TRIBUNE-COURIER

RICHLAND COUNTY'S ONLY LOCALLY-OWNED NEWSPAPER • SINCE 1961

news@tribune-courier.com 11.12.26



THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING celebrated its 37th Annual Conference in Columbus recently. Senator Mark Romanchuk, Ohio Senate District 22, was presented The Outstanding Public Service Award for his advocacy on behalf of older Ohioans. With him are Duana Patton, Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging Inc. Chief Executive Officer and Beth Kowalczyk, Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging Chief Executive Officer.

Senator Romanchuk honored with Outstanding Public Service Award

The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a) celebrated its 37th Annual Conference in Columbus with nearly 500 aging and disability service professionals in attendance for networking and learning.

During the conference, the association announced the recipients of its 2026 awards.

The Outstanding Public Service Award was awarded to Ohio State Senator Mark Romanchuk, District 22. "Senator Romanchuk has been a thoughtful and steadfast champion for older Ohioans and the services that help them remain independent and connected to their communities," said Duana Patton, CEO of the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging and Board President of o4a. "He recognizes the value Area Agencies on Aging bring through their local expertise, trusted relationships, and community-based coordination, particularly in his support for including AAAs in the Next Generation MyCare Ohio program. His willingness to listen, ask difficult questions, and engage on complex policy issues has made him a valued partner

(Continued on Page 6)

Women's Fund celebrates 30 years of grant making

The Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation celebrated its 30th anniversary during a recent luncheon. Philanthropist and community volunteer Linda H. Smith and nine other women created an endowment fund in 1996 dedicated to helping local women and girls in Richland County. The other founders were Edith Humphrey, Joanne Humphrey, Suzanne Davis, Erin Fain, M.D., Catherine Goldman, Carol Goldman, Carol Payton, Betty Risser, and Suzanne Wilson under the guidance of former RCF President Pam Siegenthaler.

The women wanted to support and encourage the development of programs to meet the unique needs of women and girls. They also encouraged women to be philanthropic knowing that communities that support the growth of women and families are stronger.

During the lunch, 12 grants were awarded totaling $86,000. For the eighth year in a row, the Women's Fund awarded a grant to make quality child care affordable and accessible to women in Richland County.

A $34,100 grant was awarded to the YWCA of Northwest Ohio. They will take applications from in-home child care providers and centers for grants of up to $1,000 for resources and continuing education. The Women's Fund believes that child care is important to the economic security of women.

Since 2019, the Women's Fund and its partners have invested $372,000 in local child care.

Other grants were awarded to Avita Health System for a cultivating nurses program; Community Health Access Project to provide essentials for pregnant women, new mothers and infants; Crossroads Community Church City Center for essential supplies including diapers, wipes, formula and postpartum wellness kits; the Domestic Violence Shelter for its Safe Steps to Independence Program; Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring for a wellness program; Oasis of Love Foundation for a Women's Wellness program; Planned Parenthood of Mansfield for cancer screenings; Rubies Women's Group for financial literacy classes; Shelby Diaper Pantry for supplies; Third Street Family Health Services for a mobile food pantry for expecting and new mothers; and the YMCA of North Central Ohio to provide a certified babysitting course.

Since 1998, the Women's Fund has awarded $772,000 via 355 grants impacting thousands of lives.

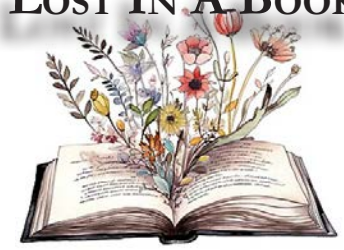
The Women's Fund also announced the JoAnn Dutton Volunteer Community Service Award winner. The award was named in honor of JoAnn Dutton, former executive director of the Mansfield YWCA. It celebrates women who devote a significant amount of time and energy in a meaningful way to local charitable organizations.

This year's winner is Carol Payton who has volunteered at many organizations including the North End Community Improvement Collaborative, UMADAOP, NAACP, Community Health Access Project,

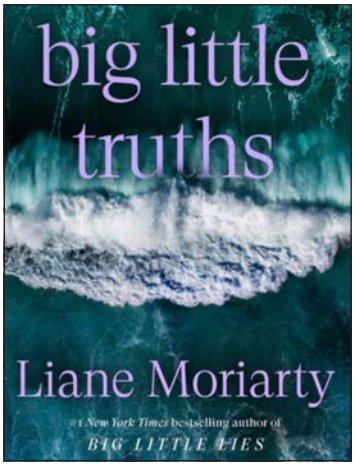
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Lost In A Book



A Book Review
By Amanda Belczak



Big Little Truths by Liane Moriarty is a sequel that is well done and worth the wait.

Everyone has grown up after the incident years ago. The kids are teenagers now and in high school together. Time has changed so much for the adults.

They are good at giving the appearance of healed, when the truths they hid years ago still live under the surface.

New problems arise and it forces everyone to look back at what happened before they can find their way forward.

Just as the first book, there is suspicion, twisted humor, and secrets to be revealed. I loved being back in this world with these characters. Moriarty carried on the storyline flawlessly.

My rating: ★★★★★

Blog: amandabelczak.com

Clear Fork Alliance will host free event

Clear Fork Alliance Church, 1008 St. Rt. 97 E., Bellville, will once again host "Experience Bethlehem" this December.

Those attending can enjoy the sights and sounds of ancient Bethlehem, taste foods in the marketplace, see and hear soldiers in the streets, meet the animals in the stable and follow the star to the manger and the newborn King.

Other activities include games and a live nativity.

The experience will be open Friday, Dec. 11 from 6:30–8:30 pm; Saturday, Dec. 12 from 6:30–8:30 pm; and Sunday, Dec. 13 from 2–4 pm.

Admission is free. The entire event takes place inside and is handicap accessible and family friendly.

Clear Fork Alliance Church is located across the street from Clear Fork High School.

Call the church office at 419-886-4333 or visit clearforkalliance.org for more information.

The Entertainment Examiner

— By Ian Stumbo —

Godzilla Minus Zero is the much anticipated sequel to 2023's much loved *Godzilla Minus One.*



This Toho production and Japanese made film has become the highest grossing foreign language film.

With both films taking a more human approach to the story, it has really brought a new look and appreciation for this legendary franchise.

When a flying monster creature, later named Ghidorah, terrorizes Japan two years after Godzilla's attack, a group of scientists and recruits try to thwart this creatures attack while another appearance from Godzilla makes matters worse as they must go to battle with both creatures at the same time.

Godzilla Minus One won the Oscar for best visual effects deservedly so. This sequel also deserves to be in contention as everything visually looks terrific. The creature effects are extremely effective.

This sequel also relies on the human story though maybe to this film's detrement.

As engaging as these characters are it felt like it was missing some more creature work. Still, the script has an emotional pull involving a couple and their small child and that works quite well.

Godzilla Minus Zero is a well done sequel to the terrific first film. While not quite as effective and could have used a few more creature battles, this should satisfy any Godzilla fan.



Strides for Diabetes Walk and Health Fair is Nov. 14

In recognition of National Diabetes Awareness Month, the Mansfield United Lions Club invites individuals and families throughout Richland County to participate in its annual Strides for Diabetes 1-Mile Walk and Community Health Fair on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 am to noon at the Ontario Center (formerly Richland Mall), 2209 Richland Mall, Ontario.

Participants are encouraged to enter through the food court entrance.

This free, family-friendly event brings together community members, healthcare professionals, and local organizations to promote diabetes awareness, encourage healthy lifestyles, and connect residents with valuable health and wellness resources.

The indoor event features a one-mile awareness walk, opportunities to explore health information and diabetes education, low-carbohydrate food samples, free vision screenings, and door prizes donated by local businesses and organizations.

Attendees do not need to participate in the walk to enjoy the health fair. Everyone is welcome to visit participating organizations, learn about available resources, and connect with others in the community.

Diabetes is one of Lions Clubs International's global causes, and the Mansfield United Lions Club is committed to supporting awareness, education, and community involvement through events like Strides for Diabetes.

Lion Dr. Cynthia Dorsey, a local endocrinologist and advocate for diabetes awareness, encourages individuals and families to take advantage of the opportunity to combine physical activity with education.

"The Strides for Diabetes event is a great opportunity for people with diabetes and prediabetes, along with their friends and family, to enjoy some camaraderie during a one-mile walk at the Ontario Center," said Dr. Dorsey. "Walking is great exercise and a wonderful way to improve physical fitness and help control blood sugar levels. There will also be samples of low-carbohydrate foods to taste, and participants may discover some new and interesting ideas for meals and snacks. I hope many people will enjoy a walk and some education along the way."

Participation in Strides for Diabetes is completely free, and individuals and families are encouraged to register in advance at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe536-06LbxvWU-Lus_W2hRfd2qqQAPELfJpNX-W5UBEBW8dIvA/viewform

The Shelby Lions Club has donated a gift basket for the door prize drawing, while the Ontario Lions Club will participate in the health fair by providing vision screenings.

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Serving Ontario, Lexington, Madison, Bellville and Butler Communities in Madison, Mifflin, Springfield, Troy, Washington and Jefferson Townships

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news@tribune-courier.com • www.tribune-courier.com
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News Briefs

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center Board of Education has changed its regular November meeting to Monday, Nov. 23, at 6 pm in the Pioneer Board of Education Conference Room.

The regular December meeting will be moved to Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 6 pm at Table 27 (Previously The Pioneer Room) Restaurant located in the west end of the building at the Pioneer Career and Technology Center, Shelby.

★

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am at Der Dutchman, Rt. 97, Bellville. Cost is $17 for the meal, with an additional $2 for pie.

The next meal will be Dec. 16, which is the Christmas luncheon. The Clear Fork Music Departemt will provide entertainment.

The group will also meet for lunch on Dec. 2, at the Reindeer Grill, 10 S. Park St., on the square in downtown Mansfield.

For information visit the Facebook page at Lexington Area Senior Citizens (LASC). Dues are $10 per year.

★

The 33rd Annual Crestview Craft Show will be held Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 am to 3 pm at Crestview Middle School, 1575 St. Rt. 96, Ashland. Proceeds go to support the music department.

