

THE PATRIOT

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In this issue:

Soviak Strong	3
Free monthly museum trips	3
Huron Co. Area Veterans Council golf outing	3
Willard High School hosts Military Appreciation Night	4
Huron Co. Veteran of Year details	4
9-11 20th Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony	5,6
Old Glory Relay comes to Huron Co.	6
Upcoming events	7
Adkins Memorial Golf Scramble is a success	7
Bellevue becomes Purple Heart City	8
Monroeville becomes Purple Heart Village	8

Army veteran assisted with Manhattan Project in late 40s

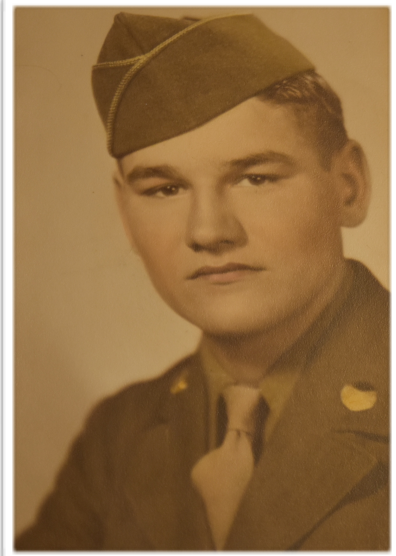
NEW LONDON — Dean Bailey’s experience driving truck for his father’s business led to him being a chauffeur in the U.S. Army for the Manhattan Project.

The Manhattan Project was the code name for America’s effort to develop a functional atomic bomb in World War II. Bailey was supposed to cut out any articles about the bomb, put the date on them and put them on the general’s desk.

“My main job was to go to Union Station and pick up the mail and on the way back, I would take out *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post* and *Baltimore (Sun)* and bring it back to the office in the War Department building,” said Bailey, a 93-year-old New London resident.

The Manhattan Project was so confidential that Bailey didn’t learn anything about it even though he worked in that office. His life partner, Yvonne Westover, said it wasn’t until “the last few years” when more has been written about the project that Bailey might have realized how important his time in the Army was.

“They didn’t really talk about it a whole lot; they just knew that’s what he did. Now it’s important,” Westover added.



This is a portrait of Dean Bailey during his time in the U.S. Army in the late 1940s.

Bailey drove many dignitaries to the War Department in Washington, D.C. and the White House.

At one point, Bailey drove J. Robert Oppenheimer, an American theoretical physicist who was crucial in the development of the atomic bomb, to the White House. Bailey also saw President Harry Truman.



Dean Bailey, 93, shows off momentos of his time serving in the U.S. Army and New London Volunteer Fire Department.

Bailey's service in the Army was from December 1945 through August 1947. He was drafted during his senior year at New London High School.

"I enlisted before I was drafted," said Bailey, who had a deferment until he graduated. "I went to (Camp) Atterbury first and then infantry training at Joseph T. Robinson in Arkansas."

His time in Arkansas was much shorter than the scheduled 17 weeks because he had prior truck driving experience.

"I was out of there in eight weeks because they needed a truck driver ... to take care of the laundry," Bailey said. "I could have done it in a pickup truck, but they had a semi," he added with a laugh.

Akron to Elba, Ala. and then on the way back, he picked up tire fabric in Thomasville, Ga.

He had been driving for his father after school since he was 15 years old. On his biggest trip during a 10-day period, Bailey drove tires from

For about three week, Bailey's job in the Army was to drive the laundry to Oak Ridge, Tenn.

"Then the general wanted a personal aide (and) chauffeur in Washington, D.C.," he said.

The only way Bailey could identify Gen. Leslie Groves was a photo he had.

"He wanted to go to the British embassy. I saluted him and opened up the back door. ... He got into the back seat and I said, 'General, I have no idea where the British Embassy is.' He said, 'I will show you the shortcuts and from now, we don't salute the general. I can get into the front seat by myself and you leave me standing there,'" Bailey said. "He told me to drive like the taxis."

