

Celebrating OUR VETERANS

Supplement to Iosco County-News Herald & Oscoda Press, November 5, 2025



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel

THE EMPTY CHAIR – The table shown here, is set for U.S. Prisoners of War (POW) and those Missing in Action (MIA) from all wars. The display was featured as the part of the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony, that was held on Sept. 20 at the Veterans Memorial Park of Northeast Michigan. The hats placed on the table represent each U.S. Military Branch, including the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines and Civilians. The empty chair serves as a reminder that those captured and missing in a foreign land are still missing. The POW/MIA Flag pledges, “You Are Not Forgotten.” According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, as of Sept. 5, there are more than 81,085 who remain missing. Of those missing, 2,826 are from Michigan.

POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony held in Oscoda

Reprinted from the Sept. 24, 2025 edition

by Gaylynn Brenoel

OSCODA – Local residents, veterans, Hale Honor Guard (HHG) representatives and Department of Michigan Auxiliary members, held a ceremony in Oscoda Township on the evening of Friday, Sept. 20. Hosted at the Pentagon Service Monument in the Veterans Memorial Park of Northeast Michigan, the event honored the memory of all military men and women from all wars, who are either still Missing in Action (MIA) or have been determined as Prisoners of War (POW).

Department of Michigan Auxiliary President Jane Dady acknowledged all who attended and reminded them that, “by being here today, you are part of a global effort to bring recognition to this noble mission and to remind the families of these brave patriots that they are truly not forgotten.”

According to Dady, “There are more than 81,085 still missing.”

As part of the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony, she also stated the pledge to live by the creed on the POW/MIA Flag, “You Are Not Forgotten.”

HHG Chaplain Fred Zilliox led the group in prayer, for all those missing in action and for the families and loved ones who are still waiting for their return.

Cher Nentwig also performed the National Anthem, in addition to leading attendees in reciting “The Pledge of Allegiance.”

Past Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Commander and current Adjutant, Regina Fortner, explained the significance of the round table that was set up for the ceremony, as well, in honor of those missing in action.

She described each item on the table, which included the POW/MIA Flag. Per Fortner, the round table shows our never-ending concern. The white tablecloth represents purity of motives in answering the call to duty. A single red rose stands for the lives of those missing and of their loved ones still waiting for their return. The red ribbon indicates our determination to account for all those missing. A slice of lemon is a reminder of the bitter fate of those captured and missing. The salt symbolizes the tears of those missing and the families who hope for answers. The Bible embodies faith in our country, founded as one nation under God. The inverted glass demonstrates their inability to be here. The chair is empty because the POW/MIAs are missing.

Following a moment of silence to honor America’s POW/MIAs, and the success of their loved ones’ efforts to account for them, the HHG performed a rifle salute and the playing of “Taps.”

See POW/MIA, Page 7A



Photo by Kaitlyn Campbell

IN MEMORIAM – The Iosco County Veterans Recognition Plaza put countless hours of work into the various projects they have completed throughout the years at the Tawas City Veteran’s Park. These projects include the War Dead Memorial, pictured here at left, which is engraved with the names of Iosco County military veterans who have been verified as killed or missing in action. Also, shown at right, is a granite plaque in recognition of Tawas Area High School graduate Peter C. Lemon, a U.S. Army Veteran who went on to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor – among numerous other accolades.

TC Veteran’s Park continues on as setting for remembrance

by Kaitlyn Campbell

TAWAS CITY – Tawas City Veteran’s Park continues to be a great place for people to pay their respects to the men and women in the military who served our country, and not just on Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day, but all year long.

Located at 608 W. Lake St. (US-23), the park has Tawas River as its backdrop and Lake Huron across the street, making it a beautiful and scenic destination to visit and remember veterans, including those who gave their lives for our country.

There have been many projects done at the park, as well as multiple hours of research, fundraising and other work to enhance the site, since its establishment in 2009.

The Iosco County Veterans Recognition Plaza (VRP) Committee was on hand for every phase of the park.

As previously reported, the VRP’s first phase of the park began with the War Dead Memorial in November of 2012, and is one of several granite structures throughout the park space. It features the names of veterans from Iosco County who lost their lives while defending

our country’s freedom.

The second phase of the VRP’s efforts, was the installation of seven flag poles. These entail one for each of the six branches of the military and one for the American Flag.

In June of 2014, construction on the Walk of Honor took place with the laying of three of the brick paver walkways.

The final set of pavers were placed in October 2015, which was the fourth phase of the VRP’s portion of the park. As reported previously by VRP Committee Chairperson Sandy Whitford, the bricks were donated by the City of East Tawas, and the work was completed by Bryan’s Landscape & Brick Pavers.

These bricks can be purchased in honor of a military veteran and can be etched with wording, such as the individual’s name and branch of service. Funds from the brick purchases go back to supporting the park.

The personalized pavers can be purchased through a \$100 donation. The veteran can be from anywhere in the U.S., living or deceased, who was honorably discharged from the military.

To order a brick paver, forms can be picked up from and

returned to Tawas City Hall, located at 550 W. Lake St., or downloaded from tawascity.org/places/veterans-park/. The website also contains a list of veterans located in the VRP and a form for anyone interested in reserving the park.

If a visitor were to take a trip to the park right now, they would find that many of the bricks are pulled up and the path entryways are lined with yellow caution tape.

Whitford reports that this is because whenever the grass was mowed, the lawn mower would ride over some of the bricks and turn them outwards. New curbing has been installed around the pavers to keep them straight; which, therefore, necessitates the re-laying of all of the existing bricks.

Other items were also added to the park while the VRP was completing their phases.

These include a recognition for U.S. Army Veteran Peter C. Lemon, a 1968 Tawas Area High School graduate who went on to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. The VRP installed a granite plaque to acknowledge

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History of Wurtsmith AFB to be presented at county museum

Reprinted from the Oct. 29, 2025 edition

EAST TAWAS – The Iosco County Historical Society will be presenting “The History of Wurtsmith AFB with Mike Jones” on Thursday, Nov. 6 at 6 p.m.

Jones, a retired lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Air Force and chairman of the Wurtsmith Air Museum Board of Directors, will present the history of the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base.

Jones has many insights over the years, as he was assigned to the base, and he will also be

sharing his experiences as a navigator on a B-52 bomber.

The event is sponsored by the Iosco-Arenac District Library. It will be hosted in the Iosco County Museum, located at 405 Bay St. (US-23) in East Tawas.

Salute to our Veterans.....