★

The City of Ontario November meeting schedule includes Nov. 16, 4 pm planning commission; Nov. 18, 1 pm civil service commission, 5:30 pm parks committee of the whole, 6:15 pm, caucus and 7 pm council. Meetings are held at 555 Stumbo Rd., Ontario.

★

The first annual chili cook-off will be held Saturday, Nov. 14 at Trinity Grace Fellowship, 1592 Grace St., Mansfield, Madison area, starting at 1 pm. Local churches are invited to compete. All members of the public who attend will be eligible to vote on which chili is the best. Tickets are $5 per person.

★

The Springfield Township Trustees have hired Michael Morton as zoning inspector. Morton may be contacted anytime at 419-529-4416, ext. 117. Leave a message and the call will be returned promptly to schedule a convenient meeting time and location. All zoning forms will be available online soon at www.springfieldtwprc.org.

★

The Richland County Youth and Family Council invites caregivers to attend "It's Time To Potty!" a supportive and informative potty-training workshop for individuals of any age and ability level Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 5–8 pm, at North Central State College, Fellarius Building, in room 164.

Led by Emily Carruthers, M.A. of the Collaborative Learning Center, who brings over 25 years of experience using Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) to support learners with diverse needs, the training covers readiness, reinforcement, visual supports, schedules and practical implementation.

Food and refreshments will be provided by Panera Bread. This free training is open to caregivers supporting children, youth, or adults, including those with disabilities. To register contact Brenda Foley at 567-217-3663 or visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf4ArGFKCi9V_HGa4B-q5kgE2eq64UdcRxOwbqYG16A2r-5Clw/viewform



ONTARIO LIONS PANCAKE DAY

Saturday, Nov. 14

6:30 am to Noon

at Ontario High School

Tickets: $7 • Age 6 & Under Free

Proceeds support local and world-wide Lions projects

Door Prizes donated by local businesses

(Winners need not be present to win)

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Buckeye Superstore launches toy drive for local foster children

SHELBY, OH — This holiday season, Buckeye Superstore is partnering JPB Professional Marketing in Mansfield, Ally Bank and the Empire Jeepers Club to ensure every child in foster care experiences the magic, joy, and warmth of the holidays.

Through Dec. 5, the dealership will host the 3rd Annual "Fill the Promaster" Toy Drive, collecting new, unwrapped toys and gifts to benefit local youth navigating the foster care system through Richland County Children Services (RCCS).

"For children who have experienced the upheaval of being separated from their families, the holidays can sometimes feel more overwhelming than joyful," said Brigitte Coles, Community Engagement Supervisor for Richland County Children Services.

"A simple gift does far more than fill a space under the tree — it sends a powerful, heartfelt message to a child that they are seen, valued, and cherished by their community."

"Every child deserves to experience the wonder of opening a gift during the holidays, but for youth in foster care, those moments mean even more," said John Crosswhite, Sales Consultant at Buckeye Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM FIAT Superstore.

"It's a reminder that they are not alone and that their community is wrapped tightly around them."

"We are opening our showroom doors as a drop-off haven, and we are calling on our incredible neighbors to help us turn hope into reality for these resilient kids. We're thankful for the support of JPB professional Marketing in Mansfield, Ally Bank and the Empire Jeepers Club who have helped from the beginning to make this drive a success."

Community members are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys, games, books, or gift cards at the Buckeye Superstore showroom.

The drive is focusing on all age groups, from infants needing comfort toys to teenagers who appreciate gift cards, tech accessories and games.

Donations will be accepted through Saturday, Dec. 5, at Buckeye Superstore, 278 Mansfield Ave., Shelby; Shelby Fire Department, 40 High School Ave., Shelby; Premier Tanning and Nutrition, 35 Mansfield Ave., Shelby; House of Pieces, 2031 Park Avenue West, Ontario; and Shelby Eagles, 46 E. Main St., Shelby.

Accepted items include new, unwrapped toys, sporting goods, board games, books, art supplies, and gift cards suitable for toddlers through teens.

For more information about the toy drive call Buckeye Superstore at 567-333-8581.

Church Directory

All Souls Unitarian Universalist
25 Church St., Bellville
419-886-3497 • www.allsoulsuuohio.org
10:30 am Service and Sunday School
Adult RE Book Club (quarterly)

First Congregational Church
640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield
419-756-3046 • www.mansfieldfcc.com
Pastor Brad Bunn
8:30 am Chapel • 10:30 am Sanctuary
10:30 am Sunday School (nursery–high school)
10 am Monday Morning Bible Study

Lexington Church of the Cross
236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington
419-884-2150 • Churchofthecrosslex.com
Pastor-Rev. Dr. Edna Stahl
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Junior Church for 10 and under • Wesley Class 10:45
5th Sunday of the month-Do Something Sunday AA, Girl Scouts, Yoga, Knotty Ladies and Bible Study.

Ontario United Methodist Church
3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario
419-529-4345 • ontarioumc.com
Rev. J.P. Snyder
9:30 am Grace & Eggs
11 am Sunday Worship and Kingdom Kids

St. John's United Church of Christ
2010 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
(At Hope Lutheran Next to Drug Mart)
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org
contact@stjohnmansfield.org
Pastor Faith Proietti • 11 am Sunday Worship
Office hours: Mon–Fri 9 am to 1 pm
AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;
Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm

Trinity Grace Fellowship
1592 Grace St., Mansfield
419-589-5890 • trinitygracefellowship.org
Pastor Larry Carnes
9:30 am Sunday Worship • 11 am Sunday School
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

G & M Body & Paint Shop
1689 West Fourth St., Ontario • 419-529-2747

Wappner Funeral Home
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Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors & Crematory

Margaret Ellen Cole, October 29
Beverly Mae Mathis, November 2
Josephine Fern Jordan, November 4
David L. Dalton, November 6

View full obituaries at www.wappner.com



RAA's "The Nutcracker Ballet" returns this December

Richland Academy of the Arts (RAA) returns to the Renaissance Theatre with its eleventh annual production of *The Nutcracker Ballet.*

Directed and choreographed by Sarah Horrigan-Ramos and Marden Ramos, this production brings Tchaikovsky's beloved score to life. Audiences will follow Clara on her magical Christmas Eve adventure, from the fierce battle between the Nutcracker and the Mouse King to the sparkling Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets.

This year's production features 92 performers, including 76 Richland Academy dancers, 12 adult cast members, and two professional guest artists from the Cleveland Ballet. Lorenzo Mattia Pontiggia and Nashializ Gomez Orengo will dance the roles of the Cavalier and the Sugar Plum Fairy Queen in the famous Grand Pas de Deux.

Performances will be Saturday, Dec. 5 at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm; and Sunday, Dec. 6 at 2:30 pm.

For high school seniors Nora Ball and Carlie Geiger, this year's performances mark their final Richland Academy Nutcracker.

"Being in the Nutcracker has meant so much to me," said Nora Ball, a senior at Lexington High School who shares the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy Princess this year. "For the past 10 years, I have had the privilege of getting to be a part of something that has brought me so many amazing memories. Getting to share the stage with so many talented people and learn from such amazing teachers has meant so much to me. Having the opportunity to dance with my dad on stage has made this experience even more special and something I will cherish forever."

Carlie Geiger, a Mansfield Christian School senior dancing the role of the Nutcracker in the Battle Scene, remembers looking up to the older dancers when she was young.

"Dancing in the Nutcracker has been the most magical part of winter since I could remember," Carlie shared. "I always looked forward to the fight of the Battle Scene, girls dancing in the snow, and the magic of the second act. And now, as I've gotten older, I am the one I used to look up to. I am going to miss the magic of the music and the thrill of performing."

On the other end of that journey is Addyson Schwabe of Lexington Elementary, who steps into the role of Younger Clara this year.

"Getting to be Younger Clara is such a great opportunity, and it means so much to be in an amazing magical scene that is so fun," said Addyson. "I love dance and I feel I have worked so hard to get where I am today. I can't wait for this Nutcracker and getting to be on stage with my friends and dance instructors."

Additional cast members are Aubrey Kennedy (Mansfield Christian School) as Fritz, Hanleigh Dyar (Homeschool) as Older Clara, Milo McDonald (Ashland High School) as the Nutcracker Prince, Olyve Isch (Lexington Junior High School) as the Sugar Plum Fairy Princess (double cast), Selah Schleusener (homeschool) as the Mouse King, Lorenzo Mattia Pontiggia (Cleveland Ballet) as the Cavalier and Nashializ Gomez Orengo (Cleveland Ballet) as the Sugar Plum Fairy Queen.

Tickets are available at rentickets.org, by calling the Renaissance Box Office at 419-522-2726, or by visiting the theatre at 138 Park Avenue West, Mansfield.



Avita Health System celebrates honorees

Avita Health System recently recognized employees for their years of service, dedication and commitment to excellence during its annual Years of Service & Excellence Celebration.

More than 140 employees were honored for service milestones ranging from 10 to 50 years. Among those recognized was Lu Ellen Ness, Medical Laboratory Technician, who celebrated 50 years of service with Avita Health System.

The event also recognized employees who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to patient care, teamwork, and service to the organization.

The five nurses receiving the DAISY Award for Nursing Excellence were Janet Heydinger, Andrea "Andi" Evans, Andrea Roberts, Aimee McKenzie and Sarah Konves.

The Monarch Award, which recognizes non-nursing employees who positively impact the patient and family experience, was presented to Krista Collins, Gary Iceman, Sarah Kanz, Stephanie Kitzler, Jeff Mostoller and Kirsten Tanner.

This year's celebration also included the presentation of two new organizational awards.

The inaugural Avita Pillar Award was presented to Misty Crank-Holsey, Unit Coordinator in the Galion Emergency Department. Crank-Holsey was recognized for her commitment to supporting patients and coworkers, fostering teamwork, and creating a positive environment for those around her.

The inaugural Avita Emerald Award was presented to Terry Sheets, Director of IS Operations and Infrastructure. Sheets was honored for his leadership, innovation, mentorship, and contributions to the organization's continued success.

"This is one of my favorite events each year because it gives us the opportunity to recognize so many employees whose dedication, compassion, and service have made a lasting impact on our patients, coworkers, and communities," said Jessica Geyer, Director of Recruitment & Engagement. "It is truly an honor to celebrate the people who make Avita such a special place."



