

Back Mountain Community News

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NOVEMBER 2020

Dallas Kiwanis, Penn State Students Partner to Lend a Helping Hand



Pictured above, from left are: Dallas Kiwanis members Liz Martin, Duane Frank, Beverly Atherholt, Glenn Patrick; W-B General Hospital CEO Dale Johns; Kiwanis member Mary Rodriguez, RN; Alfonso Rodriguez, MD FASN Adfinitas Health, Nursing Director Warren Shotto, ICU Nursing Director Bob Sapiego, Chief of Surgery Mark Schiowitz, Kiwanis member Abby Patrick, Adfinitas Health Regional Manager/ Partner Louis Boyle, DO.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) has been in short supply for front-line health care workers. This spring, during the early days of widespread quarantine, and in an effort to help address the shortage experienced by area medical personnel, recent Penn State engineering graduates banded together to create 3-D printed visors to be used in the assembly process for medical face shields. Continued on next page.

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All Aboard as the Back Mountain Railroad Club announces upcoming activities

The Back Mountain Railroad Club announces that the interactive travel train display will be setup at the Pro Hardware store on Memorial Highway, Dallas from November 27 to January 2.

It will be available for viewing during regular store hours. Dates and times to operate the action buttons on the display will vary depending on available help to sanitize all the push buttons after each use.

The club will also be holding a limited Christmas open house for small groups at a time in the clubhouse, "The Trax at Twin Stax", at the Twin Stacks complex on Memorial Highway in Dallas on Saturday December 19, from 10AM to 2PM and Sunday December 20 from 12PM to 4PM. Our train store will also be open at this time. Masks and social distancing are required.

Chances are available for prizes

of train sets, that include a Lionel O gauge Harry Potter set and a Thomas HO set, which will be raffled off for Christmas. Club meetings are now being held in the social room at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Yalick Road in Dallas. A "fun" meeting is held on the second Monday of the month with "show 'n tell" and a business meeting is held on the fourth Monday of the month. Both start at 6:30PM. All are welcome to attend and see what is going on in the club. Don't forget to bring a friend.

For more information on any of these activities please see any club member or contact Ray at 570-430-8639 or Wayne at 570-417-2995. New members are always welcome.

All activities are subject to change due to the pandemic.

Dallas Kiwanis, Penn State Students Partner to Lend a Helping Hand

Continued from cover.

The students first addressed shortages for the ICU units within the Lehigh Valley Hospital System, and then looked for another similar project. One of the students responsible for the visors, Dallas native Robert Martin, proposed the idea to his mother, Dallas Kiwanis member Liz Martin. During a conversation with retired RN and fellow Kiwanis member Mary Rodriguez, the need for PPE at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital was discussed. This discussion prompted a second donation of 132 visors to the Kiwanis Club to be assembled and donated locally.

Materials to properly assemble the shields were donated by AMP Global Strategies, of Shavertown. Dallas Kiwanis members facilitated the assembly process under the guidance of Mrs. Rodriguez. Her husband, Alfonso Rodriguez, MD FASN of Adfinitas Health and General Hospital's Executive Committee, enabled the connection between the Dallas Kiwanis and Mark Schiowitz, MD, Chief of Surgery at General Hospital and member of the General Hospital Executive Committee, Louis O'Boyle, DO, Regional Medical Director and Partner of Adfinitas Health and member of the General Hospital Executive committee, and Dale Johns, CEO of the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital Campus of CHS.

The finished face shields were formally donated on Friday, October 9th, appropriately in front of the "Heroes Work Here" sign outside General Hospital.



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Deadline for the December issue of the Back Mountain Community News is Tuesday, November 24 at 9:00 am.