Gregory Hausler
U.S. Navy



David Stein
U.S. Marine Corps



Merlyn Hobson
U.S. Army



Herbert Holmes
U.S. Army



Neil Mochty
U.S. Army



James Wojahn
U.S. Army



Robert Beeler
U.S. Air Force



Susan Wilke
U.S. Navy



Keith Edmonds
U.S. Navy



Zach Dieleman
U.S. Air Force



Dakota Thomas
U.S. Marine Corps



Stormy Allen
U.S. Marine Corps



Ralph York
U.S. Army



Robert Strehlke
U.S. Navy



Michael London
U.S. Army



Kenneth Murphy
U.S. Navy



Kenneth Murphy II
U.S. Navy



David Schmidt
U.S. Navy



Ed Davis
U.S. Army



Tim Panches
U.S. Marine Corps



Ronald Klinger
U.S. Army



Charles Kitchen
U.S. Army



Neil Kitchen
U.S. Marines



Ben Kitchen
U.S. Air Force



Patrick Erickson
U.S. Navy



Arther Erickson
U.S. Navy



Dale Evilsizer Jr.
U.S. Air Force



Donald Grove
U.S. Army



James Sloan
U.S. Air Force



John Gontarek
U.S. Army



William Whitford
U.S. Army



Gary Hazen
U.S. Marine Corps



Paul Ouliet
U.S. Coast Guard



Aaron Anna
U.S. Air Force



David Day
U.S. Army



James Foran
U.S. Army



Eugene Hickman
U.S. Air Force



Jacob Grantner
U.S. Army



Walter Anderson
U.S. Air Force



Scott Serda
U.S. Navy



Joseph Serda
U.S. Air Force



Randolph McKinney
U.S. Air Force



Bob Otwell
U.S. Air Force



Thomas King
U.S. Air Force



Paul King
U.S. Marine Corps



Robert Miller
U.S. Army



Jack Miller
U.S. Army



Joseph Widrosky
U.S. Army



Victor Johnson
U.S. Army



Ryan Hintz
U.S. Marine Corps



Toby Hunt
U.S. Marine Corps



John Smith
U.S. Air Force



Bruce Bennett
U.S. Army, Nat. Guard



Don Pelton
U.S. Army



Thomas Highstreet
U.S. Navy
U.S. Army



Stanley McVey
U.S. Air Force

Salute to our Veterans.....



Thomas Stelloh
U.S. Air Force



Michael Pangborn
U.S. Navy



George McCracken
U.S. Navy



Billie Burgess
U.S. Air Force



John Carroll Sr.
U.S. Air Force



John Callahan
U.S. Navy



LeRoy Berry
U.S. Army



Howard Wissmiller
U.S. Navy



John Katterman
U.S. Army Air Corps



John Servinski
U.S. Air Force



Lee Luck
U.S. Army



Art Romzek
U.S. Air Force



William Lixey
U.S. Army



Clifton Nichols
U.S. Marine Corps



David Ecker
U.S. Army



James Setter
U.S. Marine Corps



Fred Look
U.S. Army Air Corps



Dennis Frank
U.S. Army



James Frank
U.S. Army



David Baczkowski
U.S. Air Force



Ivan Earley
U.S. Navy



Earl Hester
U.S. Army Air Force



Don Hester
U.S. Army



Jake Montgomery
U.S. Army



Thomas Musolf
U.S. Army



Dennis Whitford
U.S. Army



Daniel Meier
U.S. Army



Joe Brock
U.S. Army



Paul Glass
U.S. Air Force



Gerald Agtergae
U.S. Army



Joshua Bitten
U.S. Army Nat. Guard



Merlin Look
U.S. Army



Brendan Poirier
U.S. Army



David Millard
U.S. Air Force



Howard Wissmiller
U.S. Army



Douglas Keisler
U.S. Marine Corps



James Burgess
U.S. Coast Guard



Bryon English
U.S. Navy



Stephen Rakowski
U.S. Navy



Justin Hollenbeck
U.S. Marines



George Lueckeman
U.S. Air Force



Charles Schweickert
U.S. Air Force



James Lixey
U.S. Army



William Davis
U.S. Air Force



Edward Schanbeck
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Army



Ben Schanbeck
U.S. Army



Casey Schanbeck
U.S. Marine Corps



David Sherman
U.S. Air Force



Marc Stiller
U.S. Air Force



Raymond Lenczewski
U.S. Army



Thomas Wilson
U.S. Army



David Simpson
U.S. Marine Corps



Gerald Moeller
U.S. Navy



Charles Quarters, Sr.
U.S. Army



Louis Bitten
U.S. Marine Corps



Jerry Foor
U.S. Army

Salute to our Veterans.....



Tom Chrisman
U.S. Army



Gerry Kindell
U.S. Army



Joseph Achtabowski
U.S. Army
U.S. Air Force



Todd Kelly
U.S. Navy



Anthony Bethel
Spc. U.S. Army



Kay Sherman
U.S. Navy



Joshua Troutt
U.S. Army



Jason Kelly
U.S. Navy



Roy Holmstrom
U.S. Army



Ronald McKenna
U.S. Army



John Brindley
U.S. Air Force



Jeffrey Kinney
U.S. Coast Guard



George Adams
U.S. Navy



James Biggar, Jr.
U.S. Air Force



David Mallak
U.S. Air Force



Ronald Johnson
U.S. Army



Dominic Raona
U.S. Army



Floyd Marsh
U.S. Navy



Harry Poland
U.S. Air Force



Alfred Ceci
U.S. Navy



James Broses
U.S. Air Force



John Broses, Jr.
U.S. Army



Wesley Durbin
U.S. Navy



John Didur
U.S. Navy



Trevor LaPointe
U.S. Air Force



Daryl Johnson
U.S. Navy Seabee



Mathew Johnson
U.S. Marine Corp



Joshua Johnson
U.S. Navy Seabee



Dean Pauloski
U.S. Air Force



William Tilley
U.S. Marine Corps



Thomas Broughton
U.S. Army



Norman Painter
U.S. Army



Buck Weaver
U.S. Marine Corps



Donald Cunningham
U.S. Army



Keith Bennett
U.S. Army



Earl B. Bennett
U.S. Navy



Earl D. Bennett
U.S. Army



Raymond Dorcey
U.S. Navy



Lynn Resseguie
U.S. Air Force



William Combs
U.S. Air Force



Hugo Wegner
U.S. Army



Areanna Robinson
Royal Navy



Dave Miner
U.S. Army



George Miner
U.S. Air Force



Robert Miner
U.S. Air Force



Richard Lear
U.S. Army



Ron Whitney
U.S. Army



Robert Cabble
U.S. Army



Kenyatta Demings
U.S. Air Force



Russell White
U.S. Army



Norm Klenow
U.S. Navy



David Schirmer
U.S. Army



Susan Cronk
U.S. Army



Douglas Murphy
U.S. Army



Frank Drogowski
U.S. Navy



Frank Kreitner
U.S. Army

Salute to our Veterans.....