KCCC will host open house

The Knox County Career Center (KCCC) will host an open house and first chance application night on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 4:30–6:30 pm. The open house is free and open to the public. Business partners, alumni and community members, along with current students and their families, will be in attendance.

Additionally, current sophomores and juniors from associate schools, along with their families, will have the opportunity to visit KCCC's career tech programs. Sophomores can visit any of the two-year programs. Juniors will have the chance to visit the senior-only program, pre-professional mentorship. Students will have an opportunity to apply in person in the cafe that evening.

If students are unable to attend this event, the application window will be open from 4:30 pm to midnight by visiting www.knoxcc.org and clicking on "Apply Now". For information email careereducation@knoxcc.org or call 740-397-5820.

•Senator Romanchuk honored with Outstanding Public Service Award

(Continued from Front Page)

in strengthening services and supports for older adults and people with complex needs across Ohio."

Through his years of dedicated public service, Senator Romanchuk has demonstrated a strong commitment to the people of Ohio and to advancing policies that make a meaningful difference in the lives of older adults and their families. The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. is appreciative of his continued commitment to strengthening Ohio's aging and disability services network.

Located in Ontario, the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. provides leadership, coordination, and services that support older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, and community partners, helping individuals maintain choice, independence, and dignity. Learn more at aaa5ohio.org.



WOMEN'S FUND chair-elect Amy Goyal, Women's Fund Founder Linda Smith and Women's Fund Chair Amy Hiner attended the 30th anniversary luncheon.

•Women's Fund celebrates 30 years

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Richland County Task Force on Racism, Richland County Children's Services Board, Culliver Reading Center, the Richland County Foundation and the Women's Fund of the Richland County Foundation.



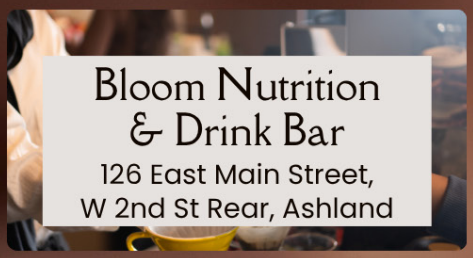


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W 2nd St Rear, Ashland



4th Street Coffee House
1996 W 4th St, Ontario



Pump and Grind
586 Park Avenue East,
OH-430, Mansfield



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44 East Main St., Shelby



ADVERTISE HERE



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1201 Mill Rd, Bellville
revivecoffeebar.com



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The Cafe at Arbor Creek Gardens and Floral
3052 Mabee Rd, Ontario



Honey B Express Coffee Trailer
567-303-5248



Pronto Pizza and Coffee
914 Ashland Rd, Mansfield
419-589-7777



The Green Bean House
230 Main St, Bellville
419-719-6026
@thegreenbeanhouse



More Than a Uniform: Colonel Jack Johnson reflects on 26 years of service, sacrifice and the meaning of Veterans Day

By Traci Little

MANSFIELD — Colonel Jack W. Johnson helped piece together radar data in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, faced incoming mortar fire in Iraq and left his four-week-old son behind to serve his country.

Over 26 years in uniform, those experiences have shaped his understanding of duty, sacrifice and the true meaning of military service.

But when Johnson reflects on his career, it is not the rank he has earned or the missions he has accomplished that define his understanding of service. It is the people who have shared in the sacrifices, the family who made his career possible and the responsibility he now carries for the next generation of Airmen.

"What I've found over a 26-year career, however, is that why we join isn't why we stay," Johnson said.

As commander of the 179th Cyberspace Wing at Mansfield Lahm Air National Guard Base, Johnson approaches this Veterans Day with an appreciation for how much his understanding of service has changed — from a young man seeking adventure to a father, veteran and leader entrusted with the lives and futures of nearly 1,000 Airmen.

A calling that began with family

Johnson's path to the Air Force began with his father, an Army veteran who spoke fondly of his military experiences and encouraged his son to consider serving.

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•More Than a Uniform: Colonel Jack Johnson reflects on 26 years of service, sacrifice and the meaning of Veterans Day

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He offered one particularly memorable piece of advice.

"If you join, join the Air Force. They always have the best facilities!" Johnson recalled.

While completing his degree at Oregon State University in 1999, Johnson knew he wanted something beyond a traditional desk job. Inspired in part by a college friend who had recently received an Air Force commission, he saw military service as an opportunity to explore the world, gain experience and contribute to a larger purpose.

He entered Officer Training School in July 2000 and earned his commission that September.

One year later, his understanding of that commitment would change forever.

A defining moment in American history

On Sept. 11, 2001, Johnson was stationed at Hill Air Force Base in Utah as a radar evaluation engineer.

When terrorists attacked the United States, his unit's routine work gave way to an urgent mission — reconstructing flight paths and radar data to assist federal agencies investigating the attacks.

"Our routine instantly vanished," Johnson recalled.

For a young officer who had joined the military seeking adventure and professional experience, the events of that morning brought a sobering realization.

"It brought into razor-sharp focus that our nation was vulnerable, and that the men and women wearing the uniform, including myself, were the ones who would have to stand up, answer the call, and defend our country."



The responsibility he had accepted just a year earlier suddenly carried a much deeper meaning.

The sacrifices that followed him home

Throughout his career, Johnson deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom and spent time in

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•More Than a Uniform: Colonel Jack Johnson reflects on 26 years of service, sacrifice and the meaning of Veterans Day

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Afghanistan as a Department of the Navy civilian supporting military operations.

Of those experiences, his deployment to Iraq left perhaps the deepest personal mark.

He had just become a father when he learned he would be leaving.

"I was notified of my deployment just two weeks after my son was born, and I was on a plane bound for Iraq only four weeks later," Johnson said. "Leaving a newborn is a sacrifice that stays with you forever."

In Iraq, Johnson faced the uncertainty of near-constant incoming mortar fire. Although he was not engaged in the same frontline combat as many of his fellow service members, the danger was real.

"You quickly come to terms with the reality that at any second, a round could land where you stand, and that would be it," he said.

At home was a baby boy who was growing up without him, too young to understand why his father was gone.

For Johnson, the emotional toll of that separation became one of the lasting sacrifices of his military career.

As the years passed, his family would continue to share in the demands of his service.

The family behind the uniform

"The greatest challenges and sacrifices of my career have never been mine alone, they have belonged to my family," Johnson said.

Following a divorce when his son was six years old, Johnson gained custody and faced the challenge of raising him as a single father while continuing a demanding military career.

During that difficult chapter, his sister became an essential source of support.

"Without her unconditional love, selflessness

(Continued on Page 11)









•More Than a Uniform: Colonel Jack Johnson reflects on 26 years of service, sacrifice and the meaning of Veterans Day

(Continued from Page 10)

and willingness to step in and support my son and me, I likely would have had to walk away from the service long ago," Johnson said. "I owe her a debt of gratitude I can never truly repay."

Father and son navigated frequent moves, new schools and the difficult goodbyes that accompany military life.

"He didn't ask for a military childhood, but he met every single transition with a level of resilience and adaptability that continually left me in awe," Johnson said.

Today, the boy Johnson once left behind as a newborn is serving his country in the United States Navy.

And the father who spent nearly two decades caring for his son now finds himself experiencing military life from the other side — trusting others to protect and guide him.



"I know he is in good hands, but as a father, it is still difficult," Johnson said.

That experience has deepened his appreciation for the parents and families who entrust their loved ones to military service.

Johnson also credits his wife, Somayeh, for her unwavering support and willingness to embrace the demands and uncertainty of military life.

"Behind every service member is a family carrying the quiet, heavy weight of that service, and I am profoundly blessed by mine."

A new mission and a community that stands behind it

In June, Johnson assumed command of the 179th Cyberspace Wing at Mansfield Lahm Air National Guard Base, bringing more than two decades of military experience to a mission undergoing significant transformation.

For generations, the Mansfield community associated the 179th with the familiar sight and sound of C-130 aircraft flying overhead.

Today, its Airmen defend the nation in

(Continued on Page 12)







•More Than a Uniform: Colonel Jack Johnson reflects on 26 years of service, sacrifice and the meaning of Veterans Day

(Continued from Page 11)

cyberspace, supporting military operations in an increasingly complex technological environment.

"Today, our footprint looks different, but our contribution has never been more vital," Johnson said.

While the wing's mission has changed dramatically, Johnson has been especially impressed by the determination of its Airmen and the community's unwavering support.

"The bond between this community and our wing is the strongest I have witnessed anywhere in my 26 years of service," he said.

He describes the Airmen of the 179th as possessing grit, adaptability and a willingness to overcome challenges — qualities that have allowed the wing to embrace its new mission.

For Johnson, taking command represents both a professional honor and a deeply personal responsibility.

Leadership built on trust and understanding

Johnson's experiences as a young officer, deployed service member and father have shaped the way he approaches leadership.

Throughout his career, he sometimes struggled to understand how individual assignments contributed to the larger military mission. Today, he works to ensure his Airmen understand not only what they are being asked to accomplish, but why their contributions matter.

He believes the greatest accomplishments come not from individual recognition, but from helping others recognize their own potential.

"What I am most proud of when I look back is not a ribbon, a rank, or a personal accomplishment; it is the moments when I watched a team realize their own strength, push past their perceived limits, and succeed together," Johnson said.

While the Air Force encourages its members to "Aim High," Johnson sometimes challenges his Airmen to "Aim Higher."

But perhaps his greatest understanding of leadership has come through fatherhood.

With his own son now serving in the Navy, Johnson recognizes the trust military families place in those responsible for their loved ones.

"I know that the parents of the 1,000 Airmen serving under my command in Mansfield have entrusted their sons and daughters to us," he said.

"I do my absolute utmost every day to honor that trust, protect them, and ensure they are led with the same care and respect I hope my own son receives within his unit."

What Veterans Day means after 26 years

Despite dedicating more than a quarter-century to military service, Johnson admits that being recognized on Veterans Day can still

(Continued on Page 14)







LARRY CORN ★ JOSH HURRELL ★ DOUG THEAKER ★ DEB ROBINSON ★ GARY UTT

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•More Than a Uniform: Colonel Jack Johnson reflects

(Continued from Page 12)

feel somewhat uncomfortable.