Please note: Due to some email concerns with Comcast not always being reliable, if you send an email to: **communitynews123@comcast.net** and you receive a return message **undeliverable** - please forward to **lisapretko@icloud.com**

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Dallas Eastern Star Building Association holding cookie, soup, jar mix sale

15 Foster Street, Dallas (behind CVS Drug store). Homemade Soups, Welsh Cookie and Jar mixes. Join us on November 7, 2020 from 11am to 2pm. Preorder to make sure you get what you want. Preorder by Monday, November 2, 2020. Take your chance the day of the sale. Call: Dianne Corby 570-675-4893 or: Cynthia Mahalick 570-675-5504.

Soups: Chicken Noodle ~ Ham-n-Bean ~ Vegetable Beef ~ Zuppa. Welsh Cookies \$5.00 dozen ~ sugared or non-sugared. Jar Mixes: Quarts of Bean Soup \$5.00 ~ Pints \$5.00 Quart of Chocolate Chip ~ M & M Cookies \$5.00. Russian Tea ~ Hot Chocolate \$5.00 ~ Small jars \$3.00. Each jar contains all the necessary ingredients and directions for mixing & baking in a beautifully decorated mason jar and of course Star Love!

We won't be having any vendor sales inside our building at this time. Hoping to get back to normal in 2021!

Upcoming events planned at the Northmoreland Fire Co.

Is the Northmoreland Township fire hall your polling place on Election Day? When you're done voting in the hall, stop by our kitchen for our Chicken and Biscuit Election Day Dinner. Served with Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, and Dessert! Come hungry! Plenty of meals available! On General Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2020, 4-6:30 PM. Take Out Only. Price: \$10.00. Get out and vote! Please support your local volunteers!

We'd like to announce after months away due to COVID-19, our Fire-fighter Cadet program for youth up to age 14 is back! And we're back and accepting new Cadets! Calling youth up to age 14. We're back with a Cadets Open House and Registration, on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 6:30 PM, at fire station, 1618 Demunds Rd. in Centermoreland! Here's your chance to get involved and learn about firefighting in a fun and always safe way! Any questions, contact Chief Chuck Story at 570-760-2411.

Northmoreland Township Volunteer Fire Company will have Monday Night Bingo on Monday, November 2, 2020, on Monday, November 16, 2020, and on Monday, November 30, 2020 at 6:30 PM, at fire hall, 1618 Demunds Rd. in Centermoreland. Early bird specials start at 6:30 PM, Regular games at 7:00 PM. Doors to hall open and kitchen begins serving at 5:00 PM. Masks required. Where everyone still gets lucky! Please support your local volunteers!

\$403,111 in COVID Grant Funds Awarded to First Responder Companies in the 120th Legislative District, Says Kaufer

As fire, rescue and EMS companies across the Commonwealth continue to perform life-saving services while doing what they can to remain operational, Rep. Aaron Kaufer (R-Luzerne) was happy to announce that first responder companies in the 120th Legislative District received \$403,111 in state grants provided by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner which will go towards reversing the negative impact they sustained by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our communities depend a lot on our first responders as they are always the first ones on the scene to offer life-saving services and a sense of comfort to those they are assisting," said Kaufer. "Like most of us, this pandemic has really hit our first responder companies hard, as it severely limited their ability to raise money for their facilities as fundraisers are one of their main sources of money. It is relief to know that our area first responders are receiving these funds, as it will allow these companies to continue to recover, rebuild, and keep their doors open to help those in need."

The grant breakdown for each company is as follows: Back Mountain Regional Fire and EMS Inc., \$36,431. Columbian Volunteer Fire Department, \$25,342. Courtdale Volunteer Hose Company, \$22,740. Exeter Hose Company No.1, \$22,877. Harding Fire Company, \$24,247. Hose Company No. 2 of West Wyoming Borough, \$22,740. Kingston Fire Department, \$24,657. Maltby Volunteer Fire Company, \$22,603. Mt. Zion Bicentennial Volunteer Fire Company, \$23,699. Shavertown Fire Department, \$24,247. Swoyersville Hose Company, \$23,151. Trucksville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, \$11,094. Volunteer Fire Department of Luzerne, \$22,603. West Wyoming Hose Company No.1, \$34,788. Wyoming Hose Company No.1, \$22,603. Back Mountain Regional Fire & EMS, Inc., \$24,238. Kingston Firemen's Community Ambulance Association, \$15,048.