 Ernie Lixey U.S. Army	 Joseph Wrona U.S. Navy	 Mark Kilmer U.S. Air Force	 John Lutzke U.S. Marine Corp	 Jeremy Whitney U.S. Marine Corp	 Dale Whitney U.S. Army Mich. National Guard	 William Ullman Sr. U.S. Air Force	 Thomas Wice U.S. Army
 Gray Taylor U.S. Air Force	 Marcy Laubon U.S. Navy	 Ralph Cleaver U.S. Army	 Walter Kasischke U.S. Army	 Terry Frank U.S. Navy/U.S. Army	 Kenneth Welsch U.S. Air Force	 Charles Hill U.S. Army	 C.L. MacValleau U.S. Navy
 James Sanford U.S. Air Force	 Anthony Green U.S. Army	 Vinetta Paige U.S. Air Force	 John Richard Ernst U.S. Army	 Dennis Polishak U.S. Air Force	 William Galbrath U.S. Air Force	 Brian Howell U.S. Marine Corp	Dorothy Vassler U.S. Navy Jeff Piar U.S. Army No Photo

American Flags placed in Pinecrest Cemetery ahead of Memorial Day

by Gaylynn Brenoel
OSCODA – Members of Oscoda American Legion Post 274 and Oscoda Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3735 joined together on Sunday, May 25, to place American Flags on the graves of deceased U.S. Military Veterans who have been laid to rest at Pinecrest Cemetery.
The annual flag placement was led this year by VFW Commander James Miller, American Legion Commander Doug Miller and Past Disabled American

Veterans Unit 130 Commander Regina Fortner.
Local citizens, VFW members, VFW Auxiliary members, American Legion members and American Legion Auxiliary members all placed an American Flag at each U.S. Veteran’s grave, to honor their memory and sacrifice for Memorial Day 2025.



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
FLAGS PLACED AT PINECREST – On May 25, Oscoda VFW Post 3735 and Oscoda American Legion Post 274 members were joined by their respective auxiliaries, as well as local citizens and those from Disabled American Veterans Unit 130, in placing American Flags on the graves of deceased U.S. Military Veterans who have been laid to rest at Pinecrest Cemetery.



HAPPY VETERANS DAY

☆☆☆ NOVEMBER 11th ☆☆☆



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
WIDOW PAYS TRIBUTE – Warea Taranski places an American Flag at the Pinecrest Cemetery grave of her husband, Tech Sergeant Thomas Taranski, who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War.

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A Salute to Service

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National Guard
Business Manager
Chevrolet


Kevin Humerickhouse
Navy
Sales Department
Chevrolet


Larry Boden
Army
Body Shop
Chevrolet


Zach Lean
Army
Service Department
Chevrolet

LOCAL NEWS



PANELS OF NAMES – One of the project phases that was completed at the park, was the installation of four large panel walls, two of which are shown here. In all, the panels are etched with the names of more than 2,000 service members. There were plans to put up a fifth, smaller panel – which would sit between the others – but the Veterans Recognition Plaza Committee has yet to receive enough names to etch onto it.

TC VETS
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his accomplishments.

There are also 10 granite memorial benches, etched with names and photos for many veterans with ties to Iosco County, which were purchased by their friends and family. These were unveiled throughout the years, from 2015-2018.

The final phase of the park came with the installation of four large panel walls, engraved with the names of more than 2,000 service members. The first three of these panels were revealed on Memorial Day in 2018, and the fourth was put up in September 2021. Each one measures six feet tall and is six inches thick, spans 3-and-a-half-feet wide and weighs 2,800 pounds.

The plan for a fifth, smaller panel to be placed in between the four larger ones, has not yet come into fruition. Whitford states that she isn’t sure if it will be installed in her lifetime, because they don’t have enough names to put on it.

“We need 300 names of Iosco County vets, and it’s just not going to happen,” she said. “Right now, we have 50. We’re still collecting names, but I can’t foresee it. We thought we would be able to do it, but we just don’t

have the names.”

There is no cost to the veterans who wish to have their names engraved on one of the panels. To qualify for it, he or she must have been from Iosco County and honorably discharged from the military. Whitford previously stated that the best proof for this is a copy of the veteran’s DD214 paperwork. The documents can be taken to her or to Tawas City Hall.

Whitford further shared that the top of the War Dead Memorial may be replaced, since the group isn’t currently happy with how it looks, but other than that, there are no other projects planned for the park.

Additional questions about the Walk of Honor bricks and the panels can be directed to Whitford, at 989-362-3679.

According to the city website, the following individuals devoted their time for research, planning and development of the Iosco County Veterans Recognition Plaza: John Bolen, Ed Davidson, Kelly Frank, Dennis Frank, Patti Greenan, Jan Groff, Cary Hilbert, Mike Horning, Neil Mochty, Thomas Musolf, Bob Otis, Ed Phillips, Bob Price, Al Sherman, Naomi Stonehouse,

Sue Weber, Sandy Whitford, Bill Whitford and Lynette Wood.

Whitford explains that the park – which includes tributes to some of their own loved ones – means so much to her and the other committee members of the VRP, to honor veterans.

“It’s just dear to my heart to do this,” she said.

“It’s just so rewarding, all of the praise we’ve gotten,” she continued, in reference to the compliments the committee has received for their work to bring the space to life. “It’s a beautiful park, it’s a beautiful place and I’m glad the city gave us the opportunity to do it.”



Photo by Kaitlyn Campbell

RE-INSTALLING BRICKS – The brick pavers at Tawas City Veteran’s Park are usually set into their slots, but right now, many are pulled up and the path entryways are lined with yellow caution tape. This is because new curbing has been installed to keep them in place, which will require a re-laying of all of the existing bricks.



Photo by Kaitlyn Campbell

HONORING FAMILY VETERANS – Ten granite benches have been incorporated into Tawas City Veteran’s Park, which all honor service members with ties to Iosco County. The bench seen here, was dedicated to the Whitford family and was unveiled at the park in November 2016.