He is proud to serve, but remains mindful of those who have faced greater dangers and made sacrifices far beyond his own.

"I love being an Airman, and I love the life, the purpose, and the lifelong bonds this career has provided for me and my family," Johnson said.

"As my career has progressed, Veterans Day has become less about my own journey and more about collective gratitude."

For Johnson, the holiday also represents a legacy of service spanning generations.

His family's military history stretches from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War, both World Wars and Vietnam. His father served in the Army, and now his son continues that legacy in the Navy.

Having experienced military life as the son of a veteran, a service member himself and now the father of one, Johnson has developed a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by those who serve and the families who stand behind them.

That perspective also shapes his appreciation for today's generation of Airmen, who continue volunteering to serve despite the uncertainty and challenges of military life.

"To see young men and women continue to raise their right hands

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•More Than a Uniform: Colonel Jack Johnson reflects

(Continued from Page 14)

in an increasingly complex and volatile world is deeply inspiring," he said.

Honoring service by listening to the stories

As north central Ohio pauses to recognize Veterans Day, Johnson hopes the community will remember that service and sacrifice are not always visible.

Veterans are the parents and grandparents, neighbors, coworkers and friends who live among us — each carrying experiences that may never have been shared.

"Please don't let Veterans Day just be a single day on the calendar," Johnson said.

"Look around you. Your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, coworkers, and neighbors are veterans. They live quietly among you, carrying incredible stories of resilience, sacrifice, and camaraderie."

After 26 years of service, Johnson's journey has taken him from a young officer seeking adventure to a commander responsible for the next generation of Airmen.

Along the way, he has learned that the meaning of service is found not only in the missions accomplished but in the lives forever shaped by them.



And as he reflects on those who have served before him, alongside him and now after him, his message is simple.

"Take a moment to thank them, but more importantly, ask them to share some of their stories. Listen to them," Johnson said.

"By understanding their journeys, we truly honor their service and keep the spirit of their sacrifice alive."







Veterans Day

Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present



ONTARIO'S Warrior Leadership Council member Zakari Ramos made the November bulletin board in honor of Veterans Day. A Veterans Day breakfast and parade was held at Ontario High School on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Bells of Peace ceremony honors World War I veterans

The Doughboy Foundation, in partnership with The Embassy of the United Kingdom, presented the annual Bells of Peace Ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Prelude music was provided by the American Expeditionary Forces Band Brass Quinte. The ceremony took place at The National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The ceremony was free and open to the public and can be watched on our Youtube channel at https://www.youtube.com/@Doughboy-Foundation/featured.

Sir Christian Turner KCMG CVO, His Majesty's Ambassador to the United States, will make the keynote address.

Bells of Peace commemorates the end of World War I and honors the 4.7 million Americans who donned the uniform and the 116,516 who lost their lives in that conflict.

November 11 is now Veterans Day, a day to recognize all military Veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Originally called Armistice Day, the date marked the end of hostilities in WWI and is observed as Remembrance Day in other countries.

At the National WWI Memorial, while honoring our Veterans, the foundation honored and upheld the original purpose of November 11 through a multi-national commemorative ceremony and observe the day by remembering the 4.7 million American military members who served in WWI and all those from other nations who served alongside them.

Dignitaries from the embassies of a number of nations and many organizations will particpated in the ceremony and lay wreaths honoring those who served during the Great War.

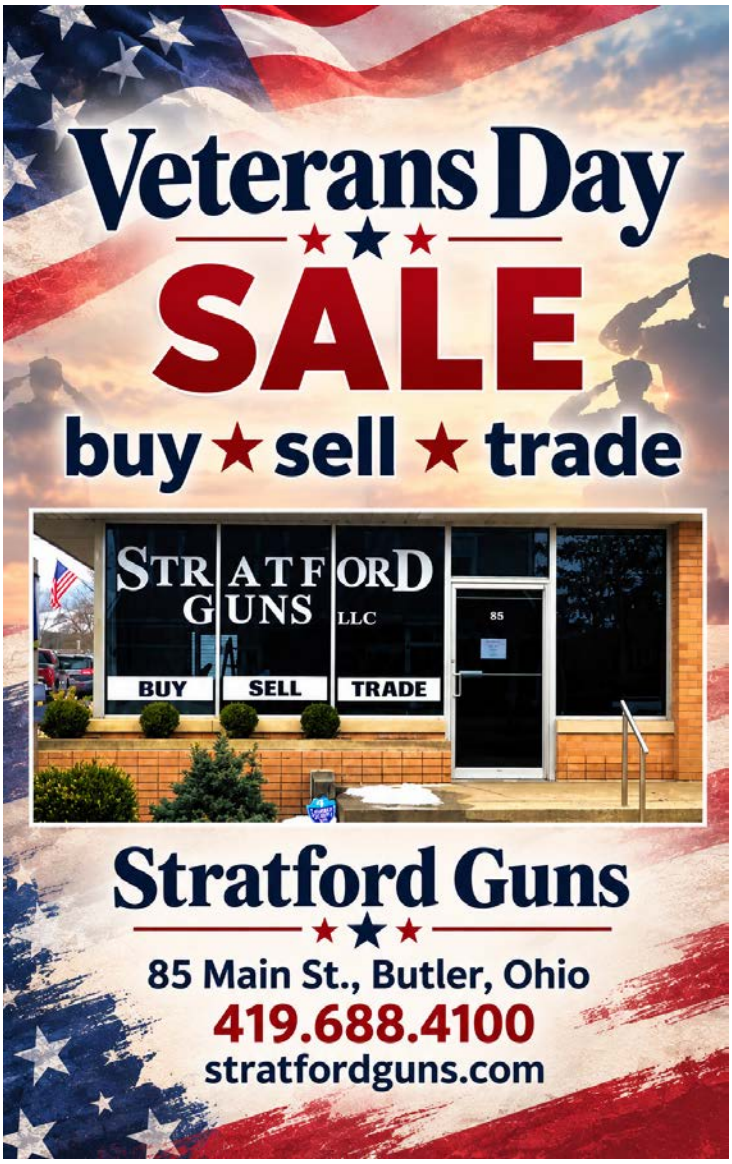
A history of how Veterans Day came to be

Veterans Day originated as Armistice Day to mark the end of World War I and later evolved to honor all American military veterans.

Veterans Day is always celebrated on Nov. 11, marking the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military Veterans, both living and remembered.





Veterans Day Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present

Two Careers, One Commitment:
The Kumashiros' shared life of service

By Traci Little

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, U.S. Air Force officer Suzanne Kumashiro sat at a computer at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia, trying to reach her husband.

A hijacked airplane had struck the Pentagon, where Patrick Kumashiro was assigned. With no cellphone coverage available on the base, Suzanne sent him an email asking, simply, if he was okay.

His response came just 30 seconds later. To Suzanne, it felt like an eternity.

An unexpected travel delay the previous night had changed Patrick's plans. Rather than reporting directly to the Pentagon, he had gone to another office west of the building, keeping him away when the aircraft struck.

Next, Suzanne called her mother, who had experienced the German occupation of Luxembourg as a child. After learning that her daughter and son-in-law were safe, her mother broke down in tears.

"This is not supposed to happen in this country," she told Suzanne.

The following day, Suzanne drove him back to work; smoke was still rising from the damaged Pentagon.

Twenty-five years later, those memories remain vivid for the couple, both retired U.S. Air Force colonels who's combined 55 years of military service brought extraordinary experiences, difficult sacrifices and a shared commitment to their country.

Through it all, Patrick and Suzanne Kumashiro built a marriage that spanned 31 years, raised twins and remained grateful for the family and community support that helped make their service possible.

Suzanne Shaw Kumashiro grew up in Shelby, Ohio, where faith, integrity, hard work and service were deeply rooted family values.

Her father, an Army veteran who worked at Ohio Seamless Tube Company, shared stories of his military experiences. Her mother, a native of Luxembourg who became an American citizen, demonstrated the importance of citizenship and service.

Although her parents encouraged education, they could not afford college tuition. After her older sister introduced her to ROTC scholarships, Suzanne's father encouraged her to apply through the Air Force.

"The Air Force takes better care of its people," he told her.

When Suzanne became a scholarship finalist at Bowling Green State University, her father took a day off work to drive her to the

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Veterans Day — Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present

•Two Careers, One Commitment: A Shared Life of Service

(Continued from Page 17)

interview.

During the trip, he offered advice that would stay with her throughout her career.



The couple's wedding day at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Shelby.

"No one will be there to talk about all of your contributions and what you've accomplished. You have to toot your own horn," she recalled him saying.

For a painfully shy young woman raised to remain humble, the advice was difficult but necessary.

Suzanne earned a four-year, full-ride scholarship, beginning a military career that would take her around the world. She later earned multiple graduate degrees and rose through the ranks as a cyber and communications officer, ultimately advising the Air Force's Chief Information Officer at the Pentagon.

Patrick's path was shaped by his own military upbringing.

Born at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, he was the son of an Air Force officer who retired as a colonel. His younger brother also pursued a military career, eventually becoming a general.

After graduating from the University of Texas at Austin, Patrick began a 27-year career in maintenance and logistics, serving in leadership positions at multiple levels of the Air Force.

Their different beginnings would eventually lead them to the same place — and each other. Patrick and Suzanne met as Air Force captains stationed at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany.

Patrick was among the officers welcoming new arrivals when Suzanne arrived. He volunteered to help pick her up, although his only available vehicle was an older Porsche 928 — was hardly ideal for transporting luggage.

According to Patrick, the sports car did not make the best first impression.

He was interested in getting to know Suzanne, but she spent most weekends visiting relatives in Luxembourg, making it difficult to arrange a date.

Eventually, a mutual friend encouraged Suzanne to stay in Germany for a weekend so Patrick could finally ask her out.

What began as an awkward introduction grew into a relationship grounded in shared faith, mutual respect and the Air Force's core values — integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. They married and began building a life together while pursuing two demanding military careers, with assignments

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•Two Careers, One Commitment: A Shared Life of Service

(Continued from Page 18)

throughout the United States and Europe.