The purpose of this grant is to provide some much-needed financial assistance to first responders who have found it difficult to keep their operations running due to COVID-19. As stated in Act 26, the money must be used for operational and equipment expenses, or to replace lost revenue due to pandemic restrictions. For additional information, visit <https://www.osfc.pa.gov/GrantsandLoans/Pages/COVID-19-Fire-Rescue-EMS-Grant.aspx>. For more information about this outreach, or any other state-related issue, contact Kaufer's district office in Luzerne, located at 161 Main St., by calling 570-283-1001. Information can also be found online at RepKaufer.com or Facebook.com/RepKaufer.

Food Pantry in Sweet Valley open

The new food pantry in Sweet Valley, located inside the Church of Christ on Main Road in Sweet Valley will be open to those in need of food on the first Friday of each month. Food donations are also being accepted. For more information call 570-477-2320.

Drive-thru, Take-out Ham Dinner

Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire Company, 5383 Main Rd, Sweet Valley, will serve a drive thru/take-out ham dinner on Saturday, November 14. Take-out price has been lowered to \$10.00 per dinner since no dessert or drink will be included.

Dinners will be served from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. We ask that you remain in your cars and the dinners will be brought out to you. Check our Facebook page for updated information or call 570-477-5121.

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The Dallas Kiwanis Club Halloween Parade

The Dallas Kiwanis Club continued their tradition for 110 children dressed in costumes on Sunday, October 25.

The Kiwanis Club members joined in making the annual event for children complete with donuts, treats and a socially distant parade, as children accompanied by their parents, were able to show off their costumes walking around the Dallas School Track.

A raffle drawing with wreaths, baskets and prizes will be extended virtually through November 18th. Check out the Dallas Kiwanis Club on facebook or their website at: KiwanisClubDallasPA.com for more information.

Photos right: Children dressed in costume, as well as maintained socially distant throughout the parade.



Kiwanis Club members Liz Martin and Mary Rodriguez took a moment from the event to stand by the beautiful wreaths that are part of the raffle chances. Entries will be accepted virtually and the drawing will be held on November 18. Check on facebook @ [KiwanisDallasPA](https://www.facebook.com/KiwanisDallasPA) or their website page for more details.

Gate of Heaven Parish Announces Meatloaf Dinner



Gate of Heaven Parish, 40 Machell Avenue, Dallas, is having a (take out only) Meatloaf Dinner on Saturday, November 14th from 4-7pm. Tickets are \$12.00 and include meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, applesauce, green beans, dinner roll, butter and either homemade apple pie or coconut cake. Tickets are available and sold in advance. Please call 570-675-2121. Enter in the lobby door in the old school entrance. Shown in photo above are: Wayne Frederick, Patty Price and Drew Regan.

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Wyoming Seminary College Prep School Schedules Fall Scholarship Quest

Students who will be entering fifth through 11th grades next fall, and who are not already enrolled at Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School, are encouraged to register now to take part in Sem's new Scholarship Quest.

Students who are eager to explore their academic, artistic or athletic passions are invited to share their stories as they apply to Sem for the 2021-22 academic year. In addition to their applications, prospective students may submit portfolios, transcripts, videos, digital photos of artworks, music, dance or theater auditions, or any other documents that best describe their accomplishments, talents and aspirations.

Everyone who shares their story with Sem will be considered for a Quest scholarship, based on applications, portfolios, auditions and other materials, and virtual interviews. Prospective students will not be asked to take a test as part of the scholarship application process. Applicants may begin applying and submitting their materials immediately. The deadline for applying is Tuesday, December 8.

