos - 6; Bryan Camargo (8 años): Pantalón - 10 o 12; Camisa - mediano; Sapatos - 2 1/2 o 3.) Niños memores de 12 años \$5.00 por plato. Rifas Generales, Rifas para Niños; 50/50 Drawing, Benta de Pasteles, "Escoja su Rifa", Pinata para los Niños. Para mas informacion o para donar, llame: Becky Johns (319)725-6612 o Rosie Perez (563)571-0189.

Columbus City Council vacancy

The City of Columbus City has a vacancy on the Council and is looking for anyone willing to serve as a Council Member. Please contact Mayor Mark Shear or City Clerk Lisa Hills or you may submit your name to the City by February 28th, 2009.

City Council to meet

There will be a regular Council Meeting for the City of Columbus Junction on Wednesday, January 28th, 5:30 p.m. at the New Civic Center/City Hall.

4-H photos at Heritage Museum

The Heritage Museum- 122 Maple Street; Columbus Junction—will have the traveling 4-H photos on display for the month of February. Our hours are Saturdays 9 a.m.-Noon and Sundays 1:00-4:00 p.m.

February Columbus City Council meeting changed

The Columbus City Council meeting for February will be changed to Tuesday, February 3rd, 2009; at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Victory Christian Center talent show

Would you like a night of FREE entertainment with local talent? Join Victory Christian Center, 122 Ninth St., Columbus Junction, as they host "Spotlight-Talent Show" on Saturday, February 7th, 2009, at 6 :00 p.m. This year's line up includes the Columbus High School's Jailbyrds, Breakdown 101 Band and more local area drama, vocal, and comedic talent. It's family entertainment at its best and it is FREE. If you would like more information you may contact Jolene McAfee at 319-728-5720 or www.vccjunction.org

Pancakes and sausage supper at Pleasant Grove Church

Pleasant Grove Church is having their annual Sausage and Pancake Supper on Wed, February 11th, from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Come join your friends and family for good food, good conversation, and wonderful fellowship. Please tell all your neighbors and invite them to support the "little white church" on the hill. Four miles east of Columbus Junction, 18783 Hwy 92, Free Will Donation.

Prevent Child Abuse meeting

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa - Louisa County Council will meet Thursday, February 5th following the Interagency meeting at the Briggs Center in Wapello. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Contact Lori Kuntz, Stork's Nest at 319-527-6378 for more information.

Conservation District meeting

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet Feb. 11, 2009, at 4:30 p.m. at the NRCS Office in Wapello. Topics on the agenda will be an update on the annual contractor meeting and cost share projects. For more information please contact the office at 260 Mulberry St. STE 2, Wapello, or phone 523-6411.

CWO Prince and Princess of Hearts

The Columbus Women's Organization is looking for candidates for their annual Prince and Princess of Hearts Contest. Children 0-5 years of age are eligible for the contest, which will run from Monday, February 2 through Friday, February 13, 2009. Deadline for entry and photos is Friday, January 30th at noon with all entry material delivered to Twyla Peters at the Columbus Medical Clinic, or Kirsten Shellabarger at Horak Insurance. Prince and Princess of Hearts will be determined by the largest amount of money donations in that child's name at these locations: Columbus Junction State Bank, The Community Bank and the Econ-O-Mart, between Monday, February 2nd through Friday, February 13th, 2009. The Prince and Princess will be crowned on Saturday, February 14th, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion in Columbus Junction. The winners will each receive a \$50 Savings Bond donated by Community Bank and the Columbus Junction State Bank. **MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!** All proceeds from the contest benefit the Senior Girls Dinner, annually sponsored by the C.W.O.