After serving in the Army, Bailey used his G.I. Bill and went to school at the General Motors Institute in Flint, Mich. He also spent eight years in the Army Reserve.

Bailey's service continued, this time as a member of the New London Volunteer Fire Department for 49 years until 2012. He became the chief in 1980, a position he held for 14 years.

Soviak Strong



BERLIN HEIGHTS — Soviak Strong! The Huron County Veteran Service Office was honored to be involved with the casket guard for HM3 Max Soviak.

It is an extreme privilege to stand watch so our fallen heroes are never left unattended.

We are proud of our community for pulling together during this time of grief for our hometown hero. Max's family and the veteran community adore the massive outpouring of support, admiration, and love. A special thank-you goes to our veterans, active duty military

personnel and first responders who answered the call to duty with passion and exuberance.

Huron Co. Area Veterans Council golf outing

Free museum trips

Veterans and their guests have enjoyed the free trips offered by the Huron County Veteran Service Commission to the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus.

Any Huron County veteran, surviving spouse, Gold Star family, and a guest are eligible for free admission, which includes a guided tour, and transportation to the museum in downtown Columbus. The trips are on the second Wednesday of every month through December 2022. A Huron County Veteran Service Office van leaves the office at 7:30 a.m. and returns about 4:30 p.m.

To reserve a spot or request more information, call the office at 419-668-4150.



U.S. Navy veteran Jason Shutt (right) buys a 50/50 ticket from John Cook, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

NEW LONDON — About three dozen teams enjoyed a gorgeous day while helping raise money for the annual Huron County Veteran of the Year banquet.

Millstone Hills Golf Club in New London again hosted the fifth annual Huron County Area Veterans Council golf outing Aug. 28.

Willard High School hosts Military Appreciation Night

WILLARD — The Willard Flashes honored many veterans and a current member of the U.S. Air Force during Military Appreciation Night at their Sept. 3 home game.

Honorary captains were: Jim Alt, of Bellevue (U.S. Army, 1969-1971); Denny Heiser, of Attica (U.S. Army National Guard, 1964-1970); Julie Metzger, of Willard (U.S. Navy, 1984-1990); and Fred Walton, also of Willard (Army, 1968-1970). Metzger is a 1984 graduate of Willard High School. Walton, a Vietnam veteran, currently serves as a part-time driver at the Huron County Veteran Service Office.

All the flag representatives are Willard residents: Richard Fryman (Navy, 1966-1990); Terry Goodwin (Army, 1967-1970); John Leclair (U.S. Coast Guard, 1967-1971); Gary Pittenger (Air Force, 1975-1979); and Andy Silcox (U.S. Marine Corps, 1991-1996). Goodwin graduated from Willard in 1964 while Silcox is a 1990 graduate.

Emily Nedolast, a 2017 Willard graduate, delivered the game ball. Currently, she is serving in the Air Force in Hawaii.



Willard cheerleaders and veterans pay respect to the flag during Military Appreciation Night at Willard High School. (PHOTO BY RYAN WOLFE)

Huron Co. Veteran of the Year banquet details

BELLEVUE — The annual Huron County Veteran of the Year banquet will be at VFW Post 1238 in Bellevue on Dec. 4. Cocktail hour begins at 4:30 p.m.

The deadline to buy tickets is Nov. 20. Call Mindy Soisson-Calhoun at 419-677-3385 or “reserve your seat” on the Huron County Veteran Service Office website at <https://www.huroncountyvets.com/hcavc-award-sign-up>.

Nov. 20 is also the deadline to submit nominations for the Huron County Veteran of the Year. For more information and to download the application, go to <https://www.huroncountyvets.com/huron-county-area-veterans-council>. Mail the application to: Huron County Area Veterans Council, c/o Veteran of the Year Committee, PO Box 432, Norwalk, OH 44857.

