

# 80th Annual Memorial Day Celebration

*“United  
We Stand”*

**Monday  
May 25, 2015**



**Grand Marshals Alan and Wanda Spicer**

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

## *This year Hartland is proud to present the Grand Marshals for the Memorial Day Parade 2015 ~ Alan and Wanda Spicer*

In 1967 young Alan Spicer left his hometown of Linden and bought a farm in Hartland. It had last been used as a dairy farm when he purchased it. He had always worked at his parent's apple orchard in Linden, so it was only logical that he began planting apple trees at his recently purchased farm. A year later he married his wife Wanda, also from Linden, and they made the old Victorian farmhouse at Hartland Road and Clyde Road their home.

Today that farm has grown to 300 acres, and includes a winery they opened in 2009. To explain what Alan and Wanda have done for Hartland and the surrounding area over the last 47 years would not be possible in just one short newspaper article. Wanda was a second grade teacher in the 1951 Building from 1968-1971. Alan served on the Zoning Board for Hartland Township. The Spicers have been very involved in the 4H Rangers, and to this day their son Mark drives the tractor in the Memorial Day Parade to pull the 4H float. This has been a Spicer's Orchard tradition for over 30 years.

Both Alan and Wanda were quite active in the Jaycees when Hartland had a local chapter. Spicer's Orchards has been a common field trip destination for many area schools through the years. Wanda says that between 10,000-15,000 students visit the working orchard each year. Because of the longevity of Spicer's Orchards, children and even grandchildren of the early field trips of decades past enjoy the same cider, donuts, and apples every year. The orchard, during the fall season, will employ over 50 people. Many area students have had their first "real job" experience at the orchard, and like the field trips, second and third generations are having the same experience.

The Spicers are constantly giving "behind the scenes" help in the Hartland Community. The Senior All Night Party, Relay for Life, Boys and Girls Scouts, sports teams at all levels, Special Olympics, and the Hartland Schools are just a few of the beneficiaries of their generosity.

Wanda and Alan have 3 children. Matthew works full time at the farm. Son Mark also works at the farm in addition to another job. Their daughter Shannon Rowe works as the bookkeeper, in addition to her job as a teacher at Ore Creek Middle School. Even some of the older grandchildren are employed at the orchard in some capacity.

Wanda and Alan refer to Hartland as "their town." In recognition of your involvement in the community for so long, the Hartland Community Council names Alan and Wanda Spicer as Grand Marshals of the 2015 Memorial Day Parade.





## ***In Memory of Mildred Roe***

Mildred (Biller) Roe, December 8, 1923 – February 20, 2015. Born in Oceola Township and lived in Parshallville. She married Rollin Roe on October 30, 1942 and he preceded her in death on September 14, 2007. Mildred and Rollin had three children, Gary (Peggy) of Odessa, TX; Gordon of Waterford, and Gail Combs-Tanner (Greg) of Howell. Mildred was a reporter for the Livingston County Press for 19 years, and while there she corresponded with active Vietnam service members from the greater Hartland area, the tradition was begun as early as June 1942, according to Hartland Community Life newspaper archival records. Over the years Mildred wrote to and received letters from over 200 military people and in return sent them the Community Life. This response is similar to many received...."I have meant for some time to write and tell you how much it means to me to receive my hometown newspaper with address of classmates still in the service"... More recently, Mildred taught genealogy classes at the Hartland Senior Center, and these classes were well attended. Mildred's husband Rollin served in World War II in Germany; their son Gary served in Vietnam, while their son Gordon served in the Iranian hostage rescue.



**Rollin J. Roe, PFC**

11/30/24 - 9/14/2007  
816th Aviation Engineers attached  
to 9th Tactical Air Force. Built first US  
airstrip on German Soil  
(Mildred Roe's Husband)



**Virgil C. Biller**

5/31/32 - 10/31/1977  
CPL  
Headquarters Company  
6th Armoured Division  
(Mildred Roe's Brother)



**Gary L. Roe**

7/7/48  
Sgt. USAF  
39th Rescue & Recovery Command  
Vietnam (2 tours)  
(Mildred Roe's Son)



**Gordon F. Roe**

6/23/57  
Sgt. USAF  
1st Combat  
Communications Command  
Delta Team, Iranian Hostage Rescue  
(Mildred Roe's Son)

## ***In Memory of Larry Hopkins***

In Memory of Larry J. Hopkins who passed away suddenly in late December 2014. Larry served as the Township Clerk since 2010. He was born in Detroit in 1961 and moved to Hartland 20 years ago. He instantly became active in the community by his involvement with the Rotary Club, Hartland Township Planning Commission, served on the Township Board of Trustees since 2004. Larry was recently elected to be the new President of Hartland Community Council.

Larry is survived by Nancy, his loving wife of 19 years, twin daughters Alyssa and Kaitlyn, and Michelle (Kevin) Smith. Larry will be missed by his brother and two sisters and many nieces and nephews.

Besides being a devoted family man, Larry loved sports and particularly the Detroit Lions, and put an inflatable Lion on his front lawn on game days.

The family hopes the community knows how much he enjoyed serving Hartland Township. Larry gave much back to the community he loved and was a real advocate for making Hartland a better place.....he really wanted to make a difference.



# ***What it Means to Serve Your Country***

In 2011, in memory of our former Building Manager **Grant Sweet**, 9/5/1961-10/23/2010, and with the support of the Friends of Cromaïne Library, the National Veterans Awareness Organization and Hartland's American Legion Post 415, Cromaïne 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 soldier, of any age. The veteran could have served in any conflict, past or current, or during peacetime. After the interview, students wrote a 250-word essay on what it means to serve your country. Cromaïne held its fourth annual Memorial Day Essay Contest last year.