Visit Sem's Scholarship Quest page at www.wyomingseminary.org/sem scholar for information and links to application forms.

Back Mountain Library November Display Case



The Back Mountain Memorial Library will be displaying a collection of jewelry that will be for sale during the month of November. Start your holiday shopping early by taking a look at all the different items for sale. Ranging from gorgeous genuine gemstone necklaces to sterling silver bracelets to colorful beaded statement necklaces, you are sure to find something for everyone. All items are reasonably priced and all proceeds benefit the Library. The display will be up through the entire month of November.

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Rotary Club of Dallas welcomes guest speaker, Monica Mathes PA-C



At a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Dallas held at the Apple Tree Terrace at Newberry Estates the speaker for the evening was Monica Mathes PA-C. Monica is a physician assistant in the Dermatology Department at Geisinger Hospital in Wilkes-Barre. Her topic for the evening was a discussion on Skin Cancer. Monica is the daughter of Rotarians Paul and Melissa Saxon and resides in Shavertown.

Pictured above from left are: Program chair Rotarian Joe Stager, President Paul Saxon, Monica Mathes, and Rotarian Melissa Saxon.

Back Mountain Memorial Library in Dallas recently celebrated its 75th Anniversary



The Back Mountain Memorial Library in Dallas recently celebrated its 75th Anniversary. State Representative Karen Boback presented a certificate from the PA House of Representatives. Pictured, from left, are: Back Mountain Memorial Library Director Martha Butler, PA Rep. Boback, and Board of Directors President Karen Shuster. Rep. Boback is a library volunteer and a past president of the Board of Directors.

The “Balance & Harmony” Massage



Patricia Shemo-Blessing

Technology and lifestyle changes continue to take a toll on our bodies. People seek pain relief from low back, shoulders, neck, TMJ, hip, knee and abdominal issues.

Targeted massage can offer pain relief for a period of time but tracing the pain to the root cause of the problem prolongs that relief. I believe the answer leads back to the Psoas Muscle.

Let's look at why. Technically the psoas' origin is at the transverse process of the 12th lumbar vertebrae, going through the pelvis to finally insert at the lesser trochanter (femur). It affects your posture and stabilizes your spine. It's the only muscle that goes from the back of the body to the front;

connecting your spine to your legs. It's a nerve rich core muscle, a messenger to the central nervous system.

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The imbalances show as unequal leg length, postural problems, difficulty moving your bowels, chest breathing, feeling exhausted, knee and low back pain. You “can” remember to sit up, breathe deeper, hold your head up shoulders back and take breaks to move around. We get caught up in the cycles of life; failing in preventative action when the phone rings, a text comes through or the next project starts in your life.

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Happy Thanksgiving!



Back Mountain Community News

Legion Logbook



Clarence J. Michael
Past Commander
Dallas American
Legion, Post 672

Daddow-Isaacs Dallas American Legion Post 672 is still functioning within the constraints of this virus. Please support the Le-

gion as best you can.

The Post which accommodates smoking and non-smoking sections is open from 2 to 8 and has food available: hot dogs, pizza, and sloppy Joe's. State rules mean that a person must purchase food in order to purchase a drink.

Monthly meetings are being held, and the last on was on October 13 (2nd Tuesday of the month). Unfortunately, there was no quorum present. Commander Darlene Kupstas stated that a quorum must be present to vote on issues and urged Legion members to attend the monthly meetings. Art Pimm informed those present of the Legion Riders' support of Wreaths For Heroes that is taking place. Over \$4,500 has been raised and it was decided by them to concentrate their activities on the Back Mountain and Luzerne County cemeteries. Please be aware of this project when you pass or visit a cemetery.