Courtesy photo

CELEBRATING THE SEASON WITH VETS – In celebration of the recent Christmas season, members of American Legion Post 422 of Hale and its Auxiliary, along with the Sons of the American Legion, visited 37 veterans residing in various local nursing homes. The Legion representatives also gave the veterans presents and cards created by the children from Hale Area Schools. Pictured here from left, back row, are: Post 422 Commander Doug Walter, Charles Carroll, Brian Polishak and Bob Shulte; second row: AnnMarie Stevens, Marlene Polishak and Lynda Otey; and in front: Army Veteran Greg Stewart, who resides at Lakeview Manor in Tawas City.



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★ DAY

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LOCAL NEWS



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
CEREMONY AT PENTAGON SERVICE MONUMENT – Pictured here from left, standing, are Hale Honor Guard Chaplain Fred Zilliox, Department of Michigan Auxiliary President Jane Dady and Cher Nentwig. They started out the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony, which was held at Pentagon Service Monument within the Veterans Memorial Park of Northeast Michigan in Oscoda.

POW/MIA

Continued from Page 1A

Dady concluded the ceremony by stating, “Our POW/MIAs are not only missing soldiers, but they are also our friends and neighbors. They are not forgotten.”



Veterans Benefits Fair returns to East Tawas

Reprinted from the May 21, 2025 edition

by Kaitlyn Campbell

EAST TAWAS – The Iosco County Veterans Affairs Office, in partnership with the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, hosted the annual Lake Huron Veterans Benefits Fair on May 15. The free event, which was held in the East Tawas Community Center, aims to help support military veterans, honor their service and connect them to many different resources and services they are entitled to.

The day began with an Opening Honors, performed by the Tawas Area Honor Guard. Attendees, ranging from veterans to people of the community, then met with representatives of many different participating agencies. Visitors were able to learn about a multitude of resources for veterans, including those pertaining to employment housing, education, healthcare and quality of life.

“There’s basically anything that a veteran might have a question on about their benefits that they didn’t think to ask or didn’t know they had,” said Iosco County Veteran Service Officer Ron Whitney.

A lunch was also provided by the county veterans office, and members of the public and veterans alike were able to sit and talk with each other while having a meal.

Some of the participating agencies at the event, included the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, VA Vet Center,

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Photo by Kaitlyn Campbell
FREE BLANKETS – Free quilted blankets were handed out to everyone who wanted one during the Veterans Benefits Fair. Red, white and blue colors were used, so that whoever took one could show their American pride.



Photo by Kaitlyn Campbell
CAPTION CALL PHONES – Free landline phones with captions, provided by Caption Call, were available during the Lake Huron Veterans Benefits Fair. This was just one of the many benefits that veterans could learn about during the 2025 event, which was again hosted at the East Tawas Community Center.

THIS VETERANS DAY, WE HONOR THE COURAGE, DEDICATION, AND SACRIFICE OF ALL WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY. THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING OUR FREEDOMS AND ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITIES.

WITH RESPECT, HONOR AND GRATITUDE

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LOCAL NEWS



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel

VET2VET PROGRAM – In one of several such Vet2Vet programs that are offered in the county, area veterans come together on the third Tuesday of every month, at To The Moon & Back in Oscoda, to address personal issues related to their military service. According to the Vet2Vet USA website, the program was started by Moe Armstrong, a Vietnam era veteran with mental illness, to provide peer-to-peer support for veterans. The Oscoda program is sponsored by the Iosco County Veterans Affairs Office, with Elena MacKenzie hosting the monthly events which are held at To The Moon & Back. Pictured here during one of the recent gatherings, from left, are MacKenzie, Lewsi Benton, Leota Misiak, Lisa DePaul and Mary Baker.

Participants laud Iosco County Vet2Vet Program

by Gaylynn Brenoel

TAWAS CITY – Iosco County Veterans Service Officer Ron Whitney – of the Iosco County Veterans Affairs (VA) Office, located at 671 E. M-55 in Tawas City – started the Vet2Vet USA Program in the county six years ago.

Whitney says that the purpose of the program is to connect with area veterans and offer them the opportunity to meet with other veterans, to discuss issues important to them related to their military service and resulting stress, depression and/or mental health issues.

Per Whitney, “It offers veterans a chance to relax and enjoy camaraderie with other veterans. It also is a time for veterans to learn about benefits that are available to them through federal, state and county resources.”

Whitney also helps veterans file claims through The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) and the Soldier Relief Fund (SRF).

“To be eligible for the MVTF, a veteran had to serve just one day in service during war time. They do not have to have boots on the ground to be eligible, just in service during a war,” he explains. The SRF is funded through the Iosco County VA Office, to help with such needs as auto repairs, heating costs during the winter or other necessary items. The only requirement, is that the veteran received an honorable discharge.

According to Whitney, the same benefits are available to widows of veterans, for both the MVTF and the SRF.

Additionally, the county VA office sponsors monthly coffee hours for veterans in East Tawas and Oscoda, that are also open to widows of veterans.

The East Tawas Vet2Vet Coffee Hours are held at American Legion Post 211, located at 900 E. Lincoln St. Commander Dennis Browne hosts the coffee hours on the third Thursday of each month, from 9-11 a.m. MediLodge of Tawas City co-sponsors the East Tawas events, and provides doughnuts and coffee for every meeting.

According to Browne, veterans appreciate the opportunity to discuss issues with other veterans who have similar experiences. It also gives them an

opportunity to learn about their veterans benefits.

There are three Vet2Vet meeting locations in Oscoda. This includes the Wurtsmith Air Museum (WAM), located at 3961 E. Airport Dr., which holds meetings from May to September, on the third Wednesday of each month, from 9-11 a.m.

The Oscoda Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3735, at 240 Chrysler Rd., conducts Vet2Vet gatherings from October through April, also on the third Wednesdays, from 9-11 a.m. VFW Post Commander Jim Miller personally provides coffee and doughnuts for each meeting.

Another option is available on the third Tuesday of every month, starting at 5 p.m. Held at To The Moon & Back, located at 119 S. State St., Elena MacKenzie hosts the event with participants from Standish, Oscoda and Alpena.

According to John Servinski, a veteran who attends every Oscoda Vet2Vet meeting, “We had 20 veterans at our October meeting.”

Servinski maintains an e-mail list for the Oscoda attendees, and sends a reminder a few days ahead of the meetings. “We have veterans from the Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force at our meetings,” he shares.

“Family members are also welcome,” Miller adds. “One of our staunch supporters of the program passed away recently, and his family members came into the meeting to discuss their loss. The program is valuable to veterans. It gives them a chance to talk in a place they feel comfortable.”

All Vet2Vet Coffee Hours are free to attend. For more information about this program, or to learn about veteran benefits and other activities, contact the Iosco County Veterans Affairs Office at 989-362-6571 or e-mail Whitney at rwhitney@iosco-county.org.