Patrick and Suzanne welcomed twins, Anne and Jack, while continuing their demanding military careers.

Along with school activities, church involvement and everyday parenting, they faced the possibility of being called away with little warning.

At times, emergencies required both parents to leave in the middle of the night, waking their children and placing them in the care of trusted neighbors. They maintained emergency family care plans in case both were deployed simultaneously.

Birthdays, holidays and anniversaries were sometimes missed, with celebrations postponed until the family reunited.

"It truly took a village to raise our family," Patrick said. "So we had help throughout their upbringing because we couldn't do it ourselves."

The couple considers themselves fortunate that the Air Force kept them assigned together for much of their marriage. Still, deployments and Suzanne's yearlong remote assignment to South Korea brought difficult separations.

While in Korea, Suzanne used the 13-hour time difference to arrange video calls during her lunch break while Patrick and the children were having dinner (the previous evening) in Arizona.

Through those experiences, they watched their children develop resilience, adaptability and an appreciation for welcoming others.

Today, Anne and Jack are 24 years old and pursuing their own careers.

Among Suzanne's most difficult assignments was an emergency deployment to Albania following the crash of an Air Force aircraft in the snow-covered mountains.

Her twins were just 2½ years old.

When the call came, Suzanne volunteered to serve as on-scene commander, knowing other officers had already planned spring break activities with their families. She had approximately one hour to prepare.

Her children were sleeping when she left.

"They woke up from their nap and I was gone," she recalled.

With no way of knowing how long the mission would last, Suzanne called her mother from the deployment processing line, asking her to continue with a planned visit to help Patrick care for the twins.

Initially expected to be a search-and-rescue operation, the mission became one of recovery when Suzanne learned that all nine

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•Two Careers, One Commitment: A Shared Life of Service

(Continued from Page 19)

crew members had died.

As commanding officer, she was responsible for safely transporting personnel by Black Hawk helicopter to the snow-covered crash site and ensuring the fallen airmen were recovered with dignity and respect.

During one landing, the helicopter began sliding across the mountain. As the other airmen looked toward her, Suzanne maintained her composure, trusting the Army warrant officer piloting the aircraft. He lifted off, repositioned and landed safely.

The experience reinforced her appreciation for military training, teamwork and the emotional burden carried by personnel entrusted with recovering fallen service members.

"It was, I would say, a very challenging but rewarding mission to know that we had helped bring closure to those families," she said.

It also changed how she approached everyday life.

Never go to bed angry. Never leave home without telling loved ones how much they mean to you. Because tomorrow is never guaranteed.

Patrick faced his own life-threatening experiences during a 2007 deployment to Balad Air Base in Iraq.

As deputy commander responsible for multiple deployed units, he worked alongside airmen supporting combat aircraft operations amid the constant threat of mortar attacks.

One experience involving a young, enlisted airman remains particularly vivid.

On Valentine's Day, the airman switched work shifts and was away from his sleeping quarters when a mortar struck his trailer.

Had he remained in his bunk, Patrick said, he would have been killed.

Among the wreckage were the remains of a Valentine's Day candy basket his wife had sent him. The incident reinforced how quickly life could change.

During another attack, F-16 fighter aircraft were preparing to launch combat missions when unexploded mortar rounds threatened the flight line.

Patrick helped direct ground crews safely around the hazards so the aircraft could complete their missions. His actions during that operation earned him the Bronze Star Medal.

Yet he emphasizes that military accomplishments are never achieved alone.

"It's not an individual, it's part of a team working together," he said.

Like Suzanne, his military honors also include Legion of Merit and the Defense Superior Service Medal, but Patrick considers the opportunity to serve alongside men and women united by a common purpose among his greatest rewards.

Although both retired from active military duty, Patrick and Suzanne continue supporting national security through their civilian careers.

Patrick serves as chief strategy officer for Phoenix Tailings, a company focused on strengthening America's domestic rare-earth processing capabilities and critical mineral supply chain. Previously, he held a senior advisory position supporting national defense priorities, including the F-35 Lightning II program.

Suzanne serves as a senior customer solutions manager for Amazon Web Services, supporting U.S. Army customers. She previously worked for Cisco Systems and served as an adviser to the Air Force's chief information officer at the Pentagon.

Her commitment to service also extends into her community and faith through her work with the Arlington Philharmonic

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•Two Careers, One Commitment: A Shared Life of Service

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Orchestra and as a Catholic religious education teacher.

Through more than three decades of marriage, Patrick and Suzanne have learned how their differences complement one another.

Suzanne describes herself as someone who has always struggled to sit still, frequently feeling the need to remain productive. Her mother once called her a hummingbird.

Patrick taught her how to slow down, sometimes insisting they simply sit together and watch a movie without finding another task to accomplish.

For Patrick, Suzanne's influence was equally significant.

He credits her determination and work ethic with encouraging him to set higher expectations for himself.

"I would say that I probably wouldn't have been promoted to Colonel if I hadn't met Suzie," he said.

Suzanne was quick to disagree, but Patrick insisted her example pushed him to work harder and pursue opportunities he might otherwise have overlooked.

Looking back, Suzanne describes their life together as quite an adventure — made more meaningful because she experienced it alongside her best friend. In one word, she referred to her military career as one Helluvaride. "Does that count as one word?" she joked.

As Veterans Day approaches, Patrick and Suzanne hope their story reminds others that military service is never carried out by service members alone.

Behind every uniform are families, friends, neighbors and communities whose encouragement makes that service possible.

For the Kumashiros, that support has always included Shelby and Richland County.



Patrick remembers how warmly Suzanne's hometown welcomed him as a Japanese American joining a community where he had not grown up. The acceptance and encouragement left a lasting impression.

Although they no longer return to Ohio as frequently as they once did, the connection remains important.

"The moral support has always been critical for our success, knowing that we had so many people that were supporting us," Patrick said.

He hopes residents understand that supporting military members and veterans matters, even when they may never see the difference it makes.

"It's felt and appreciated," he said.

For Suzanne, Veterans Day has taken on new meaning since retirement. After spending years honoring those who served before her, she now finds herself among the veterans being recognized.

She hopes Americans will look beyond military ranks, decorations and assumptions about those who have worn the uniform.

Veterans, she believes, are individuals with different backgrounds, experiences and stories worth hearing.

"The best way to honor them is to listen to their stories," Suzanne said.

For Patrick and Suzanne Kumashiro, those stories are not simply about two distinguished military careers. They are about a marriage strengthened through sacrifice, a family shaped by service and a lifetime of gratitude for the people who stood beside them.







From Shelby to Desert Storm: *Remembering the Service of Jeffrey Ramey*

By Traci Little

Shelby native Jeffrey "Jeff" Ramey served during Operation Desert Storm. More than 35 years later, his memories and photographs help preserve the story of a local soldier whose life was defined by much more than military service.

Hidden explosives, abandoned Iraqi bunkers and the destruction of war surrounded Jeffrey Steven "Jeff" Ramey as he served thousands of miles from his Shelby hometown during Operation Desert Storm.

At just 22 years old, the young U.S. Army soldier faced dangers few people his age could imagine, including a mission to clear a minefield in Kuwait after major combat operations had ended.

"Our last mission was to clear a minefield," Ramey recalled in a March 27, 1991, interview with the Daily Globe.

His military service placed him among the American troops who witnessed the aftermath of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the gratitude of civilians celebrating their liberation.

While much of America followed the Persian Gulf War through television broadcasts and newspaper headlines, Ramey experienced the conflict firsthand.

He returned home in 1991 with memories of dangerous missions, abandoned enemy positions and a nation emerging from war.

More than 35 years later, his words and photographs preserve the experiences of a young man who left Richland County to serve his country and became part of a defining chapter in American military history.

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•From Shelby to Desert Storm: *Remembering the Service of Jeffrey Ramey*

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A Shelby Soldier Answers the Call

Born Nov. 25, 1968, in Shelby, Ramey was the youngest child of Robert Lee and Joyce Ann (Frederick) Ramey.

He graduated from Shelby High School in 1987 and enlisted in the United States Army that August, trading the familiar surroundings of his hometown for military life.

An infantryman with the 27th Infantry at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, his military service eventually took him to the Middle East, where tensions between Iraq and Kuwait had escalated into an international conflict.

In August 1990, Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait, prompting the United States and coalition nations to deploy troops to the region. Operation Desert Shield initially focused on defending Saudi Arabia and building coalition forces. In January 1991, Operation Desert Storm began, launching the military campaign that would ultimately drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Ramey was among the American soldiers who served during the conflict.

The young man who had enlisted just three years earlier now faced responsibilities that demanded courage, discipline and constant awareness of dangers that could emerge without warning.

The Dangers Left Behind

Ramey returned from the Middle East in March 1991 and shared his experiences with local newspaper reporters.

Every soldier returned home with different memories of the war, many shaped by experiences few civilians could fully understand.

For Ramey, some of those memories involved the dangerous work that continued after major combat operations ended.

His unit's final mission involved clearing a minefield, where soldiers encountered anti-tank and anti-personnel explosives.

Among the dangers were mines capable of detonating above ground, sending deadly fragments outward.

The threat of hidden explosives demanded constant vigilance. Even as the war drew to a close, soldiers faced dangers buried beneath the ground.

Ramey also encountered abandoned Iraqi military positions and equipment throughout Kuwait.

Photographs published in newspaper articles captured moments from his deployment. One showed him exploring a bunker previously occupied by Iraqi troops. Another pictured him sitting atop a Soviet-made BRDM military vehicle, one of the vehicles Iraqi forces had left behind.

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•From Shelby to Desert Storm: *Remembering the Service of Jeffrey Ramey*

(Continued from Page 23)

The images offered Shelby readers something much more personal than the distant scenes appearing on national television.

They showed one of their own, a young man who had walked the same hometown streets and attended the same local schools, now standing among the remnants of war.

Witnessing a Nation's Liberation

Not all of Ramey's memories are centered on danger.

He also witnessed the response of Kuwaiti civilians as American and coalition forces helped liberate their country from Iraqi occupation.

After months of uncertainty and conflict, the arrival of coalition troops brought relief and gratitude to many of the people they encountered.

Ramey remembered how the appreciation expressed by Kuwaiti civilians lifted the spirits of American soldiers.

