

77th Annual Memorial Day Celebration "Wonoking All Who Serve"



Monday, May 28, 2012

Grand Marshal Millie Madden

Compliments of Hartland Area Community Council - P.O. Box 113, Hartland, MI 48353



This year Hartland is proud to present the Grand Marshal for the Memorial Day Parade 2012 Millie Madden

The 2012 Memorial Day Grand Marshal is Millie Madden. Millie has lived in Hartland for thirty-five years, and was a teacher for over thirty years here in Hartland, including twenty-three years teaching 4th grade at Hartland Village Elementary School. She retired in 2010, and is still working as a substitute teacher. Millie received her Bachelor and Master's Degree from Marygrove College, and volunteers with the Marygrove Alumni Association. Millie and her husband Bill have three adult children, Dawn Lubeski (Jeff), Brian (Nicole), and Mark (fiancée-Raechel), who all attended Hartland Schools. She also has four grandchildren, Brett and Julie in Hartland Schools, and Dylan and Mari Belle who will be future Hartland students.

Millie has been involved in the Hartland schools and community very extensively. She has been a member of the Hartland Women's Club for over twenty-five years. She has been an officer several times; volunteers at the Warm N' Cozy Bazaar; a liaison for Boy Scouts #383; participated at OLHSA "Walk for Warmth" and has been a Heritage Day Booth Volunteer. She has been an Election worker over thirty years; was a server at Hartland Big Boy "Celebrity Server" fund raiser for many years; and has volunteered with the Girl Scouts. Millie is also very active as a volunteer at St. John's Church in various areas; in addition to volunteering for the American Red Cross.



Her involvement in school activities are too numerous to mention, but highlighting some would include volunteering at Fun Fair; Memorial Day Breakfast; Band Boosters; reading at Cromaine District Library; walked in the Memorial Day Parade with students for several years; tutored math; and was nominated twice for Teacher of the Year.

Millie's nominator stated: "I just feel she's been a wonderful role model, and Hartland has been a better place because of her." We are proud and honored to have Millie represent the Hartland community as the 2012 Memorial Day Grand Marshal!



What it Means to Serve Your Country

In 2011 in memory of our former Building Manager Grant Sweet, and with the support of the Friends of Cromaine Library, the National Veterans Awareness Organization and Hartland's American Legion Post 415, Cromaine Library held an essay contest open to Livingston County high school students, grades 9 through 12. Students' essays must have been based on an interview with a veteran or active-duty solider, of any age.

After the interview, students wrote a 250-word essay on "What it means to serve your country."

The veteran can have served in any conflict, past or current, or during peacetime.

The winners for 2011 are re-printed below.

by Adrian Loldel

Liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and justice; these are rights promised to American citzens and would not have been attainable if not for our ancestors who fought in previous wars. Today, people of the United States are fighting to defend our country and these same rights and also are fighting for other countries so that they may too have these qualities. Father Gregg A. Pleiness is proud to say that he has been one of those people who proudly served his country and others by putting others' lives before his own. In the year of 1979, Father Gregg served during a war campaign so famously known as Desert Shield. Desert Shield was a U.S. air-deployment to defend Saudi Arabia from Saddam Hussein's military. Saddam Hussein originally planned to make it his nineteen province due to its rich oil deposit. Luckily, Father Gregg did not have to see this gunfire during his 28-year campaign because he was stationed in the one tenth fighter wing unit in Battle Creek, Michigan as a chaplain and officer. Due to the fact that he was a chaplain, Father Greg wasn't allowed to fly a plane or hold a gun, so he reminded others in the air and national guard of their religious purpose. When I asked about how his family and friends felt about him joining the Air Force, Father Gregg replied, "They liked the idea and were supportive because my dad served in World War II and the other priests knew I was doing it for a good cause." I then later asked him what it means to serve one's country and Father Gregg replied, "Acting for one's country is to serve its people because they need chaplains too." People, he believes show thanks to him for his commitment by going to church and praying or by saying thank you if they know he has served. I, through learning about his 28-year contribution, am astonished that Father Gregg was able to dedicate his time outside of church on something that is so passionate about, serving others. By serving in the air force, Father Gregg truly shows his nonselfish commitment to his country and to other individuals. Hopefully, someday I will have an opportunity to make a commitment to my country, and hence respect more what Father Gregg does as a human being. Perhaps others should also show respect and thank those who served or are currently serving our country.

by Scott Polland

When I first spoke with my grandfather about his military service, I assumed, like many others in my generation, that service to one's country consisted primarily of glamorous heroism, as propagated by Hollywood blockbusters. I had only just learned of my grandfather's service: Previously I'd only know him to work construction.

Hundreds of questions and heroic scenes played in my mind. After what seemed an eternity of small talk with him, I remember blurting out, quite gracelessly, that I wanted to know about Korea. All other conversations halted. My mother scolded me, but he said it was alright. After some reflection, he simply stated, "I worked as a cook. I met a lot of good people. Aside from that...I can't remember." My guilty heart sank. I had expected a war hero, but received only a cook.

