

The Rose Hill Reporter



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"ALL GAVE SOME - SOME GAVE ALL"



Rose Hill Veterans Steve Kohler, left, Marion Futhey, Marshall Futhey and Paul Heidt were honored along with many others during the Rose Hill Middle School's first Veteran's Day Memorial Wednesday, Nov. 11

Veterans Given Honor, Fallen Heroes Remembered By RHMS

Rose Hill Veterans were honored for service to their country and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice of life protecting the freedom of the United States during a Veteran's Day memorial program held at the Rose Hill Middle School Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Members of the RHMS seventh and eighth grade student council, president Mallory Wilson, vice-president Koby Campbell, treasurer Lavonne Cooke, secretary Josey Johnson, members Bri Burton, Courtney Epley, Emma Geer, Meagan Akers, Lauren Salyers and Sarah Kellogg, began organizing the event over a month ago with help from RHMS StuCo teacher sponsors Debbie Funke and Cindy Bastian.

Veterans were greeted at the door and escorted to the hospitality room prior to being seated in the gym. The glass display case displayed vintage Army and Navy uniforms from WWII along with pictures of Rose Hill veterans against the backdrop of the American flag.

Cindy Bradford of the Rose Hill Historical Society provided and set up the artifacts along with a table display in the hallway that held pictures of the veterans unable to attend, those who were deployed and those who had passed on.

Memorabilia and medals of honor were carefully placed amongst the memories captured in old pictures of servicemen from all branches of the military past and present.

A partial listing of Rose Hill veterans was framed under the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Gold is good in it's place but living brave patriotic men are better than gold."

Principal Kay Walker made opening remarks and turned the program over to the students. Geer posted the colors as the "Star Spangled Banner" was played after which Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance and made formal welcome to the veterans and guests. "Today we honor all of our men and women who have served this great nation and the ones who still serve... It is our privilege to say "thank you" to all of America's veterans, to let them know of our appreciation. The price of freedom is high.

We cannot afford to forget those willing to pay it. Today, we celebrate America's veterans for keeping this nation "the land of the free and the home of the brave," Wilson.

The eighth grade choir, under the direction of vocal director Marti King, sang "America The Beautiful" with Brayden Ford coming forward to read thoughts on freedom.

Each veteran in attendance was welcomed by name and military branch which was read by the students with parents among the veterans. Salyers read the name her father, Mat Salyer, who was the only Marine present.

Kellogg read those from the Navy that included her uncle Christopher Kellogg and Chuck Bastian.

The names of Air National Guard and Reserve Veterans were read by Burton and included her father James Burton, Desirae Beason and Jeff Beason.

Those from the Army were read by Epley and included her father Jeff Epley, Joel Blessant, David Burk, Larry Burk, Marion Futhey, Marshall Futhey, Emily McGehee, Carl McGinnis, Steve Harmuth, Phillip Hay, Marvin Moser, Steve Murphy, Paul Ramsayer and Jeff Vaughn.

Veterans of the Air Force were welcomed by Meagan and included her father Allen Akers, James Bilby, Leonard Bornhoft, Phillip Boucher, Loy Eary, Donald Gerber, Matthew Gouldsmith, Daniel Graham, Paul Heidt, David Hull, Steve Kohler, Stephen Munn, Zach O'Gorman, Garland Robertson and Richard Vaughters.

In honor of Veteran's Day, an essay contest had been held with the theme of "What Freedom Means To Me." Participating students were Geer, Taylor Barlett, Aubrie Thompson, Zach Hoang, Evan Fiegenbaum, Emma Rogers and Lillie Vestig.

The resulting winner was Geer who came to the podium to read her essay wearing her father's pilot jacket. Terry Geer had been lost in 2009 during active duty.

"As a child, I never really saw my father much. He was always off "saving the world" which is what I was told. Only later did I realized

how true this excuse was," said Geer. "My dad was a Search and Rescue Navy Seal who got tired of jumping out of planes and decided to fly them. He switched to a US Army pilot and started saving the world a bit more. When I was six years old, in 2009, my dad decided to go on one last mission before he retired and died in active duty. He joined the Armed Forces knowing that he could die, but he did it anyway, he made his sacrifice willingly.

"I can't explain the amount of pride I have for the Army, the Navy, the Marines and the Air Force. They protect me and keep my family safe, they keep me safe, they sacrifice themselves and they give up their own personal needs for my own. I don't think I appreciate them as much as I should.

"Freedom to some people is getting to say and do whatever they want, to spend their days sitting on a couch and playing video games. Freedom to me is getting to ride home from school with the window open, listening to hair metal and classic rock with my brother. To get home and to hear my mom ask how my day was and for me to answer that it was the same as yesterday or the day before that. I don't realize enough that the only reason I get to go to school and learn is the men and women serving in dangerous places protecting my right to learn and to be with my family.