For further details on the Vet2Vet program at the East Tawas American Legion, contact Browne at 989-327-9593; at the Oscoda VFW, call Miller at 989-739-3128 or Servinski at 989-739-1282; at WAM, contact Judy Shuler at 989-820-0062; or at To The Moon & Back, contact MacKenzie at 989-569-3242.



Photo by Kaitlyn Campbell

VETERANS AND COMMUNITY – Many veterans and people of the community gathered together for a lunch provided by the Iosco County Veterans Affairs Office, during the annual Lake Huron Veterans Benefits Fair on May 15.

FAIR
Continued from Page 7A

community nonprofits, Veteran Service Officers and those who brought along Veteran Service Dogs. In addition to providing details on DD-214 document retrieval, the occasion also featured resources regarding

employment, housing, health-care, education and more.

If you or a loved one is a military veteran who would like to learn more about the available benefits and services for which you may qualify, Whitney can

be reached by calling 989-362-6571, sending an e-mail to rwhitney@ioscocoounty.org or stopping into the Iosco County Veterans Affairs Office at 671 E. M-55 in Tawas City.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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LENDER

LOCAL NEWS



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
QUILTS OF VALOR RECOGNITION – Chaplain Tom King of American Legion Post 211 in East Tawas, pictured here at left, reads a Certificate of Gratitude from the Quilts of Valor Foundation, which was presented to Post Commander Dennis Browne. Browne is seen above, center, helping to display the handmade quilt that was created for him by Bev Schrieber, right.

Local American Legion commander recognized by Quilts of Valor Foundation

Reprinted from the Sept. 17, 2025 edition
by Gaylynn Brenoel
EAST TAWAS – Commander of American Legion Post 211 in East Tawas, Dennis Browne, recently received a Certificate of Gratitude from the Quilts of

Valor Foundation, for his service in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. East Tawas resident, Bev Schrieber, presented the certificate and a commemorative quilt she created for the ceremony,
See Quilt, Page 10A

Quilts of Valor Foundation honors East Tawas woman for her service

Reprinted from the Oct. 22, 2025 edition
Barnacle Bills in East Tawas. A group of family and friends gathered to present the quilt to Bayliss-Wight.
“We are here today to present you with an award for serving our country,” said Pat Bond, who made the quilt, in presenting it to Bayliss-Wight. “The mission of Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.”
Quilts of Valor was founded in 2003 by an army mom named Catherine Roberts. Like other moms whose sons were deployed to Iraq she decided she needed to do something. Knowing that quilts bring healing and comfort this began her dream.
The first Quilt of Valor was awarded to a soldier at Walter Reed Army Hospital. Since then there have been 10,000
See Valor, Page 10A



Courtesy photo
LEFT BEHIND BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN – Dennis Browne is shown here in 1969 with his Military Patrol Dog, Teddy, at the Phan Rang Air Force Base in Vietnam. As his tour came to a close, Browne wanted to take Teddy home to the United States with him. At that time, however, military dogs were not allowed to leave with their handlers. Leaving Teddy behind, is something Browne likened to leaving a child behind.

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LOCAL NEWS



Courtesy photo
RECEIVES QUILT OF VALOR – Heather Bayliss-Wight, right, shows her surprise in receiving a presentation from Quilts of Valor Foundation. Also pictured is Pat Bond, left, who made the Quilt of Valor.

VALOR
Continued from Page 9A

registered volunteers in the organization. There have been 424,428 Quilts of Valor awarded. These quilts have specific guidelines to follow such as 100% cotton, specific size and three layers consisting of top, batting and backing. They can be hand quilted or machine quilted. Each quilt has a Quilt of Valor label.

“This is a privilege for me to present you with this award. We honor your service,” Bond said. “You raised your right hand in taking the oath and leaving all that you held dear.

“This quilt is meant to say thank you for your service and sacrifice and valor in serving our nation. And finally, this quilt is meant to offer healing, peace, comfort and warmth. You are forever in our thoughts and prayers.

“Not everyone answers the call to serve our country. It is those rare individuals who are selfless enough to sacrifice so much so we can all enjoy the freedom we have. We’ll never know exactly what each Veteran experiences and how they are touched by war. But we can welcome our Veteran home, support them and their families, and thank them for their service whenever possible.

“Today’s modern military is comprised of volunteers. Each of them stepped forward to ensure a way of life is protected for their fellow citizens. They give up their freedom, time at home with loved ones, make other sacrifices and ultimately have no guarantee of safety. For me, that is valorous



Courtesy photo
WRAPPED IN QUILT – Pat Bond, who made the Quilt of Honor for Heather Bayliss-Wight, presents the certificate from the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

and I am grateful. I want to wrap you in this quilt and know we present this to you in comfort, love and thank you.”

Bayliss-Wight also received a certificate that reads: “The Quilt of Valor Foundation wishes to recognize you for your service to our nation. We consider it our privilege to do so. Though we may never know the extent of your sacrifice to protect and defend the United States of America, we award you this Quilt of Valor as an expression of

dogs home with them. Now they can.” Still today, Browne becomes a bit emotional when talking about Teddy. “It’s like leaving your child behind.”

Browne served in the United States Air Force from 1967-1973. He served two years during the Vietnam War at the Phan Rang Air Force Base as an Air Force Security Police Officer, where he and Teddy, a collie/shepherd mix, performed night patrol of the fence line around the base. The two were inseparable.

The certificate Browne received, reads as follows:

“The Quilts of Valor Foundation wishes to recognize you for your service to our Nation. We consider it our privilege to do so. Though we may never know the extent of your sacrifice to protect and defend the United States of America, we award you this Quilt of Valor as an expression of gratitude from a grateful nation.”

QUILT
Continued from Page 9A

during the American Legion meeting on Sept. 8.

The quilt features patriotic colors to recognize both Browne and his Military Patrol Dog, Teddy, who had to be left behind when Browne finished his tour in Vietnam.

According to the organization’s website, the Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 with a mission to award a U.S. Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war with a hand quilted or machine sewn quilt to say, “Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our Nation.”

Schrieber had a conversation with Browne several months ago about his time in Vietnam – and the sadness he still feels more than 56 years later, for having to leave his beloved dog Teddy behind.