***The winners for the Grant Sweet Memorial Essay Contest 2014 are reprinted here.***

## **Aedin Seck**

### **1st Place — Vegetables**

When people talk about veterans, most think of heroes that fought for our country and quite amazing Americans. You see, I think of a guy named John Seck. My Grandpa. They're pretty much the same thing.

My Grandpa served America from 1969-1989. After being accepted into West Point at age 17, he patrolled the German border with his tank unit, and then went to Vietnam.

My Grandpa was always proud to serve America, since he was following in the footsteps of his father, who served in World War 2. Yet, his pride all changed when he had to go and serve in Vietnam.

He knew that it was a stupid war, and wasn't proud to be a part of it. His family was fearful that he wouldn't be coming back.

After the Vietnam War, he taught at West Point, built computers for army usage, and then finished his career as a cartographer.

My Grandpa told me how he didn't go into the army to "wear the uniform," but wanted to improve things for America.

Finally, I asked my Grandpa what he took out of his military experience, and I really enjoyed what he said.

"No matter what the problem is, even if you don't think you can do it, you should try, and over 95% of the time, you will succeed. No matter how scared you are, you can do whatever you want. Have confidence in yourself. Try new things. Don't be afraid. Including vegetables. Try those too."

## **Camryn Harvey**

### **2nd place**

Michael A. Harpster was eighteen years old when he joined the United States Marine Corps. On his first day, he felt highly stressed and horrified at the thought of what was in store. He wasn't afraid, however, when they told him he would be serving north of Da Nang, Vietnam, from 1965-1969.

The United States was facing protests of two kinds—one against racism led by Martin Luther King Jr., the other led mostly by college students against the war and American troops. North Korea captured an American ship in international waters, and Israel won the Seven Day War. All the while American troops were fighting in the Vietnam War.

"My mother, my whole family really, was worried about me. But I wanted to serve my country and fight for those in need. It was a great accomplishment for me" he responded when I asked what his family thought.

My Pappy's (grandpa) enrollment taught me to keep pride and respect for myself and others, always do good, and never give up until you reach the positive goals you've set for yourself. I'm proud of my grandpa's service, and all the men and women who have served for our country. Dedication, bravery, and selflessness are only a few of some life lessons I have learned from this interview. Not to mention a look into the past, and the interesting life of Michael Harpster.

Thank you veterans for all you have given and sacrificed for our country.



## ***Nicole Germane***

### **3rd place —Home of the Free, Thanks to the Brave**



Life, liberty, pursuit of happiness, the fundamental beliefs which unite all Americans.

You and I don't know life without these rights thanks to the brave servicemen who have served our country to protect these freedoms.

I had the privilege to interview, Tracy Tomlins, one of the many who have fought to protect these freedoms. Mr. Tomlins was in the US Air Force during the Cold War, a time when the United States and Russia were in a nuclear arms race. When I asked him why he chose to join the military he said, "I thought it was a real threat, I was scared to death that nuclear war would breakout and nobody would win." He as well as others saw the nuclear race as a threat to American's liberty and safety, and were willing to put their lives on hold and do everything they could in order to protect America from being caught in the middle of a nuclear battle field.

After interviewing Mr. Tomlins and learning about his contributions and sacrifices made during his service, my respect for him as well as the others who serve to protect our freedoms has increased significantly. It's difficult to put into words how thankful I am for the military daily risking their lives for all of us. Next time I see a serviceman whether past or present I will tell them thank you, because without their selfless service to the US Military I wouldn't have the life I have today.

## ***Douglas Adams***

### **Honorable mention — A Serviceman's Peace**



I decided to ask my dad about his experience in the US Army. One thing he said that really stuck with me was this: "I joined the military not to fight, but to travel the world and experience new and exciting cultures." This stood out to me because I never realized what being in the military means to people beyond the first impression many get. When I was little I used to think that when you joined the Army you had to fight. It never occurred to me how much time military personnel spent in peace! Speaking with my father gave me some wonderful insight on how joining the service can bring the rich diversity of foreign culture to life.

My dad joined the Army in September 1978. He went through basic training just like many others before him, but what made him different was that he was under no threat of conflict. He was stationed in a small German town 40 miles northeast of Frankfurt. There he embraced the culture of the German people, participating in festivities and recreation alike.

From Oktoberfest to softball leagues, my father's Army experience didn't earn him any medals or commendations but it gave him more than any amount of battle experience could offer, a chance to embrace peace and cultural diversity, a side of the military that many overlook. We can only hope that future servicemen and women experience the joys of peace and not war.

## ***Rachel Ooms***

### **Honorable Mention — My Uncle Jerry Zeman**



Imagine having enough courage to volunteer for the military, knowing you may never come back to your family. My uncle Jerry did this, to fight for our rights and the freedoms we enjoy.

When Jerry finished high school he had no job or skills. He wanted to do something useful with his life, something for his country. Jerry decided to join the military when he was seventeen in 1966. At that time there was a lot of resistance and protest against the Vietnam War. Jerry was stationed in San Francisco, where he worked with aircraft carriers. An aircraft carrier is a war ship with a full-length flight deck which can carry, arm, deploy and recover aircraft.

Looking back Jerry says he is very proud of his actions, he knows he had helped protect his country and our rights. Jerry swore to carry out every order that he received because he knew he was making a difference. His family was very supportive, knowing he had made a good choice.

I believe veterans of our military services have put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we enjoy. They have dedicated their lives to their country and deserve to be recognized for their commitment.

Jerry Zeman told me, "If you want to do something for your country and make a contribution you should join the military. It takes great responsibility but if you serve your country or your people, I believe that's a wonderful thing."