A Pearl Harbor Day breakfast was discussed. It was decided to have a Veteran's Day ceremony on

Post grounds on 11/11 at 11 A.M. The public is invited. In spite of this virus, the recognition of our veterans is of paramount importance. Let us remember and celebrate all living and deceased veterans and especially those of the Greatest generation. Yielding to the inalterable process of aging, the men and women who fought and won World War II are now in their late 80s and 90s. They are dying quickly-according to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs statistics ... 387,292 of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II are alive. Take time to remember them on November 11, and educate your children why

Logbook continued on page 11.

Dairy Court promotes PA Milk



Members of the Luzerne County Dairy Court spent a day at the River of Life Fall Festival. They reminded everyone to look for the number 42 or the PA Preferred symbol to be sure your milk is from a Pennsylvania farm! Dairy Maid Juliet Price had a display that the kids could search for the number 42. Pennsylvania milk will have the code 42 at the beginning of the stamp near the expiration date. If you would like more information about the Luzerne County Dairy Court, contact them through their facebook page "Luzerne County Dairy Princess Promotions Team". Pictured above: Alternate Princess Ally Steltz, and Dairy Maid Juliet Price.

Dairy Court attends Fall Festival



The Luzerne County Dairy Court was invited to attend Sweet Valley Church of Christ's recent Fall Festival. There were games, pumpkin decorating, food, and hayrides! Members of the dairy court had gifts for everyone! They reminded everyone to enjoy at least 3 servings of dairy every day. October is National Cheese Month and the yummy macaroni and cheese at the festival was a great way to get one of those three servings. Ahown in photo above are: (standing) Dairy Maid, Juliet Price; Dairy Princess, Toni Traver; Alternate Princess, Ally Steltz; and (seated) Dairy Ambassador, Kaelyn Traver.



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THE FINANCIAL EQUATION: 2020: Giving Thanks and Giving Back

By Martin A. Federici, Jr., CEO
of MF Advisers, Inc.

We all know that we should be thankful for the important things in life (family, friends, health, memories, etc.), but – especially with the way 2020 has been and the holidays around the corner – how often do we feel satisfied with what we have right now? Do we ever get enough out of life to the point where we feel truly content? Some people are constantly (sometimes blindly) wanting more when it may ultimately be better for these people to give rather than to receive.

Now I'm not saying you shouldn't work harder and/or smarter for what you really want in life (it's important to have a purpose to get out of bed in the morning; accomplishments – no matter the size – are definitely important), but – if it's only material possessions that you value – you're probably going to live a shorter life compared to those who value people / experiences over "things". I know – hard to believe that a financial advisor (remember: I am a fiduciary) would tell you such crazy things (it is 2020 after all)!

Here's the point: instead of worrying if you have enough, think about people who don't have enough (especially this year) and find a way to help do something that'll bring a smile to a needy person's face. After the way 2020 has gone, it should make you think about how lucky you are to have the important people in your life. It should also make you stop and reflect on what you can do to help your fellow human beings. After all, we'd sure want someone to be kind to us if we were in dire need of help.

If you're doing well for yourself (you're fortunate), treat others as you'd like to be treated. Decide to give your time, valuables, money, etc., to those in need. If you didn't think it was important to do in the past, that's okay ... decide to turn over a new leaf this holiday season. Volunteer, donate, help make someone's day, help someone who's out of work, help a small business owner who's probably fighting just to make ends meet – chances are that person you helped will be sincerely appreciative and thank you (if not, shrug it off and cut that person some slack; 2020 has been one heck of a year). Is there truly any better feeling than that? You're welcome!

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The Back Mountain Memorial Library lists the following Upcoming Events

Good news! The Library Gift Shop will be holding their annual Christmas Extravaganza sale as usual, this year in the Antiques Room behind the building. This eagerly-awaited Pop-Up Shop draws Christmas lovers every year looking for decorations and decor, ornaments and angels, figurines and trees and serving pieces, vintage collectibles, wreaths, baskets, and so much more! The shop will be open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11 AM to 4 PM starting November 13th and will run through Christmas. Don't let the pandemic deprive you of a festive holiday—come on in and indulge, while benefiting the Library!