"Our morale was pretty high," he told the Daily Globe.

For soldiers who had endured the strain of deployment and the dangers of war, those encounters offered a reminder of the people whose freedom they had helped restore.

The memories stayed with Ramey when he returned home, becoming part of the story he shared with readers in Richland County.

His account offered something beyond military timelines and battlefield statistics — a personal perspective from a young soldier who witnessed history firsthand.

The Long-Awaited Return Home

While Ramey served overseas, his family waited in Shelby, following developments in a war unfolding thousands of miles away.

For his father, Robert Ramey, the days were filled with worry and uncertainty as he waited for news of his son serving thousands of miles from home.

When his son finally returned home, relief overshadowed everything else.

"It was a very stressful time for us. Words can't express how happy we are to have him back home safe," Robert told reporters.

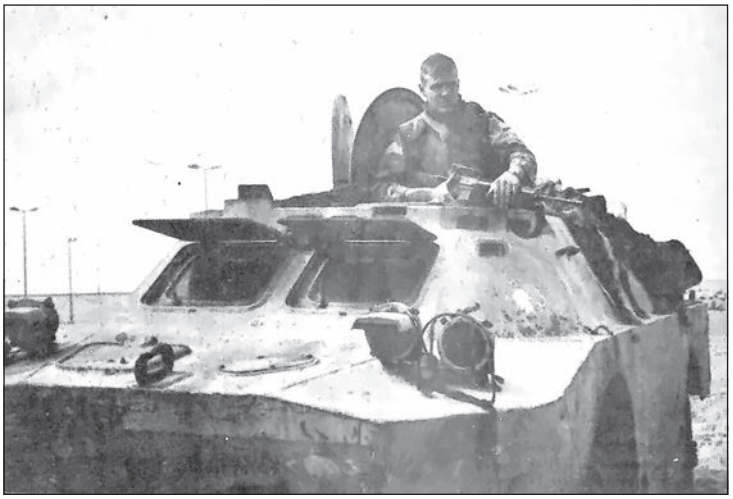
His words revealed another side of military service — the worry carried by parents and families who could do little but wait and hope for their loved ones' safe return.

For Jeff, coming home also meant looking toward the next chapter of his life.

His Army enlistment was scheduled to end in August 1991, and he spoke without regret about his service.

He had entered the military shortly after graduating from high school. Four years later, he was preparing to leave with experiences that would forever distinguish those years from the ordinary transition into adulthood.

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•From Shelby to Desert Storm: *Remembering the Service of Jeffrey Ramey*

(Continued from Page 24)

In the years that followed, Ramey rarely spoke about his military experiences. Yet his family knew how much serving his country meant to him and remembered the quiet pride he carried throughout his life.

A Lifelong Connection to Nature

Long before Ramey wore an Army uniform or traveled thousands of miles from home, he was a young boy who loved exploring the outdoors around Shelby.

The local reservoir and trails at Gorman Nature Center were among his favorite places. There, he developed an appreciation for nature that would remain with him throughout his life.

After returning from military service, that childhood passion continued to grow.

Ramey built a career in the Shelby area, working for several years at Newman Technology and later in the maintenance department at Central Ohio Associates in Shelby's Central Ohio Industrial Park.

Outside of work, he found joy in exploring the natural world.

An avid outdoorsman, Ramey embraced wilderness survival, bushcraft and traditional outdoor living. He enjoyed exploring wooded areas, developing outdoor skills and experiencing nature firsthand.

His adventures took him to Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado, but he also appreciated the beauty closer to home, frequently returning to the reservoir and other natural areas throughout the region.

Photography became another expression of that lifelong passion.

Through his camera lens, Ramey captured landscapes, wildlife and the natural beauty he encountered, preserving moments that reflected the world as he saw it.

Photographs from his deployment captured a young soldier surrounded by the remnants of war. Years later, the images Ramey captured through his own camera reflected a very different world — one filled with wooded trails, wildlife and the quiet beauty of nature.

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Photo By Jeffrey Ramey



Veterans Day Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present

•From Shelby to Desert Storm: *Remembering the Service of Jeffrey Ramey*

(Continued from Page 25)

Together, those photographs preserve two important parts of his life: the soldier who served his country and the man who found joy in the outdoors.



Remembering a Shelby Veteran

Ramey died July 3, 2026, at OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital following a brief illness. He was 57.

Military honors provided by the Richland County Joint Veterans Burial Detail recognized his service to the nation.

In a tribute that reflected his lifelong love of nature, his family encouraged those wishing to honor his memory to take a quiet walk in the woods, observe the world around them and leave no trace.

It was a simple request, but one that spoke volumes about the man they loved.

Long before his military service, Ramey had found joy in the outdoors. Throughout his life, that appreciation remained a source of happiness, adventure and personal fulfillment.

Today, photographs from his deployment preserve the story of a young soldier who served his country during Operation Desert Storm. The images he later captured through his own camera reveal another side of his life — a man who appreciated the quiet beauty of the natural world.

Together, they tell the story of Jeffrey Steven Ramey — a Shelby native, a proud American veteran and a man whose life extended far beyond his years in uniform.

As communities observe Veterans Day, his story offers a reminder that behind every military uniform is a person with a family, a hometown, cherished memories and a life worth remembering.

For those who knew and loved Jeff Ramey, his legacy continues to live on not only through his military service, but also through the simple things that brought him joy.

And perhaps there is no more fitting way to remember him than to take a quiet walk in the woods, appreciate the beauty of nature and remember the Shelby soldier who proudly served his country.







Veterans Day

Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present

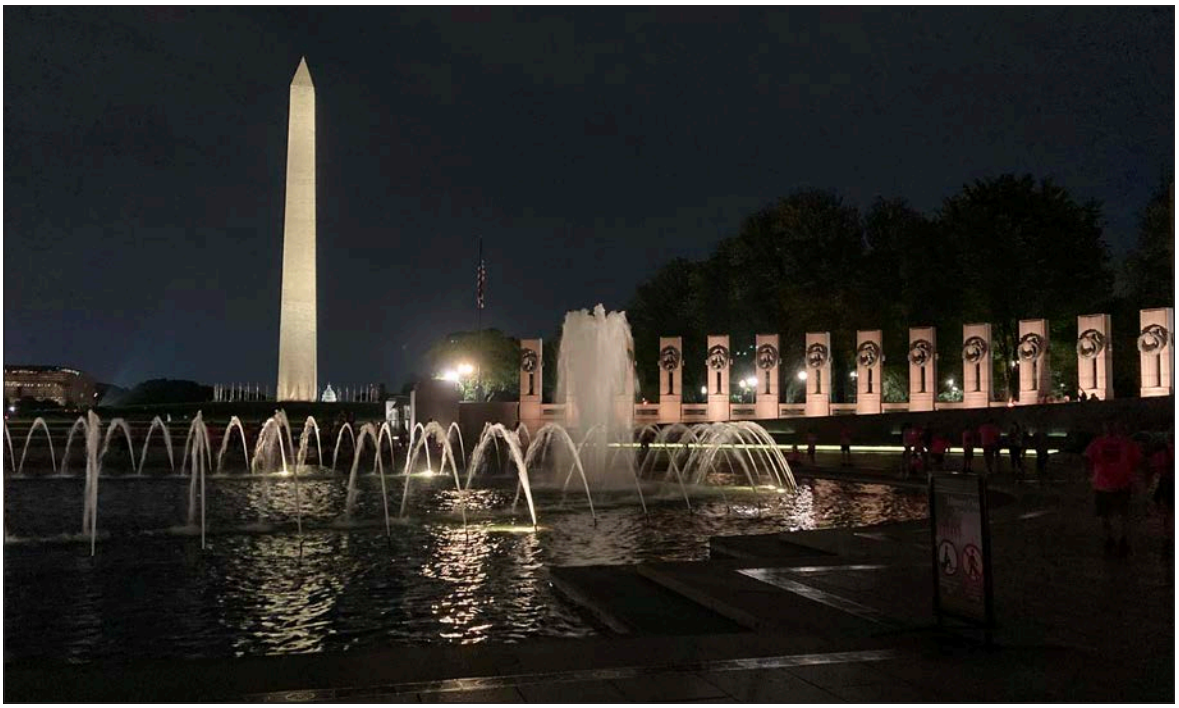


Photo By Jenna Wolford

The World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. honors the service of 16 million members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, the support of countless millions on the home front and the ultimate sacrifice of 405,399 Americans. On May 29, 2004, a four-day "grand reunion" of veterans on the National Mall culminated in the dedication of this tribute to the legacy of "The Greatest Generation." Visitors can also search the World War II Registry, a computerized database honoring Americans who helped win the war, either overseas or on the home front. Also pictured is the Washington Monument, built to honor the first president.

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Honoring Those Who Served: Richland County Honor Bus Connects Generations Through History and Remembrance

By Traci Little

Local veterans, family members and a Crestview student reflect on an unforgettable three-day journey to Washington, D.C., honoring military service, sacrifice and the importance of preserving history.

As the solemn notes of "Taps" echoed through Arlington National Cemetery, Crestview High School senior Kaylynn West stood with her hand over her heart, participating in a ceremony she would never forget.

West had been selected to help place a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, an honor that brought both nervousness and a deep sense of respect for the men and women who have served their country.

As the ceremony unfolded, sunlight broke through the clouds, creating a moment that West would remember long after returning home.

"As soon as they began the song, the sun came up perfectly from behind the clouds," West recalled. "It was just so beautiful."

For West, the experience represented far more than a visit to one of the nation's most sacred military landmarks. It was an opportunity to personally honor those who sacrificed so much for the freedoms Americans enjoy today.

West was among approximately 53 participants who traveled to Washington, D.C., Sept. 11–13 aboard the Richland County Honor Bus. The three-day journey brought veterans, family members, volunteers and two Crestview High School students together to visit national memorials, share personal experiences and reflect on the sacrifices of generations of American service members.

For many, the journey became just as unforgettable as the destinations themselves.

A Journey of Honor and Remembrance

For Kenneth "Kenny" Wagers, the Richland County Honor Bus offered an opportunity to reflect on a chapter of his life that began more than five decades ago.