My grandfather passed away in 2009. As I mature I find myself reflecting on that conversation. I realized now the falsehood of my childhood beliefs. Serving one's country isn't the glamorous life Hollywood portrays: Service leaves scars, both physical and emotional, that are best hidden from inquisitive little boys. Service is a sacrifice true heroes make: the sacrifice of safety, comfort, things ordinary Americans take for granted, receiving in return neither fame, nor fortune, but honor and pride.

With eyes on the future, I realize that I, and our nation, cannot forget our past, and the brave sacrifices made. We can never forget our heroes, even if those heroes are 'only cooks.'

by Shelby Lee Emens

World War II was one of the greatest conflicts ever known, and during the war Wayne Johnson served the United States of America in the Marine Corps. In April 1943, Wayne Johnson dropped out of the eleventh grade, and traveled to San Diego, California for boot camp. In the Marine Corps, 3rd division, Mr. Johnson was sent to Guadalcanal for more training, and then headed to Guam with his rifle platoon.

Wayne has no regrets for the Japanese lives he took. For only one man does he have remorse - General Takeski Murase, a "brave samurai warrior". After finding a picture in Murase's breast pocket, Johnson discovered that the picture was of Murase's foster mother and girlfriend. Wavne wrote to Murase's family informing them about Murase's courage, and letting them know where he was buried. Wayne also returned the general's valuables to Murase's family in Japan. Through the years many letters were exchanged between Mr. Johnson and General Murase's family.

To Wayne Johnson, serving his country was his "duty" and "honor". "I was fortunate to serve in the greatest branch of military, the US Marine Corps, fighting from Australia to Japan, never sorry, and always proud to be a marine." Wayne Johnson has "no regrets" and talks about the term "Semper Fidelis" meaning "always faithful". Wayne Johnson is an American hero for protecting our country. Brave men and women make sacrifices every day while serving our country, and the people of the United States should appreciate how extraordinary these individuals are.



Honoring All Who Serve



Front Row: Doug Kuhn - Commander, Dwight Sachau, Ed Gray, Ray Blush, John McDonald, Leroy Langlois, Robert Sixbery Second Row: John Terry, Frank Crouse, Joe Burgess, Don Wallace, Jeff Walker, Wayne Kanitz, Leo Bard Third Row: Jim Brake, Stanley Cook, Garland Lemon, Jim Haessly, Matt Devitt, Dave Puvalowski



Edwin Gray



Stan Cooke



Matt Devitt





Ernest Graves



Dwight Sachau



In the June 1942 issue of *Community Life*, there was an announcement that the paper was being sent to all local boys serving in the military, and as some of the boys were writing back, those letters and the addresses would be printed in *Community Life* each month. A few of the several hundred letters are here, but shortened. They could be found in *Community Life* until April 1947 and the letters began again in the mid 1950's during the Korean Conflict.

Douglas Allmond: January 1942 inducted at Fort Custer (near Battle Creek, built 1917 for WW I usage) was sent to Camp Wallace, Texas and after 6 weeks, the 106th Battalion left for Pennsylvania and then shortly for New York City from where they shipped out to Europe. After several weeks his parents received a telegram that Doug had arrived safely in Great Britain. September 1942 Doug wrote from North Ireland where the food was good and they had newspapers to read twice a week. June 1943 Doug was stationed in French North Africa where the food was good, received a good sunburn and the location of his future has kept them guessing. Oct. 1943 in Sicily Doug was awarded a Purple Heart in a battle where two close companions were killed and three badly wounded

Giles Cornell: son of Mr/Mrs Earl Cornell left April 1941 for overseas. A letter home said he was riding the waves good. His destination was unknown at the time.

PFC Earl Wyckoff was inducted June 1941 and after several days at Fort Custer, was sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After intensive training, he came home to visit his parents, Mr/Mrs Forrest Wyckoff.

Private Carl Wyckoff: was inducted September 1941, sent to Fort Custer for several weeks and then to Fort Francis Warren in Wyoming where he studied motor maintenance. In May 1942 he was sent to Roswell, New Mexico where a new air base field was under construction. September 1942: still at Roswell, now a Corporal, has taken classes in chemical warfare and is teaching this in the camp.

Robert Green writes that he has been in Hawaii for a year and it was thru the Community Life he learned of James Brown's address and could look him up.

Lawrence Rudnick, former teacher at Hartland High School enlisted in the Navy July 1943 and was stationed at Grosse Isle, Michigan where he was in charge of the library at the training school.

Gerald Rounds, Staff Sergeant was elevated to Lieutenant at Glendale, Calif. Lt. Rounds pilots the P-38 fighter plane and awaits being sent to foreign soil. Sept. 1943 he was awarded Navy Distinguished Flying Cross for his activities in Africa and Sicily

Sgt. Clarence Callaghan is serving in Africa, June 1943. His parents had not heard from him since February.

Gerald Burgess was transferred from Fort McClellan, AL to Camp Shenango, PA where his mother was able to spend Memorial Day with him. By Oct. 1943 he was in Sicily

Private Clifford Lindahl is at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland where he has been studying the M-1 rifle.