According to Browne, “Back in those days, military personnel weren’t allowed to take their

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LOCAL NEWS

Air museum, Oscoda Rotary host annual fly-in pancake breakfast

Reprinted from the Aug. 20, 2025 edition

by Gaylynn Brenoel
OSCODA – With mild temperatures in the mid-70s, an overcast sky and a warm summer wind, more than two dozen planes arrived at the Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport (OWA) and the Wurtsmith Air Museum (WAM) on both Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 16-17.
The annual, two-day event featured a delicious pancake breakfast, cooked and served by the Oscoda Rotary Club.
Cheri Meier, the club’s immediate past president, prepared blueberry and chocolate chip pancakes, while other Rotarians cooked sausage, made coffee and served beverages to more than 300 attendees.
Pilots and their crew flew in from areas all across Michigan, plus one from Ohio. They enjoyed the pancake breakfast, visited WAM, learned about the Kalitta Air Apprenticeship Program and conversed with fellow aviators and veterans.

Attendees included local aircraft enthusiasts and families, who enjoyed the opportunity to meet the pilots and to see up close a variety of privately-owned airplanes.
Aircraft at the 2025 fly-in, included Cessna 172s and 182s, a Mooney, one Varga Kachina, an Aeronca, a Piper Colt, a Piper Comanche and several experimental Vans RV-8A and RV9-A planes, as well as other experimental aircraft.
Also on display, was a 1965 Cessna 150E that is being rebuilt by the Scouts and the co-educational Venturers, under the supervision of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-Certified A&P Mechanics and technical specialists. The project has been underway for four years.
The Scouts and Venturers are high school students who work on the reconstruction during the summer months. They are hoping to complete the rebuild in 2026.

The program, entitled the Scout Aviation Maintenance Experience (SAME), provides a unique Scouting experience hosted by OWA.
The SAME program was started by Dr. Pete Mapes, a retired United States Air Force (USAF) colonel and flight instructor; and his wife, Nona, also a retired USAF colonel.
SAME is primarily funded through the generosity of the Mapes. The program is operated by American Legion Post 274 of Oscoda, as well as by the Mapes, through their company OYES, LLC.
Students and staff from the apprenticeship program at Kalitta Air were also on hand at this year’s fly-in, to provide information about their U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship leading to Air-



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
KALITTA AIR STAFF, APPRENTICES PROVIDE PROGRAM DETAILS – Pictured above, from left, are Garrett Greene, apprenticeship program instructor for Kalitta Air; Edward Mathis, apprentice graduate; Frank Garcia, current apprentice; and Jesse Good, a journeyman who will be fully licensed on Oct. 1 as an aircraft mechanic. The group provided brochures and answered questions about the apprenticeship program offered by Kalitta Air, while attending the pancake breakfast at the Wurtsmith Air Museum on Aug. 16.



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
FREQUENT FLYERS – Julie Harris, 79, and her husband and pilot Bob Harris, 82, flew their Vans RV-9A to the fly-in pancake breakfast on Saturday, Aug. 16. The Gladwin residents say that they enjoy meeting fellow pilots at the annual event.

frame and Powerplant Mechanic Journeyman’s Certification and FAA 14 CFR Part 65 Airframe & Powerplant.
For more information about WAM, call 989-739-7555, visit wurtsmithairmuseum.net or follow the museum on Facebook.
For further details about the Oscoda Rotary Club, e-mail oscodarotary@gmail.com or visit oscodarotary.org.
To apply for the Kalitta Air Apprenticeship Program, call 989-252-7140 or e-mail apprenticeadmin@kalittaair.com.
To learn more about the SAME program, contact Mapes at 937-212-8435, or attend the Boy Scout Troop 959 meetings, which are held from 5-6 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Oscoda United Methodist Church, located at 120 W. State St.



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
RETIRED PILOT JOINS FLY-IN – Dave Anderson, pictured here with his Vans RV-8A experimental aircraft, flew from Lima, Ohio to the Wurtsmith Air Museum in Oscoda, for some blueberry pancakes on Saturday, Aug. 16. Anderson was a Delta Airlines pilot for 33 years.



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
ROTARIANS SERVE PANCAKES TO 300 AT FLY-IN – Cheri Meier, immediate past president of the Oscoda Rotary Club, shown at the grill, prepares blueberry and chocolate chip pancakes for fly-in attendees. Pictured with her, from left, are Interact student Natalie Sebillle and Oscoda Rotarians Aetna Romo and Abby Moody.



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
STUDENTS REBUILDING CESSNA – Larson Yates, seen here with a 1965 Cessna 150E, is part of the Scout Aviation Maintenance Experience program hosted at the Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport. The Cessna – which is being rebuilt by the Scouts and the co-educational Venturers – was on display at the Wurtsmith Air Museum and Oscoda Rotary Club’s fly-in breakfast this past Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 16-17. Yates, a senior at Oscoda High School, shared that he plans to pursue a career in aviation.





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LOCAL NEWS



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
HONORING GOLD STAR FAMILIES – On Sunday, Sept. 28, the Veterans Memorial Park of Northeast Michigan held a ceremony to honor the family members of U.S. Military who lost their lives in service to our country. The center space in the Gold Star Families Memorial, shown here, is in the shape of a saluting soldier who died in the line of duty.

Veterans Memorial Park hosts event honoring Gold Star Families

Reprinted from the Oct. 1, 2025 edition

by Gaylynn Brenoel

OSCODA – Local veterans and residents gathered together this past Sunday – under sunny skies and a cool, 67-degree temperature – at the Pentagon Service Monument within the Veterans Memorial Park (VMP) of Northeast Michigan, located at 4000 N. Skeel Ave. in Oscoda Township.

The annual Gold Star Families event, held the last Sunday in September, was established by Congress in 1936 to honor the mothers, fathers, siblings, spouses and children of U.S. service members who died in the line of duty. In 2011, the day was also designated as National Gold Star Mother's Day.

The solemn occasion provides a way to express gratitude and support for families who have lost a loved one in military service to our country.

Locally, Ralph and Jane Dady donated the Gold Star Families Memorial that was installed at the VMP in 2024, as part of their legacy to honor military families.

According to the America's Gold Star Families website, the term "Gold Star Family" is a modern reference that comes from the Service Flag. These flags/banners were first flown by families during World War I. The flag included a blue star for every immediate family member serving in the armed forces of the United States, during any period of war or hostilities in which the armed forces of the United States were engaged. But, in the event of a death, the blue star was replaced with a gold star – the highest honor.

The recent event in Oscoda was hosted by J. Dady, past president of the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Auxiliary.

She acknowledged everyone in the audience for taking



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
'TAPS' TRIBUTE – Kris Green, a member of the Hale Honor Guard, performed a bugle call of "Taps," a National Song of Remembrance, during the Gold Star Families ceremony that was held in Oscoda this past Sunday. The moment served as a solemn farewell to those from the U.S. Military who lost their lives in the line of duty.

time out of their day to honor Gold Star Families, before then introducing the Regent of the River Aux Sables Chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution, Jacki Gonterman, who offered an opening prayer.