"Soldiers protect my rights in exchange for their own. My dad died but it made me realize that soldiers sacrifice their lives every day to save us, America, land of the free and home of the brave.

"There is nothing that gives me greater honor than knowing that every day I have a chance to represent my country as a free country. So I take time to thank our veterans for what they've done and to tell them that their sacrifice hasn't gone unnoticed. The American flag is still flying high with all fifty stars and thirteen stripes burning a mark across the country," finished Geer.

A round table formally set for six stood empty in the middle of the gym. It signified the Americans in

each of the five branches of the military, Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and civilians who never came home from battle but were present in spirit.

King read the significance of each item on the table stating, "The table is round to show everlasting concern for the missing. A white table cloth signifies the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.

"A single red rose in a vase symbolized the life of each soldier who kept the faith by their dedication and service. The vase is tied with a yellow ribbon as a symbol of remembrance. A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of the bitter fate of the missing that should always be appreciated and the salt is the tears of those left behind.

"An inverted glass marks their absence for the toast and the chairs are empty as the missing can no longer sit with loved ones. The lighted candle shines with hope that lives in the hearts of loved ones to illuminate their place on earth."

"Echoing Taps" were played by band directors David Bartley and Todd Shults. Koby Campbell read the names of those who could not be in attendance and included Brian Bastian, Emily Bastian, Ray Boese III, Roland Bumpus, Jon Cooke, Lawrence Diaz, Rhett Hansen, Jeremy Hitt, Daren LaKous, Charles McConnell, Tanner McGehee, Donal Nunnold and Roy Thompson.

Those who were killed in action or came home to civilian life were listed next and roses given to their family members. They were Lewis Blessant, Willard Brack, Gene Francis, the five Carr brothers, Dale, Darrell, Jack, Elton and Paul, Elmer Cross, David Cunningham, Jim Gardner, Terry Geer, Dan Hay and Ken Lewallen. A slide show of these soldiers played on the screen overhead.

Shults directed the band in the "March Of The Armed Forces" while Bartley announced each branch of the service when their march was played and asked those veterans to stand who were then applauded.

The program concluded with the veterans congregating in the hospitality room for coffee, cake and snacks.

Sage Remains Chief, WWTF Good Report

The Rose Hill City Council meeting was attended by many residents Monday, Nov. 16. However, nothing earth shaking transpired. Updates were given on the performance of the Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) and the erosion problem at School St. Pond. Several resolutions were also approved concerning employee policy.

Mayor Jason Jones led the business meeting with council members Lionel Diamond, Bob Klem, Beth Pompa and Bill Baker in attendance. City Administrator Austin Gilley, City Clerk Kelley Mendoza and City Attorney Andrew Marino were also present.

Dan Woydziak spoke at the podium in support of the continued presence of Rose Hill Police Chief Bob Sage and the importance of a dedicated and involved police force in the city. Stating that he spoke for Sage, Klem announced that Sage was actively seeking another position.

However, in speaking with Chief Bob Sage, this statement was made Tuesday, Nov. 17. "I am humbled by the encouraging cards and comments from the community and members of the police department. Rose Hill is home and my family and I are

very proud to be a part of this community. I am also very proud of the members of the police department. Our officers care very deeply about the community and work very well as a team. I don't want anything to affect that. My preference is to continue to serve in the capacity I have for the past 13 years and I am hopeful that a resolution to this unfortunate situation will come soon."

Council business continued with Ty McGown of Burns and McDonnell who gave a summary report of the WWTF stating that in essence it was in very good condition with only minor issues to continue to address. He also stated that the current staff, Dillan Curtis and Adam Pompa, were "extremely knowledgeable and very dedicated with a wide range of good resourcefulness and capabilities."

Matt Billingslea of PEC presented updates and an erosion control plan for area of School Street Pond. Seed beds, rock beds and concrete reinforcements would all be implemented to correct the situation with work beginning soon.

Several ordinances were also unanimously approved concerning personnel policies which are printed inside this issue.

PG16

Win Turkey Playing Bingo

Need some family entertainment Saturday night, Nov. 21? Head over to the Rose Hill Recreation Center at 6 p.m. where the Project Graduation 2016 will be hosting a Turkey Bingo night.

There will be a \$4 meal deal that includes a hot dog and chips or a walking taco, dessert and beverage. A \$5 donation gets you a package of 10 game cards and two chances during each game to win a turkey for your

Thanksgiving table. There will be a special children's prize table as well.

A silent auction will provide gift giving opportunities for yourself or that special person on your list. Some of the items available are a painted Rose Hill Rocket sign, a cake from Truly Amazing Catering, jewelry, Longaberger baskets, Butcher Block gift card, \$50 gift cards for Origami Owl and many more. Homemade baked goodies will also be for sale.



Essay winner Emma Geer read her thoughts on her father Terry Geer and Freedom



The Missing Man Table honored those veteran's who gave their life