

# THE PATRIOT

Issue 8 of the Huron County Veteran Service Office newsletter • July 2022



U.S. Army veteran Felipe Senquiz (back right) celebrates his 90th birthday with his family during the “Thank You, Veterans” music program May 26 at Western Reserve Elementary School. From left are his granddaughter, Jillian Senquiz, his wife, Ida and his great-grandson, Brentin Adams. (PHOTO BY CARY ASHBY/HCVSO)

After serving in the Army, Senquiz planned to take advantage of the GI Bill and further his education.

“But an unexpected opportunity arose at the Lorain Ford plant. I met my wife, Ida, and started a life and family in Lorain, where I still reside today,” he said.

In the Army, Senquiz was an assistant gunner. His responsibilities were to retrieve ammunition and get the gun ready to fire.

“Initially, I was trained to be (in the) infantry and be on the front lines, facing the enemy. While enroute to Korea, we were stationed in Japan and I was transferred from infantry to artillery,” he said.

Being in the Army taught him maturity, among other things, as a civilian.

## Korean War veteran ‘happy to see’ students celebrating patriotism

COLLINS — Felipe Senquiz celebrated his 90th birthday the same day that Western Reserve Elementary School held its tribute concert for veterans.

The Korean War veteran’s great-grandson is second-grader Brentin Adams, who sang in the concert.

“My grandfather came over from Puerto Rico to serve in the Army at 26 years old and afterwards has been in Lorain, Ohio ever since. He’s been married for 64 years on July 4 and is a retiree from Ford Motor Company in Lorain,” said Senquiz’s granddaughter, Jillian.

“Puerto Rican men also have to register for Selective Service when turning 18. Three years after registering, I was drafted at age 21,” Senquiz said.

“It teaches you to respect others and to value your life. It teaches you to love honor and respect the Constitution of the United States. You take an oath that stays with you for a lifetime. Taking this oath affects me even today. When I hear the news about what’s going on in Ukraine, I want to be there, because I still want to help — if I was at least 20 years younger,” Senquiz said.

What are important things that everyone should know about the Korean War?

“We are a nation of love and freedom. People may wonder why we were fighting so far away from home. In those days we were fighting communism and we were fighting for a nation that wanted to be free from communism,” Senquiz said.

One memorable experience during the war meant he went without any supper.

“It was 5 or 6 o’clock in the evening and we were in the chow line waiting for food when a call came in to get behind the gun. We all had to leave everything behind, get behind the gun and spent that night without eating,” he said.

Senquiz appreciates seeing his great-grandson perform in a patriotic show. Western Reserve music educator Deb Henry, whose late father was a veteran, has directed the performance for more than 25 years.

“Teaching the youth to appreciate their country and those who have fought for it is important and appreciated. Teaching them to have love and respect for their country through a patriotic show is something I am happy to see,” Senquiz said.



Brentin Adams (left), a second-grade student at Western Reserve Elementary School, sings during the “Thank You, Veterans” music program May 26. His great-grandfather, U.S. Army veteran Felipe Senquiz, celebrated his 90th birthday during the concert. He served in the Korean War. (PHOTO BY CARY ASHBY/HCVSO)

## HCVSO walks for child abuse prevention

NORWALK — Staff members with the Huron County Veteran Service Office joined more than 100 people who participated in the Child Abuse Prevention Walk on April 13.

The walk, sponsored by the Department of Job and Family Services (JFS), started at Suhr Family Park on Main Street in Norwalk and ended with a breakfast at the St. Paul Social Hall. All the county department heads, elected officials and many community members were invited to the event.



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY JOE CENTERS/NORWALK REFLECTOR

“Child abuse and neglect is a complex community issue,” according to the proclamation read by Commissioner Skip Wilde before the walk started.

“Huron County Children Services received 1,665 reports regarding children and families in 2021, requiring 525 further assessments of children and families. Although 44 children spent time in foster care, five of those children were successfully placed with family and/or non-relatives, with two children reaching the age of maturity and 12 were adopted.”

Mary Valentine, JFS program administrator for children and adult protective services, said the walk was well received.

“I think people enjoyed it and the weather held off, which we were thankful for,” she said.

## Veteran, pastor honored during Memorial Day program



The Rev. Steve Trimble

MONROEVILLE — The Rev. Steve Trimble waved to the crowd as he was honored during the Memorial Day program in Monroeville.

Trimble was the grand marshal of the parade. He served five years in the U.S. Air Force and in the U.S. Army Reserve for 29 years. Trimble has been a member of the American Legion for 28 years. He also is a member of VFW Post 2743 in Norwalk and serves as the AMVETS Post 1965 chaplain.

