

THE PATRIOT

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Rachel and Kip Soviak, parents of the late U.S. Navy Corpsman Maxton Soviak, stand with the new highway sign named for their son. (*SANDUSKY REGISTER PHOTO*)

a former classmate and friend of Max's, Bryce Ostheimer, as well as many others, reached out to the mayor of Berlin Heights, Connie Ward," Soviak's father, Kip, told the *Sandusky Register*.

"The decision to choose McIntyre (Road) to Twin Oaks (Drive), the road in front of the high school, seemed fitting for Max," he added. "Edison High School is where both communities (Milan and Berlin Heights) come together and unite as one team. The community has rallied around our family honoring him in many ways."

An honor guard from the Elton E. Mackin Detachment #837 of the Marine Corps League participated in the Sept. 2, 2022 retirement jersey ceremony of Soviak during

Part of State Route 113 is named for fallen Navy Corpsman

MILAN TOWNSHIP — The section of Ohio 113 between McIntyre Road and Twin Oaks Drive in Milan Township is now known as the "U.S. Navy Corpsman Maxton Soviak Memorial Highway."

This half-mile stretch encompasses Edison High School, Soviak's alma mater. He graduated from Edison in 2017.

U.S. Navy Corpsman Maxton Soviak Memorial Highway is the result of state legislation, specifically Ohio House Bill 578. State Rep. D.J. Swearingen (R-Huron) was one of the officials who supported the bill.

"The idea of a street sign came about when

the Western Reserve vs. Edison football game. He wore No. 27 for the Edison Chargers.



This photo is from the "Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak - Never Forgotten" Facebook page.

Soviak, 22, was among 13 U.S. service members who died on Aug. 26, 2021. He died a hero, helping evacuate Americans and Afghan citizens, including children, at the risk of being killed by the Taliban. The service members were killed in action while helping process Afghan refugees at Abbey Gate at Hamid Karzai International Airport.

Assigned to the 2nd Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., Soviak earned the nickname "Doc" from the Marines with whom he served. He received the title because of his relentless approach in caring for and saving people through his medical expertise.

As a result of Soviak's brave actions in support of his fellow service members and mission, the Navy posthumously advanced him to the rank of Hospital Corpsman Third Class on Sept. 2, 2021, according to the *Sandusky Register*. He also received many honors, including the Purple Heart, the Congressional Gold Medal and the Fleet Marine Force Insignia.

Huron Co. Veteran Service Office offers transportation

The Huron County Veteran Service Office offers transportation services to any medical appointment.

At least 48 hours before your appointment, call (419) 668-4150. You also may request transportation online at huroncountyvets.com. Under the "services" tab, click on "transportation."

Be ready to provide all of the following: Your full name; your phone number; the date, time and location of your appointment; and the last four numbers of your Social Security number.

Ryan Wolfe or Cary Ashby, of the transportation department, will call you the day before your appointment to confirm your ride.

2023 Veterans BBQ to be held May 26

NORWALK — Save the date!

The 2023 Veterans Barbecue will be held on Friday, May 26 at American Legion Post 41, 406 W. Main St., in Norwalk. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is free to all Huron County veterans and their spouses.



Pulled pork, burgers, brat patties, sides and drinks will be provided.

Please join us for a time of food and fellowship.

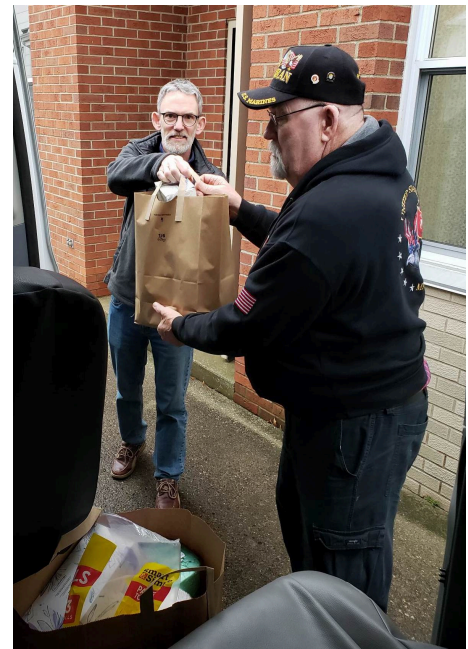
Non-Food Bank offers hope

MONROEVILLE — The idea for the Non-Food Bank at the Congregational Community United Church of Christ (aka Monroeville United Church of Christ) started with a simple request for toilet paper.

“Back around 2006, one of our members came to us after church and asked if she could have a roll of toilet paper because she was on a limited income. It was the end of the month, she was out of money, and she was out of toilet paper,” said Pastor Wayne Chasney, who has served at the church for 30 years.

“That got us thinking here that perhaps this isn’t the only person who runs into that need sometimes. After checking with area food banks and other service providers, we discovered that these non-food items were not well stocked in the area, (and) that there was a need out there,” he said. “In February 2007, we opened our doors and we served 15 households.”

In March 2023, the Non-Food Bank served 234 households. The Huron County Veteran Service Office



Pastor Wayne Chesney and Ron Kearney, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, load a HCVSO van with bags of hygiene items for local veterans.

has partnered with the Non-Food Bank for two years and on average each month, helps 30 local veterans.

The Non-Food Bank serves all of Huron County, including Bellevue, Milan, Plymouth and Shiloh.

Ron Kearney, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, enjoys delivering to fellow veterans.

“A lot of them are just thrilled; I can see it in their eyes,” he said. “I’m helping brothers and sisters who served and I can see how they’re down on their luck because of the recessions that we’ve had and the poverty level that has come up and the Covid pandemic, which really, really hurt everyone.”

The Non-Food Bank is open the third Wednesday of every month, except in July, from 9 a.m. until noon. It offers toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, soap bars, toothpaste, toothbrushes, cleaning materials, trash bags, deodorant, hair conditioner, and feminine hygiene products. The Congregational Community United Church of Christ is located at 29 Chapel St. in Monroeville.

“Showing up is your demonstration of need,” Pastor Wayne said.

About 18 months ago, services became a hybrid of drive-thru and clients coming into the church building. Volunteers ask for a photo ID and write down the client’s name, city and number of people in the household. Clients who come inside can take up to 14 items, while the pre-packaged bags hold 10 items.

“One of the things that strikes us is how appreciative people are. ... The gratitude I think comes out of not just receiving the items, but also the knowledge that someone cares,” Pastor Wayne said.

“Our mission statement is ‘Easing the burden of poverty and offering a word of hope.’ For me, that ministry is that word of hope; it’s really the most important part.”

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