And please remember that seasonal items for your home are still available inside the Slightly Read Bookstore; featured now are pumpkins, scarecrows, and all things Thanksgiving. Be sure to stop in and check out the selection! Bookstore hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 1 PM to 6 PM, Wednesdays from 10 AM to 6 PM, Fridays from 1 PM to 5 PM, and Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM.

"An October Evening of Tales" is available through the end of November on the Library Facebook page. View a collection of atmospheric folktales from England, Scotland, and Ireland. Storyteller Charles Kiernan, a member of the Lehigh Valley Storytelling Guild, will delight you and your family with his shivery stories. Click on the Vimeo.com link found on the Facebook page and enter the password provided.

The Library renovations are now underway, and patrons may experience some temporary inconveniences as the work continues. We hope you will bear with us, as the end result of a more accessible and updated space will make it all worthwhile. We look forward to seeing all the planning, fund raising, and hard work result in a beautiful, more spacious building. We think this is a fitting celebration of the Library's 75th Anniversary, by preparing for the next 75 years of service to the community!

Continue on page 11.

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Back Mountain Memorial Library continued from page 10.

Because of the renovations, storage space is very limited, so that we cannot accept donations of either books, or goods for the Auction at this time. Be sure that we do appreciate your generosity. Check our website on updates on accepting donations.

hose patrons who are members of the First Reader Book Club or our Silver Screen DVD Club can

renew their memberships for 2021 now. The Book Club provides a dedicated selection of novels and non-fiction, and the DVD Club has the latest releases of current movies.

Check out the Children's Room's new Facebook page! Find it as Back Mountain Memorial Library Children's Room, or by searching@BMMLChildrensRoom. Here you will find virtual Story Hours, new every Wednesday and on demand



after that, of cool books and a matching craft.

November stories will be released on the 4th, 11th, and 18th. Be sure to stop in for the craft packs for each story. Tune in for all our videos with Ms. Perch or Mrs. Isreal and enjoy the fall season virtually!

The Library will be closed November 26 for Thanksgiving, and will reopen Friday the 27th.

Contact us at 570-675-1182 and find so much more at our website at www.backmountainlibrary.org.

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Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on our local economy. Locally owned businesses are the businesses we count on for donations to our local organizations and contribute dollars to our local causes. A marketplace made-up of many small businesses ensures lower prices over the long-term and local business owners work hard to fulfill the needs of the people within our community every day.



Logbook continued from page 9.

they are known as the Greatest Generation.

November and turkey go hand-in-hand. Members and non-members can support the Post by participating in a good old-fashioned Turkey Dinner on November 21 from 5-7 O'clock. Complete with the usual turkey dinner's ingredients, treat yourself and your family for only \$12 per dinner. This will be take-out only. The digital sign in front of the Post grounds can act as a good remembrance of this event.

Hopefully, you had a safe and Happy Halloween. Wear your mask and keep those distances. The next monthly meeting of the Post will be on November 10 at 7:30 P.M. Commander Kupstas invites all members and prospective members to attend. **GOD BLESS AMERICA!**

To promote an event or fund raiser, send your community news and photos to:
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The following books are in Memory of E. May Chamberlain and are presented by Friends of Amy Thomas: Eileen

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Letters from WWII---an American family's story

By Sandy Peoples

Back Mountain Community
News Contributor

When my father passed away more than a decade ago, we found among his papers, a stack of documents neatly tied together with a blue ribbon. The papers were brown from age, and as they were examined more carefully, they began to tell a story.

The pages were a series of letters and postcards written to my grandfather by my father and his two brothers when they were serving in the Army during World War II. Dad had saved them from my grandfather's belongings, and we had saved them from his. I wish to share their story through excerpts from those letters, not because it is unique to my family, but because it isn't. During that time, hardly a family in America was untouched by the events on the other side of the globe.