As a pastor, Trimble served the local United Church of Christ as well as churches in Ohio and Pennsylvania. He has protected and served as a law enforcement officer. Trimble was a Chicago police officer, a sheriff’s deputy in Portage County and a security officer at Kent State University.

During the Memorial Day program, Monroeville Mayor Melissa Fries-Siep, the featured speaker, shared how veterans exhibited courage, strength and stamina to serve their country during times of warfare while the rest of the world was in fear.

The Monroeville High School marching band participates in the village Memorial Day parade.

*(PHOTOS BY CARY ASHBY/HCVSO)*





# Hometown Heroes program grows in Norwalk

NORWALK — The Hometown Heroes program in Norwalk has six times as many banners as it did in its first year.

The Norwalk Area Visitors Bureau celebrated the second year with a program May 20 at Suhr Family Park.

Mayor Dave Light addressed the large crowd, sharing the impact of veterans’ sacrifices in serving their country.

“Those privileges we enjoy today are directly the result of our brave men and women in the service who fought for our rights and privileges — and that’s what this celebration is all about,” he said.

The Hometown Heroes program was started in Norwalk by Wende Mersebau, mother of U.S. Navy veteran Philip, in 2020. The city then contacted Lori Wagner, of Insight Type & Graphics in Norwalk, to create the banners. City hall administrative assistant Lisa Hivnor and Kelly Lippus, of the Norwalk Area Visitor’s Bureau, were part of the application process.

The pilot program began with 24 banners. Now, about 150 veterans are featured on East and West Main streets plus Whittlesey and Benedict avenues.

Heather Chapman, of the musical duo Chapman & Klein, sang the National Anthem. Her son, Hunter Klein, later performed “In Color” by Jamey Johnson while accompanying himself on acoustic guitar. After the program, Townline 26 — the Schag family band from Willard — entertained the crowd.

U.S. Navy veteran Terry Trumpower provided the invocation and shared the history of Armed Forces Day. He is a member of VFW Post 2743 and American Legion Post 41, both in Norwalk.



U.S. Navy veteran Terry Trumpower smiles as he addresses the large crowd at the Suhr Family Park in downtown Norwalk during the Hometown Heroes banner program May 20. He is a member of the VFW Post 2743, American Legion Post 41 and a lifetime member of the Sandusky AmVets 17 and Last Responder. (PHOTO BY CARY ASHBY/HCVSO)

# Memorial Day flags placed



Layken Barnhart, a member of the Rumbly Riders 4-H Club, places a flag on the grave marker of a veteran at Hartland Cemetery for Memorial Day.

(ANDREA WALTON/  
SUBMITTED PHOTOS)





## Veterans Barbecue held at Huron Co. Fairgrounds

NORWALK — The Huron County Veteran Service Office hosted a Veterans Barbecue at the Huron County Fairgrounds on May 27.

Food and fellowship were the names of the game. Veterans and their spouses had the opportunity to visit tables manned by several community partners: Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP), Enrichment Centers for Huron County, the Huron County Department of Job and Family Services, Huron County Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Team RWB and the Huron County Honor Trip.

TOP: U.S. Marine Corps veterans Jim Ruffing (left) and Ron Kearney chat during the Veterans Barbecue at the Huron County Fairgrounds on May 27.

RIGHT: U.S. Air Force veteran Betty Hurlahe, of Norwalk, enjoys a laugh with the Huron County Veteran Service Office drivers before the Veterans Barbecue. On the left (from front) are Tom Rusynyk, Ron Kearney and Terry Mercer. On the right (from front) are Hurlahe, John Martin, Tom Lovitt and Mike Greene. (PHOTOS BY CARY ASHBY/HCVSO)



## Honor Run in Willard honors brave veterans

WILLARD — The annual 5K Honor Run at Willard City Schools isn't just an event to celebrate veterans. It's a "run to honor the brave."

About 100 people registered for the run, which involved 25 sponsors.

Holly Adkins, of Willard, ran in honor of her late father, Allen Ziegler, who served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. She teaches Spanish at

Holly Adkins, a Spanish teacher at Willard High School, chats with a student at the registration table before the 5K Honor Run on May 14. Her late father served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. (PHOTO BY CARY ASHBY/HCVSO)



Willard High School. Both of her sons — Nick, 13, and Zach, 9, — also ran.

Marissa Rojas is in the Teen Leadership Corps class at WHS and enjoys volunteering at veteran-centered events.

“It’s so cool to be able to say we’re giving back to the community and just seeing everyone come together,” she said. “I’m glad we get to take part and honor (veterans). I have (family) members who are serving and have served, so it’s something that’s important.”

Another Willard student, Ashley Hamons, also helped prepare for the 5K Honor Run. Her father, Derek, served in the Army in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“I just like being able to give back to people like him. ... It’s nice because I’m a veteran’s kid and I understand,” she said.