A 1969 graduate of Plymouth High School, Wagers was working at a steel factory in Shelby when he received his draft notice in January 1971, just one day after his 20th birthday.

By February, he had entered the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era. Although initially assigned to Vietnam, his orders changed, sending him to South Korea, where he served from 1971 to 1973.

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Veterans Day Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present

•Honoring Those Who Served: Honor Bus Connects Generations

(Continued from Page 28)

During his military service, Wagers worked with the Military Police and served as a physical training instructor. His experiences taught him lessons about responsibility, discipline and leadership that have remained with him throughout his life.

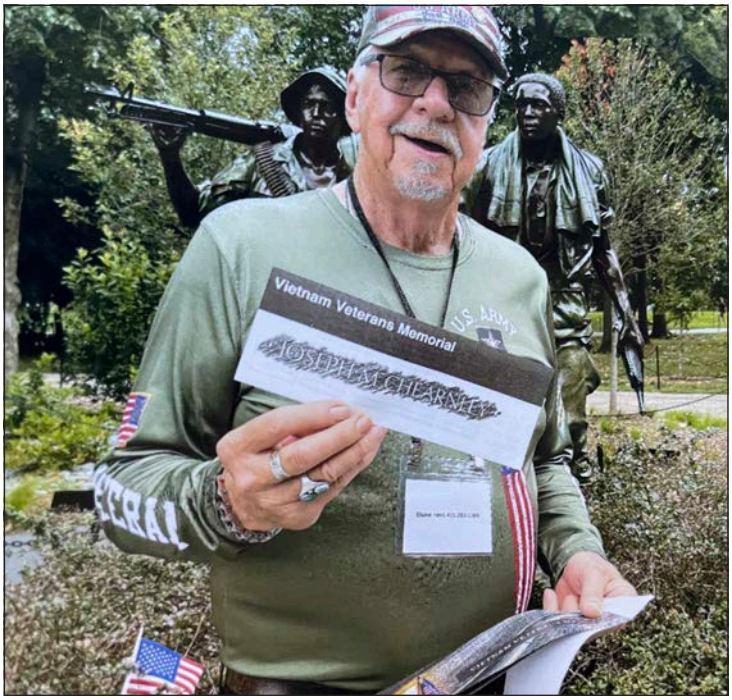
"The Army taught me a lot; to be on time, how to respect others, earn respect, take care of myself, be responsible and learn from others," Wagers reflected.

Now, more than 50 years after returning home, those memories remain an important part of his life.

For Wagers, honoring veterans also means remembering fellow service members who never returned home and those whose lives were forever changed by war.

"You remember your buddies. You remember what it meant to serve. You think about the ones who didn't get the chance to come home," he shared.

Those memories gave added meaning to his September journey aboard the Richland County Honor Bus, where he and his wife, Sharon, joined fellow veterans, family members and student volunteers for three days of remembrance and reflection.



Although the couple had heard about Honor Flights and similar opportunities, they had not realized a three-day Honor Bus experience was available locally.

After learning about the program, Wagers obtained an application through the local veterans' services office, and Sharon accompanied him on the journey.

The couple quickly discovered that the experience offered much more than they had anticipated.

"We really didn't know what to expect, but it was extremely well-organized," Wagers recalled.

The carefully planned itinerary allowed participants to spend time at the memorials, reflect on their significance and connect with others who shared similar experiences.

For the Wagers, seeing these historic landmarks in person brought an entirely different perspective from viewing them in photographs or on television.

"You don't comprehend the massive size of some of those sites," Sharon said.

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Veterans Day Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present

•Honoring Those Who Served: Honor Bus Connects Generations

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Remembering September 11

The trip began with a visit to the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, on the 25th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

The memorial honors the 40 passengers and crew members who lost their lives when United Airlines Flight 93 crashed into a Pennsylvania field after passengers and crew fought back against the hijackers.

Kenny and Sharon had previously visited the site years earlier, but they were struck by how much the memorial had developed.

"It was very emotional," Sharon recalled.

The couple described the memorial's powerful displays and the many visitors who had gathered to remember the lives lost that day.

Their reflections continued later in the trip when the group visited the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial.





The memorial's illuminated benches, each representing a victim of the attack, made a lasting impression on the couple.

Visiting the site after dark added another dimension to the experience. The lighting beneath the benches created a quiet, reflective atmosphere.

For Sharon, the Pentagon Memorial was among the most meaningful stops of the journey.

The experience offered an opportunity to remember the victims while reflecting on the lasting impact of September 11 on the nation.

Connecting Generations Through Service

Among the youngest participants were two Crestview High School students who volunteered to assist veterans throughout the journey.

For West, this marked her second Honor Bus experience.

She first became involved as a sophomore after friends encouraged her to volunteer. With a strong family history of military service, she welcomed the opportunity.

Several members of her extended family have served in the armed forces, including her great-grandfather, Bob Robertson, who served in the Marines.

Her interest in military history, combined with her appreciation for older generations, made the trip especially memorable.

West helped participants with wheelchairs, refreshments and other needs while spending time listening to their stories.

But she soon discovered that the veterans were equally interested in looking after her.

"Everybody wants to take care of you, even though you're supposed to be taking care of them," she said.

The relationships that developed throughout the trip became some of her most treasured memories.

West recalled meeting a veteran named Kirk, who shared stories about serving as a bodyguard for Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf. The two also discovered a shared interest in motorcycles, leading to conversations and plenty of laughter.

Another veteran, Roy, initially seemed quiet and reserved.

West remembered that he showed little interest in participating in group activities during the first day. However, as they spent time together visiting the National Museum of the United States Army and other memorials, their conversations gradually became more personal.

She asked him about his military experiences, listened to his memories and shared lighthearted moments along the way.

By the end of the trip, the two had created a pretty special bond through joking with one another.

For West, the experience reinforced an

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•Honoring Those Who Served: Honor Bus Connects Generations

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important lesson about looking beyond military uniforms, medals and historical accounts to recognize the individuals behind them.

"They have thoughts, feelings, emotions just like everybody else," she said.

She hopes more young people will recognize that the history they study in classrooms represents real people whose lives were forever changed by military service.

A Once-in-a-Lifetime Honor at Arlington

West's participation in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier became one of the most memorable experiences of her trip.

She learned of her selection while traveling with the group and quickly began preparing for the occasion, even calling her grandmother several times to make sure her clothing and appearance were appropriate.

Despite reassurance from family members and fellow travelers, she remained nervous about the responsibility.

"I was a nervous wreck," she admitted.

Before the ceremony, West and the other participants received instructions on where to stand, how to walk and how to follow the soldier leading the wreath-laying. The veterans traveling with West offered encouragement throughout the experience.

"They were all my personal cheerleaders," she recalled.

West remembered how the soldier helped ease her nerves by calmly explaining what to expect and reassuring her that everything would be fine.

As the ceremony began, she concentrated on following each instruction and remaining in step, determined to show the respect the occasion deserved.

Looking back, West recognized the significance of being chosen to participate in such a solemn tradition.

The visit also left her reflecting on the thousands of service members laid to rest across Arlington's rolling hills.

For someone who has grown up hearing stories of military service within her own family, standing among those graves carried special meaning.



Photo By Traci Little

Sharon and Kenny Wagers

Preserving Stories That Might Otherwise Be Forgotten

One of the most personal moments of the trip came when Kenny Wagers visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and located the

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•Honoring Those Who Served: Honor Bus Connects Generations

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name of Joseph M. Chearnley, a local serviceman he remembered who was killed in April 1968.

With assistance from a volunteer at the memorial, Wagers found Chearnley's name etched among the thousands of Americans who lost their lives during the Vietnam War.

The experience brought a deep personal connection to the memorial, reminding Wagers that behind every name engraved in stone was a life, a family and a sacrifice that should never be forgotten.

For Kenny and Sharon Wagers, some of the most memorable parts of the Honor Bus journey came through conversations with fellow travelers.

The couple met veterans from different military branches, generations and communities, many of whom shared experiences they had rarely discussed.

One veteran spoke about his years of military service and the honors he had received. Others shared humorous memories and stories about people they had encountered during their careers.

During the return trip, veterans were invited to speak about their military backgrounds and share memories with the group.

Those conversations revealed unexpected connections among participants who had lived in nearby communities for years without knowing one another.

Sharon recalled meeting a Navy veteran who had family connections to people she had known in Shelby.

The conversation uncovered relationships they didn't realize they shared.

For the couple, those personal connections became an important part of the experience.

The trip also brought back memories of military service within Sharon's own family.

Her father served in the Navy during the Korean War, while two of her uncles served during World War II and experienced the hardships of being held prisoner.

One uncle, she recalled, struggled for years with memories of the war and questions about why he survived when so many others did not.

Those family experiences gave Sharon a personal appreciation for the sacrifices represented by the memorials.

The Honor Bus journey provided another opportunity to reflect on the lasting impact military service can have, not only on veterans but also on their families.

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Veterans Day Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present



•Honoring Those Who Served: Honor Bus Connects Generations

(Continued from Page 32)

An Experience Worth Sharing

The three-day journey concluded Sunday evening, Sept. 13, with an unexpected welcome home.

As the bus approached Ontario, law enforcement officers from multiple agencies escorted the travelers back to their departure location.

Family members and community supporters gathered to greet the returning group, providing a fitting conclusion to a weekend dedicated to honoring those who served.

For Kenny and Sharon, the experience reinforced the importance of making these opportunities available to veterans and their loved ones.

The couple hopes more local families will learn about the Honor Bus program and consider participating.

Sharon especially wishes she had known about the opportunity while her father was still living.

"I so wish I had known about this when my dad was living," she said.

Both believe the experience could be equally life changing for younger generations, helping them better understand events they may know only through textbooks or historical photographs.

West shares that belief.

Throughout the trip, she witnessed how important it was for veterans to have someone genuinely interested in listening to their experiences.

She believes those conversations can help young people understand that military history is about much more than battles, dates and statistics.

It is about individuals, families, courage, sacrifice and the lives forever changed by war.

"History is so important," West said, reflecting on what she hopes her classmates and future generations will learn from the experience.

She believes veterans who lived through historic events have lessons to share that cannot be found in textbooks alone.