The letters tell a story of love of family, faith, sacrifice, longing, loss and laughter. Those who remember those days will recall and understand. Those who are younger will hopefully gain some insight into the sacrifices made by people during that time so that we may enjoy and preserve the freedom we have today. The price for it has already been paid. We owe so much to that generation of Americans who freed people the world over and then came back home to work in our mines, fields and factories and build America to be the great nation that

it is today.

The letters were written on paper provided by the military. It was called "V mail" or "Victory Mail." The letters were reduced to one-quarter of their original size to save valuable shipping space on ships and planes for war materials to be transported instead. Back then our soldiers couldn't call home, couldn't send e-mails, or didn't even know how long they would be serving at their posts of duty. Their letters to and from home took several weeks, if not months, to reach their destinations.

By the time WWII began, my grandfather was 77 years old. He lost my grandmother in 1940, and then said good-bye, three different times, to three of his five sons as they left Wilkes-Barre on trains and buses to join the Army. They traveled to far away places such as Belgium, France, England, Germany, New Guinea and the Philippines. One can only imagine how much his heart must have broken as his children began to leave him, one by one, to travel and fight in very distant and dangerous places.

In one of his first letters to my grandfather in 1942, my Uncle George, the oldest son, lamented the fact that his youngest brother Jim, my father, would be leaving soon for Army boot camp. "I hope I can get home on leave before Jimmy goes away," he wrote. "I am sorry he has to go, but I guess there is no choice." My father had enlisted in the Army because he wanted to join his older brothers, and he became a machine gunner on the front lines.

He was only 20 years old.

There was a repeated pattern in all of the letters written to my grandfather by his sons. They didn't want grandpa to worry about them. In March of 1944 Uncle George wrote,

"I am well and in England. I am living in a castle and staying in the lord's guest room. The British people have had a hard time of it here and are very friendly to us." Family legends have relayed that later my father learned that George was staying in a bombed out castle ruins, the sky could be seen through the holes in the roof, but the walls did provide him with some protection from the elements.

George also wrote: "Now more than ever before, mail is important to us, so will you please write as often as you can and give me the news from home?" Later in August of that year George wrote: "Just a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope you are the same. Dad, you said in one of your letters that you heard that I was hurt. I have never been hurt yet. If I were you, I would not believe all you hear over the radio. They will send you a notice if anything happens to me."

In December 1944, my grandfather's heart was broken one more time when the notice did come that his first-born son George had been killed at the Battle of the Bulge. He is buried with more than 100,000 of his comrades in arms at one of the many American military cemeteries located throughout France.

Many of the other letters to my grandfather were written by my

father. In August of 1944, Dad wrote: "I know you worry about us boys in the Army Dad, but don't worry about me. I am in good health and having good luck. It sure will be good to get back home someday to my wife and baby and you. I sure would like to sleep in a clean bed and have some good food." The truth was that my Dad was hit by some shrapnel that had embedded itself in his shoulder leaving a sizable scar. And sometime before he finally came home in December of 1945, Dad had contracted malaria, which seemed to affect him for several years thereafter.

In another letter to my grandfather, Dad wrote: "Louise (my mother) writes to me every day." Sometimes he didn't get mail for weeks, and then he would get a stack of letters. "I put them in date order to read them," he said. "I sure would like to see her and the baby."

Dad left to go over seas after training at Camp Pickett, Virginia and Camp Shelby, Mississippi when my older sister was only a few months old, and he didn't see her again until she was almost three

years old, missing most of her early childhood and missing the memories that were never created.

In a postcard message written in late December 1944, Dad had asked my grandfather again if he had heard from George because my Dad had not. "Be good until we all get home again," Dad wrote. We don't have copies of any of the letters that my grandfather had written to his sons. I don't remember how grandpa finally told Dad that his brother Floyd had been discharged and was home, but his brother George had been killed in action. Throughout his lifetime, Dad spoke often about his brother George and how much he missed him. He said that George was always "the storyteller."