Before the runners and walkers left the school, members of the Firelands Bicentennial Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution raised the American flag. WHS choir members sang “The Star Spangled Banner.”

Willard resident Katie Miller ran in honor of her father, Mike Robinson, and her grandfather, the late Donald Robinson. Both men served in the Army.

“My grandpa served in World War II and he got a Purple Heart. ... He got hit by shrapnel,” Miller said. “He was a pretty incredible man. Anybody who can fight for their country is pretty incredible.”

“I don’t think I could ever have that courage that they had — even to not be in combat. It’s such a self-sacrifice. I don’t think I was made for that, but I’m so thankful for those who (are).”



Max Wyandt, 14, of New Haven, and Miranda Beekman, 13, of Willard, play a game they learned during the Willard Revolutionary War Reenactment & Encampment in mid-May. (PHOTO BY CARY ASHBY/HCVSO)



## Memorial Day parade

NORWALK — A color guard, comprised of members from American Legion Post 41 in Norwalk and the Marine Corps League Elton E. Mackin Detachment #837 and VFW Post 2743 in Norwalk, led the Memorial Day parade into Woodlawn Cemetery. (PHOTO BY CARY ASHBY/HCVSO)

Other parade participants included the St. Paul Marching Brass, Norwalk fire and police departments, Mayor Dave Light, local Boy Scouts and royalty from the Strawberry Festival in Norwalk.

# Attica Area Veterans Memorial Park dedicated

ATTICA — Hundreds of people flocked to the village of Attica for the May 21 dedication of the Attica Area Veterans Memorial Park.



Laurie Risner, a member of the Attica Area Veterans Memorial Committee, smiles as she holds the plaque in her honor for overseeing the landscaping and other details at the new Attica Area Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Attica. (PHOTO BY CARY ASHBY/HCVSO)

The park is located at 10 S. Main St., the site of the abandoned Eagles building. The property eventually was turned over to the village.

“We thought what a perfect place to honor the veterans of the area,” said Jim Schumacher, commander of American Legion Post 260 in Attica. “We have many businesses, organizations, families and many individuals to be thanked for their generous support.”

The vision for the park started 15 years ago. The groundbreaking was in August 2020.

Jim Alt, Nate Frisch, Laurie Risner, Ron Martin and Jim Schumacher comprised the Attica Area Veterans Memorial Committee.

Risner, of Perfection Greenhouse & Mulberry Miniatures in New Washington, was honored for putting in hundreds of hours of research and design for the memorial. She said the project ended up being “bigger and better than I could have ever dreamed,” thanks to ideas from many American Legion members.

## Wreaths Across America educates Norwalk students

NORWALK — A Wreaths Across America educational mobile unit was in the Schild's IGA Supercenter parking lot on the morning of May 24.

Many students Olivia Gamble's in second-grade class at Pleasant Elementary have parents who currently are in the military.

“We have lots of parents who are on active duty and some who spend their weekends going to training. We have a few in our class whose parents were over in Romania for the last three or four weeks and they’re getting ready to come back tomorrow (May 25),” Gamble said.



Second-grade students in Olivia Gamble’s class at Pleasant Elementary learn about the Wreaths of America program from driver ambassador Stefan Brann. (PHOTO BY CARY ASHBY/HCVSO)



# Celebrating local veterans: Photo gallery by Cary Ashby



Despite having run for several hours, Adam Yonley (left) and U.S. Navy veteran Bryan Carnahan are all smiles as they jog into Willard Middle/High School on May 14. They ran 100 total miles in 24 hours as a fundraiser for dining hall improvements at the Northeast Ohio Christian Youth Camp in Tiffin.



This is the entrance to the beautiful Attica Area Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Attica.

## Upcoming events

**July 4** – Independence Day, office closed

– Norwalk 4th of July parade

**July 6 and 20** – Huron Co. Veteran Service Commission meeting, HCVSO, 2-4 p.m.

**July 11** – HCVSO outreach at Willard VFW Post 3430, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**July 13** – Trip to National Veterans Memorial and Museum, Columbus; call 419-668-4150 for info and to reserve a space

**Aug. 3 and 17** – Huron Co. Veteran Service Commission meeting, HCVSO, 2-4 p.m.

**Aug. 10** – Trip to National Veterans Memorial and Museum, Columbus; call 419-668-4150 for info and to reserve a space

**Aug. 15-19** – HCVSO at Huron County Fair

**Sept. 7 and 20** – Huron Co. Veteran Service Commission meeting, HCVSO, 2-4 p.m.

**Sept. 14** – Trip to National Veterans Memorial and Museum, Columbus; call 419-668-4150 for info and to reserve a space



Second-graders from Western Reserve Elementary School salute during their "Thank You, Veterans" music program May 26.