Volunteers are needed for the banquet! If you’re interested, text Mindy.

HCVSO, F.O.O.L.S. hold 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony

NORWALK — Nearly 100 people, including veterans, musicians, first responders, and current military personnel, participated in the 9-11 20th anniversary Remembrance Ceremony. The Huron County Veteran Service Commission and Northern Ohio Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society (F.O.O.L.S.) put together and hosted the annual program at the Shady Lane Memorial Park.



Members of the Northern Ohio Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society salute and stand at attention in front of the Huron County Firefighters Memorial. (PHOTO BY EXCLUSIVELY BA)

Moving speeches, songs, and videos served as powerful reminders of the tragic day and the sacrifices of the victims and first responders. John Soisson, a retired Norwalk fire chief, was the featured speaker. Dave Ditz, who retired as a U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, represented the military. Other speakers were: Norwalk Police Capt. Jim Fulton (law enforcement); Dan Strayer, Norwalk assistant fire chief (firefighters); and Joe Centers, Norwalk Reflector managing editor (civilian).



A rifle detail comprised of veterans and members of the Ohio Army National Guard in Norwalk stand at the ready. (PHOTO BY EXCLUSIVELY BA)



Local veterans Dave Ditz (from left, U.S. Army), Matt Raymond (U.S. Marine Corps), and Thom Price (U.S. Navy) salute during the 9-11 20th Year of Remembrance Ceremony. (PHOTO BY EXCLUSIVELY BA)



Carol Phillips directs the Norwalk First United Methodist Church choir. The group sang a cappella versions of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "God Bless America" during the 9-11 20th Year of Remembrance Ceremony. (PHOTO BY EXCLUSIVELY BA)

Old Glory Relay comes to Huron County

NORWALK — Team RWB Firelands helped bring Old Glory into Huron County. Team Red, White and Blue consists of veterans and supporters and has a mission of enriching American veterans' lives.

As part of the national Old Glory Relay, Old Glory originally was unfurled in New York City, where it started a 60-day trek that will end at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Nearly 5,000 hands will carry the flag about 2,400 miles in 10 states to honor the 20th anniversary of 9-11.

Locally, the flag arrived in Norwalk from Wakeman on Oct. 9. Old Glory continued to Monroeville via the Northcoast Inland Trail and to VFW Post 1238 in Bellevue.

From there it went to the Clyde Fire Department, Fremont Community Recreation Complex, and the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont before making stops in Toledo, Upper Sandusky, Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati.

Kim Williams, a member of Team RWB Firelands, and SFC Andy Hance, of the U.S. Army Ohio National Guard, ran Old Glory in the Huron County area.



Pictured (from left) are Team RWB Firelands members: U.S. Army veteran Nathan Whaley, U.S. Coast Guard veteran Hannah Westphal, her husband Andrew, their sons, Kim Williams and Amber Fornash. (PHOTO BY MINDY SOISSON-CALHOUN)

Upcoming veteran events

October

Monday Night Meals, 5-7 p.m. through December at American Legion Post 547, Monroeville

- 6, 20 – Poker night at American Legion Post 292, New London, 6:30 p.m.; for more information, call the post at 419-929-0731
- 8, 15, 22, 29 - Fish fry at American Legion Post 547, Monroeville, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5:30-8 p.m.
- 13 - U.S. Navy birthday
- 26 - National Day of the Deployed

November

- 1 - Huron County Area Veterans Council meeting at American Legion Post 292, New London; dinner at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6
- 3, 17 - Poker night at American Legion Post 292, New London, 6:30 p.m.; for more information, call the post at 419-929-0731
- 5, 12, 19, 26 - Fish fry at American Legion Post 547, Monroeville, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5:30-8 p.m.