This story is being shared with empathy and sympathy to the thousands of families who have known separation and loss through war, and to the thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, coast guardsmen and marines who have come home to a grateful nation. Let us never forget their sacrifices made for our freedom.

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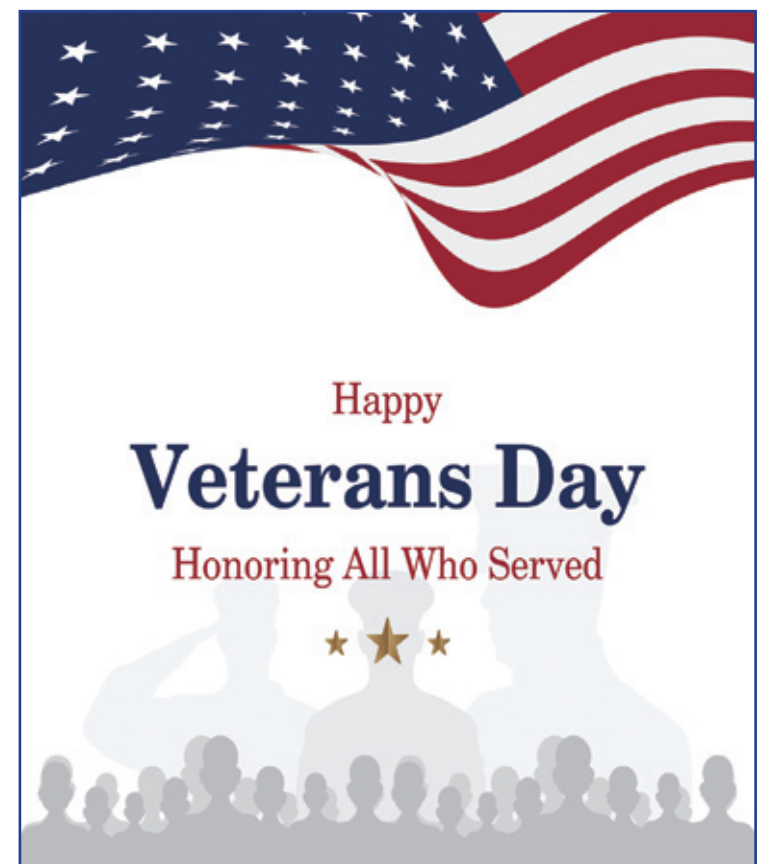
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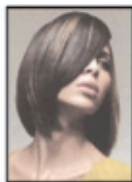
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The biggest problem with today's recycling is what people are calling “wishful recycling”. Wishful recycling is where good intended people send items to be recycled because they believe or hope they are recyclable, but they aren't. This creates an abundance of problems, including higher recycling prices due to added manpower. Simply look on the container to see if it is recyclable, rinse the item and remove the lid/cap before tossing in into the recycling bin. Check with your local recycling center to see what materials they are currently taking (our list is to the left) and abide by those restrictions. When purchasing a product take a look at the packaging – be aware if the packaging is recyclable. If not, look for a product in packaging that is - or at least more “earth friendly” to the environment; compostable for example. Although compostable materials cannot be placed in the recycling, they do break down in a landfill.

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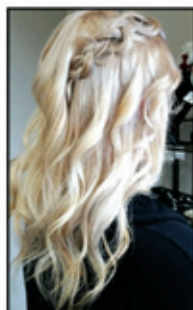
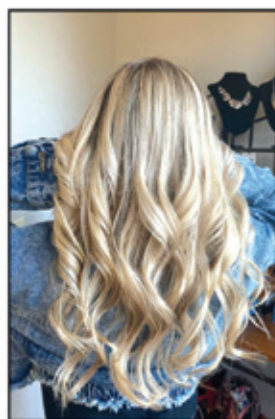
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