Cher Nentwig then sang the National Anthem, which was followed by the group, in unison, reciting "The Pledge of Allegiance."

J. Dady went on to recognize Joe Brinn, Rose Mary Nentwig and others involved in the VMP,

See Gold Star, Page 3B

Whittemore Chamber marks Memorial Day with 'A Moment to Remember'

Reprinted from the June 4, 2025 edition

by Gaylynn Brenoel

WHITTEMORE – The Whittemore Area Chamber of Commerce put on a parade, gave recognition to their Outstanding Citizens of the Year, presented awards for several parade categories, hosted a horse show and offered a number of other events throughout Memorial Day Weekend this past Saturday and Sunday, May 24-25. With a theme of "A Moment to

Remember," all of the activities were presented to honor our country's fallen veterans.

The events on Saturday started with an impressive lineup of participants for the annual Whittemore Memorial Day Parade.

Nathan Beach, a chamber of commerce member, has been the parade coordinator for five years. For the 2025 occasion, he arranged for participants from Whittemore, Hale, Sterling, Skidway Lake, Tawas City, Twining, Prescott, National City, Freeland, East Tawas and Turner.

Businesses and individuals joining in on the procession included those from Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools; Whittemore Mayor Bob Leslie; Michigan State Representative Mike Hoadley; the Iosco County Sheriff's Office; the Richland/Logan, Burleigh-Reno-Whittemore (BRW), Plainfield Township and Twining-Mason-Turner fire departments; Hale Post

See Memorial, Page 3B

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LOCAL NEWS

GOLD STAR

Continued from Page 2B

for providing the Gold Star Families Memorial with a home. “Friends from around the state have made a trip here to view our monument and to enjoy this wonderful place.”

She also acknowledged the Hale Honor Guard (HHG), as well as the Commander of VFW Post No. 5678 in Tawas City, Jerry Reckman, for attending to honor the area’s Gold Star Families.

“We hear about the service and sacrifice of our military, but little about the sacrifice and pain our Gold Star Families endure for the rest of their lives,” J. Dady also stated. “Ralph and I have stood beside many families of our fallen. These family members suffer an unending heartache that is not erased with the passage of time. They must never be forgotten, and they will always be honored.”

She added, “Gold Star Families deserve our utmost respect, admiration and support for their tenacity and resilience.”

J. Dady then introduced the event’s guest speaker, Terry Frank.

A U.S. Army Veteran and president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 882, Frank highlighted the importance of the Gold Star Families event.

“Being recognized as a Gold Star Family carries significant emotional weight. It acknowledges the grief and the ongoing healing process the family members endure after losing a loved one in military service,”



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS – An event was held in Oscoda on Sept. 28, at the Veterans Memorial Park of Northeast Michigan, to honor Gold Star Families. Among those who offered prayers, gave speeches and otherwise paid homage, as pictured here from left, were Regent of the River Aux Sables Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Jacki Gonterman; Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 882 President Terry Frank; Past President of the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, Jane Dady; and Hale Honor Guard Member Tina Naisbitt.

he explained.

“The designation serves as a lasting tribute to the service member’s sacrifice and the impact of their loss on their family,” Frank continued.

“In summary, a Gold Star Family represents the enduring legacy of service members who have died in the line of duty, highlighting the sacrifices made not only by the individuals but also by their families,” he said.

Next, HHG members Kris Green and Tina Naisbitt placed a wreath at the monument. C. Nentwig sang “Somewhere Over The Rainbow” and the HHG presented a rifle salute.

The evening’s ceremony ended with Green performing a bugle call of “Taps,” a National Song of Remembrance and solemn farewell, honoring those who have served.



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel

EAGLE RIDERS HONOR FALLEN VETERANS – The Hale Fraternal Order of Eagles Riders rode their motorcycles in the Whittemore Memorial Day Parade on May 24, to honor fallen veterans. Pictured here, from left, are Joe Bostek, Ray Chandler, Martin Domingues and Sally Domingues.

MEMORIAL

Continued from Page 2B

4217 Eagle Riders, Hale Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7435; Hale American Legion Post 422; Hale Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 882; Hale Associate VVA; Hale Area Veterans Honor Guard; Judson Baptist Church of Prescott; Gold Bond National Gypsum; Daughters of the American Revolution; Burt Watson Chevrolet of Freeland; Sunrise Side Towing of Sterling; Randy’s Towing of Tawas City; Calvin and Nicole’s Pit Stop; Mikey’s Pizzeria; Colvin’s Heating & Cooling of Hale; Swanson’s Excavating of Skidway Lake; American Grown of Tawas and Turner; Kendra & Sons Truck & Auto; Whittemore Speedway; and National City Station.

Following the parade, both participants and onlookers gathered at the nearby Whittemore Area Chamber of Commerce building, for hot dogs and hamburgers prepared by the BRW

See Whittemore, Page 6B



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LOCAL NEWS



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel

NEVER FORGET – Michigan State Rep. Mike Hoadley, pictured at podium with the microphone, was the guest speaker at the Remembrance Ceremony held at the Veterans Memorial Park (VMP) of Northeast Michigan. Hoadley read the names of the 13 United States servicemembers who perished during the chaotic evacuation at Kabul’s International Airport amid the Taliban’s takeover of Afghanistan. Hoadley reminded us that “honoring them ensures their sacrifice fuels our resolve to build a world worthy of their bravery.”

Veterans park honors 13 soldiers who died during Afghanistan withdrawal of 2021

Reprinted from the Sept. 3, 2025 edition

by Gaylynn Brenoel

OSCODA – A remembrance ceremony was held on Aug. 24 in Oscoda Township, at the Veterans Memorial Park of Northeast Michigan (VMP).

The purpose of the ceremony was to honor, remember and never forget the 13 American heroes who lost their lives in the Afghanistan withdrawal of 2021.

A chilly 69 degrees and dark rain clouds overhead befitted the somber occasion, which honored the memory of those 13 United States service members who perished during the chaotic evacuation at Kabul’s Hamid Karzai International Airport, amid the Taliban’s swift takeover of Afghanistan.

Following the singing of the National Anthem by Cher Nentwig, an invocation was offered by Pastor Michael Viera of the Grace Community Evangelical Presbyterian Church, who is also an Iraq and Afghanistan War Veteran.

Guest speaker, Michigan State Representative Mike Hoadley, addressed the group of patriots who attended the ceremony.