- 6 - Honor Run 5K Run/Walk at Willard High School, 9 a.m.
- 10 - U.S. Marine Corps birthday
- 10 - Willard City Schools drive-in Veterans Day program, 9 a.m.
- 11 - Veterans Day
- 13 - Marine Corps Birthday Ball at Beirkeller, Bellevue; happy hour starts at 4 p.m.; for tickets, call Cheryl Fout at 419-405-5857
- 13 - Gun raffle at American Legion Post 547, Monroeville, 4-7 p.m.

December

- 1, 15 - Poker night at American Legion Post 292, New London, 6:30 p.m.; for more information, call the post at 419-929-0731
- 3, 10, 17 - Fish fry at American Legion Post 547, Monroeville, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5:30-8 p.m.
- 4 - Huron County Veteran of the Year banquet at VFW Post 1238, Bellevue; cocktail hour begins at 4:30 p.m.; deadline for tickets is Nov. 20; call Mindy Soisson-Calhoun at 419-677-3385
- 6 - Huron County Area Veterans Council meeting at VFW Post 1238, Bellevue; dinner at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6
- 7 - Pearl Harbor Day (80th anniversary)

Adkins Memorial Golf Scramble is a success

SANDUSKY — Thirty-two teams participated in the 11th Charles L. Adkins Memorial Golf Scramble held Aug. 21 at the Woussickett Golf Course in Sandusky.

“We use the money for a scholarship that we established at Margaretta High School, which is Chuck’s alma mater,” said his brother, Wade.

“He was in the Army for 16 years, with plans of retiring after his 20 (years) and becoming a golf pro. He was an avid golfer and had found that it was (the) stress relief he needed.

“Chuck was a father of five kids. (His) wife Sarah was his high school sweetheart,” his brother said. “He was also an incredibly passionate Browns fan. He would have loved to watch the team we have now.”



Chris Zahel (from left), Charles Adkins (Chuck’s father), Garrhett Adkins (Chuck’s oldest son), and Steve Wiedenheft take time for a photo during the Charles L. Adkins Memorial Golf Scramble. Zahel and Wiedenheft were Chuck’s best friends in high school. (PHOTO SUBMITTED BY WADE ADKINS)

Patriotic communities celebrate being Purple Heart city, village

Bellevue and Monroeville are now part of the Purple Heart Trail.



On Aug. 23, Bellevue was named a Purple Heart City during a ceremony at the Bellevue Eagles.

“It’s a joy to see so many people here,” said Jerry Ferris, who led a Purple Heart Department of Ohio National Guard. “It is with great honor we stand before you here today.”

Ferris, who presented Bellevue Mayor Kevin Strecker a challenge coin, said being named a Purple Heart City “says you’re a veteran-friendly community.”

A Purple Heart Department of Ohio Honor Guard presents colors during Bellevue’s Purple Heart City ceremony Aug. 23 at the Fraternal Order of Eagles in the city. From left are: Charlie Tobe, Jerry Ferris and John Looker.

Down the road on U.S. 20, Monroeville celebrated being a Purple Heart Village during a Sept. 28 ceremony at Clark Park. The village honored 14 local Purple Heart recipients who registered for the program: Alvin J. Adelman, Donald E. Albright, Edwin J. Barman, Glenn C. Bellamy II, Kenneth M. Didion, James C.

Henery,
John H.
Obringer,
J o s h u a

Ott, Raymond E. Reis, Frederick E. Shondel, Charles “Ron” Sowders, Jason L. Sparks, James Sprowl, and John “Jack” Stotz.

Mayor Melissa Fries-Seip said she was “thrilled that so many came out to celebrate” the special event on a beautiful evening.

“It truly takes a village. So many people came together to make this event a success. Businesses, organizations and individuals were so very generous with their time, their talents and their financial support. This evening encompassed what Monroeville is all about — a hard-working, caring, and patriotic community.”



Purple Heart recipient Joshua Ott (middle), of Norwalk, has his photo taken with Glenn West (from left) and Randy Howson, of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Ott deployed with the Ohio National Guard to Iraq in 2004.