Their experiences, she explained, can help younger generations avoid repeating mistakes of the past, "if we're just willing to listen."

Kenny's own reflections on military service echo that sense of responsibility to future generations.

"We did what we had to do. We stood up when our country called. And I'd do it again," he reinforced.

For those who traveled aboard the Richland County Honor Bus, the journey offered an opportunity to remember the past, honor the sacrifices of those who served and strengthen the connections between generations.

And perhaps its most lasting lesson was a simple one: The stories of America's veterans deserve to be heard, remembered and passed on.



Photo By Traci Little

Crestview High School senior Kaylynn West





Veterans Day

Honoring Those Who Serve – Past & Present



Photos by Jeff Hoffer

A VETERANS SALUTE CONCERT was held Monday, Nov. 9, at First Congregational Church. The Fun Center Chordsmen gave a performance which included "The Star Spangled Banner," "Armed Forced Medley" and "God Bless America," among other songs. Dr. Jay Harr, Army 1st Lieutenant, was the keynote speaker. The chordsmen are led by Trevor Garrabrant.

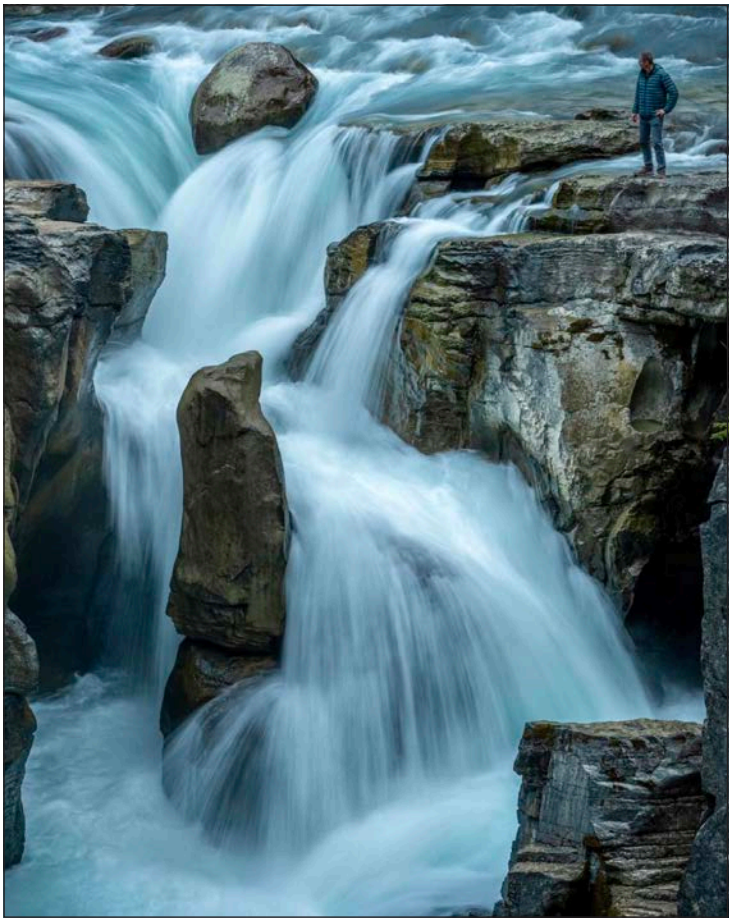








ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL students enjoyed a STEAM Day at The Ohio State University at Mansfield on Oct. 30. Students explored STEAM through hands-on sessions including The Great Catapult Contest, Double Helix Haunt and AI Tricks and Treats. They also enjoyed lunch on campus and learned more about the campus.



Sunwapta Falls, Icefields Parkway
Jasper National Park, Canada
Photo By Mark Shutt

Community town hall meeting planned for November 23

Members of the public are invited to the second of a series of town hall meetings designed to build a better relationship between the Mansfield Police Department and the community.

This idea arose from conversations between Mansfield Mayor, Jodie Perry, Police Chief, Jason Bammann and members of the NAACP #3190.

This meeting will take place on Monday, Nov. 23, at 5 pm at Mount Hermon Missionary Baptist Church, 292 Charles St., Mansfield.

Perry suggested that holding the meetings at local churches would allow attendees to speak freely and feel that they are in a "safe haven."

This is a continuation of the conversation between Mansfield City Administrators and the public. At the meeting in August, the city administrators spoke about recent incidents that had taken place in Mansfield and the police chief outlined the ongoing training that all police officers receive.

Later, community members were given a chance to speak, with many of them expressing fear and apprehension when police were in the neighborhood.

"We hear that you're saying that you don't always feel safe, so that's something for us to talk through and to figure out … how do we better strengthen the relationship with the police in the community," said Mayor Perry.

This meeting will be an opportunity for community members to get a further understanding of what is being done to earn their trust and continue to improve local policing.

All are welcome to attend this information session. Please come with an open mind and an intention to learn and discuss. Nothing will change if we don't engage.

Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS OTSEGO PLAYOFF GAME · NOV. 6
COLTS WIN 38–0 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER









Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

CLEAR FORK VS OTSEGO PLAYOFF GAME · NOV. 6
COLTS WIN 38–0 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER











Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on November 4, 2026.

The complete text of this Ordinance may be viewed and copies obtained at the Office of the Clerk of Council, Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio, during regular business hours.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-27 – AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE, CONSIDERATION AND/OR GRANTING OF ANY APPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL LICENSING APPROVAL, AND/OR ANY ZONING, OCCUPANCY, OR OTHER PERMITS RELATING TO DATA CENTERS SUPPORTING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WITHIN THE CITY OF ONTARIO FOR ANOTHER SIX (6) MONTHS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Abbey Beaver
Clerk of Council
Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 11-12, 19 '26) 27L

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of voluntary dissolution of Richland Engineering Limited, an Ohio limited partnership association. To all creditors and claimants of Richland Engineering Limited.

Notice is hereby given that Richland Engineering Limited, an Ohio Limited partnership association, whose principal office is located at Richland County, Ohio, has filed a Certificate of Dissolution and is winding up its business.

Jerod M. Them,
Attorney, Weldon, Huston & Keyser, L.L.P
Mansfield, Ohio
(T-C 10-22, 29, 11-5, 12, 19, 26 '26) 16L

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Sealed bids for Gasoline and Diesel Fuel for January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027, will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 8th, 2026 by Michael Morton, Service-Safety Director of the City of Ontario.

Specifications may be obtained electronically from the Service-Safety Director. Email a request to servicesafetydirector@ontarioohio.org, or a paper copy is available at the City of Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio 44906.

All bids should be sealed in an envelope, clearly marked: 2027 GASOLINE & DIESEL FUEL BID, the name of the Bidder, and include a CERTIFIED CHECK OR BOND on a solvent bank, in the amount of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00).

The City of Ontario reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Check or Bond on rejected bids will be returned promptly, and on accepted bids, the same will be retained until the contracts are consummated.

Michael Morton
Service-Safety Director
Ontario, Ohio
(T-C 11-12, 26 '26) 31L

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Sports Highlights

Clear Fork, Ontario and Shelby continue on tournament trail

By Kris Leiter

The Road to Canton is still in reach for three of our local teams. Clear Fork, Ontario and Shelby all notched the "W" last Friday.

Division III — Region 10

Ontario 2 seed (10–1) will host the Memorial Roughriders (St. Mary) 6 seed (9–3) this week.

Ontario's first round "bye" week and last Friday's home field advantage came in handy for coach Aaron Eckert and the troops. The Warrior tribe was well rested on the reservation last Friday. They defeated the Tiffin Columbian Tornadoes 22–19 at Copeland Field.

Ontario's offense struck 7 and 15 points in the first and third quarters, respectively. During the fourth quarter, the Warrior defense held strong, holding Tiffin scoreless to notch the win!

This moved them into this Friday's OHSAA Regional Semi-finals against the six seed, the Memorial Roughriders from St. Mary.

St. Mary is located approximately 20 miles east of the Ohio-Indiana border. It rings in with a population of just over 8,000 residents. They will be making the bus trip just over an hour and half to Ontario.

The Roughriders trampled Cloverleaf, 42–21 last Friday to advance into this week's battle with Ontario. Their lucky number was fourteen points each, in the first three quarters. They shut-out the Colts in the final quarter to seal the deal!

Memorial is a member of the Western Buckeye Conference and claimed fourth place with a respectable 6–3 record, above fifth and sixth place Van Wert and Lima Shawnee, respectively.

This is not the first rodeo for the three-time state champion Roughriders, notching state titles in 1990, 1992 and 1993.

They have also been to the post-season playoffs a mind-blowing 25 times and have qualified for post-season play for the past consecutive 10 years.Their total playoff record is 36–22.

As for Ontario, they may have only five post-season showings, but dissect the data for a minute, if you will. In Eckert's short head coach tenure of five years, he has qualified for the post-season for the past three in 2023, 2024 and 2025. Eckert is producing quality playoff teams! Not every team can do that! Good luck to the Warriors!

Division IV — Region 14

Shelby 2 seed (11–0) will host Sandusky Perkins 3 seed (11–0).

The one-year anniversary of Shelby's crushing of Indian Hill 42–7 to advance the Whippets to their first ever state final game is fast approaching.

Coach Rob Mahaney has had seven consecutive years of playoff appearances with the Whippets. He also staked his claim in 2025 with 100 career wins — 65 are victories with the Whippets!

The Whippets are preparing to battle the Sandusky Perkins Pirates this Friday.

The teams have battled only one time in history, way back in 1979.

It will be interesting to see if the incredible All-Ohio honors, 4,000 career yards receiver, Brady Bowman and troops come out with the victory Friday.

Keep your eyes on this game when the scoreboard shows triple zeros at the end! This will be a battle of two undefeated teams. What more could you ask for? Good luck to the Whippets!

Clear Fork 4 seed (9–2) will travel to Ottawa-Glandorf 1 seed (11–0) Friday night.

This game will see them traveling to the northwest part of the state. They will be taking on the Ottawa-Glandorf Titans for the showcase showdown in Putnam County.

The Colts put the hammer down on Otsego last week with a shut-out of 38–0!

The Titans ring in with their undefeated season thus far, but the Colt's amazing defense has kept teams at bay this year!

Stay tuned as this looks to be another brawl!