“These heroes, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza, Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover, Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss, Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui, Marine Corps Sgt. Johanna Rosario Pichardo, Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak, and Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan W. Page perished in a suicide bombing while courageously facilitating the safe evacuation of thousands of American citizens and Afghan allies,” Hoadley expressed.

“We remember them not only for their ultimate sacrifice, but for the profound reasons their loss resonates,” he continued. “They stood resolute in a moment of global uncertainty, embodying unwavering duty and compassion by protecting vulnerable lives under extreme peril.”

Hoadley also reminded attendees that, “honoring them ensures their sacrifice fuels our resolve to build a world worthy of their bravery.”

Rosemary Nentwig, co-chair

of the VMP, spoke on the bravery of the 13 service members
See 13 Soldiers, Page 7B



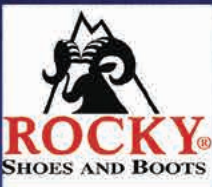
Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel

IN REMEMBRANCE – Thirteen floral arrangements were placed at the Desert Storm Iraq Memorial within the Veterans Memorial Park of Northeast Michigan, in memory of the 13 United States Service Members who perished during the evacuation at Kabul’s Hamid Karzai International Airport, amid the Taliban’s takeover of Afghanistan in 2021. Each arrangement represents a fallen soldier and incudes an American Flag and laminated photograph of the heroes.



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LOCAL NEWS



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
BEST IN SHOW – Along with the state of Michigan, POW/MIA and American Flags, the Hale Area Veterans Honor Guard also displayed flags representing Hale’s VFW Post 7435, American Legion Post 422, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 882 and Associate VVA, while leading the annual Memorial Day Parade in Whittemore this past Saturday. Following the procession, the Honor Guard received the Best of Show award for their float, which was presented by the Whittemore Area Chamber of Commerce.

WHITTEMORE

Continued from Page 3B

Fire Department.
A flag raising ceremony was then led by members of the Hale Area Veterans Honor Guard, and included a playing of “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “Taps” to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice while in military service to our country.
Next, chamber of commerce representatives presented parade awards to the first through third place winners in the categories of Floats, Tractors, Motorcycles, Kids, Antique Cars, Horses, Race Cars, Fire Trucks, Tow Trucks, Best In Show and Other.
Additional activities at the chamber property included a lemonade stand, bounce houses, a bake sale, a raffle, horse pulls, a “Business Tug-O-War” and a



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
FINISHES IN FIRST – In the “Kids” category of the annual parade, this Mini-Wedges 72 machine, driven by Hunter Spencer, took first place.
cornhole tournament.
Just around the block at the Whittemore Speedway, was also the stock car racing on Saturday night, which served as the venue’s 2025 season opener.
The festivities continued

back at the chamber grounds on Sunday, with more horse and pony pulls, plus another speed horse show.



Photos by Gaylynn Brenoel
OUTSTANDING CITIZENS – Shown from left in these two photos, are Tara Hasty, Brad Hasty, Ivan Lauria, Whittemore Area Chamber of Commerce Co-Treasurer Cyndi Cowles and Helen and Ed Beckley. The Beckleys, who were named by chamber as one of the 2025 Outstanding Citizens of the Year, are pictured after their participation in the community’s annual Memorial Day Parade. In the photo at left, Cowles is seen recognizing Lauria as another outstanding citizen; while Tara Hasty and Brad Hasty accepted the honor on behalf of their parents, Keith and Sherry Hasty, who previously owned Sher-ni’s Candies in Whittemore. Tara and Brad have continued to follow the family tradition, as the sweet shop’s current owners.



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
QUARTER HORSE SPEED SHOW – Getting ready to participate in the Memorial Day Weekend Horse Speed Show in Whittemore – pictured here from left, with their horses – are Alivia Sheehan, Paige Zilinsky and Torrie Zilinsky.



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
TAPS TO HONOR THE FALLEN – Kris Green of the Associate Vietnam Veterans Association, plays “Taps” to honor the fallen during the “A Moment to Remember” Memorial Day events in Whittemore.



Photo by Gaylynn Brenoel
TOW TRUCK CHAMP – Keith Richards of Sunrise Side Towing holds his first place ribbon from the “Tow Truck” category of the Whittemore Memorial Day Parade, which was hosted on Saturday, May 24.

Happy Veterans Day!

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Thank You, Veterans!

We salute your service, and wish you a happy Veterans Day.

LOCAL NEWS

American Legion pays Easter visits to veterans



Courtesy photos
Local military veterans were greeted with an early Easter celebration on April 14, courtesy of American Legion Post 422 of Hale and its Auxiliary. The members stopped into several assisted living facilities throughout Iosco County, where they visited with the veterans who reside there, presented each one with a special bunny and also gifted them with cards made by the children from Hale Area Schools. Pictured from left in the upper left photo, at Tawas Village in East Tawas, are, front row: Veterans Buryl Hughes, Sam Arion, Dale Wojcik and Harry Latham; and back row: Tawas Village employees Heather Gildner and Becky Stitzer; and Post 422 Auxiliary members Marlene Polishak, Linda Otey and Ann Marie Stevens. Shown from left in the photo at right, during the visit to Lakeview Manor in Tawas City, are, front row: Veterans Greg Stewart and Ed Storm; middle row: Veterans Tom Segar, Gary Kinsel, Tom Hurd and William Moh; and back row: Stevens, Polishak, Otey and Lakeview Manor Activities Director Misty Harmon.



13 SOLDIERS
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who perished, and added that 12 of those who died were brave young men and women between the ages of 20-23. The oldest, was 31-year-old Hoover.

Nentwig then asked that the 13 floral arrangements prepared for the occasion be placed in front of the Desert Storm Iraq Memorial in the park. Each arrangement included an American Flag and a laminated photograph of each fallen hero.

Local resident Diane Teddy also recited the poem, “We Remember Them,” (author unknown), as follows:

“At the rising of the sun and its going down, we remember them.

“At the blowing of the wind and the chill in winter, we remember them.

“At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

“At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.

“At the rustling of the leaves and the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

“At the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.

“As long as we live, they too will live, for they are now part of us, as we remember them.”

The ceremony then concluded, with the playing of “Taps.”



Land of the Free

THANKS

to the BRAVE

To all of our nation's troops and veterans,

HAPPY

VETERANS

DAY

Thank you for your service!

Your courage, commitment, and sacrifice fill us with admiration and gratitude.

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Veterans Day Salute *to* Valor



**We thank our community's
veterans for their dedication
and sacrifice, so that we may
enjoy the freedoms of our
great country.**



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