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Denise Woolf

<https://raypecsunriseoptimists.com>**PROMISE YOURSELF****RP SUNRISE OPTIMIST, NOVEMBER 11, 2025****VOL 10 - ISSUE 6****Honoring Our Heroes: Ray-Pec Optimists Celebrate Veterans Among Us**

This Veterans Day, the Ray-Pec Optimist Club proudly recognized the extraordinary service of 5 club members who have worn the uniform of our nation's Armed Forces. These individuals exemplify courage, commitment, and a lifelong dedication to service—values that continue to shape our club and our community.

Each story shared was a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made and the resilience carried forward. We are deeply grateful to all 11 of our Veteran members, including:

- **Steele Chamberlain**, Sgt in the Marine Corp and served from 1972-1978. He worked as a programmer. His Vietnam service was classified. He served in Albany GA and KCMO at the Marine Corp automated service center and 95<sup>th</sup> and Troost.
- **Carl Kent** prepared for service through ROTC and later joined the Naval Reserves, serving out of Olathe, KS. Activated in 1970, Carl was deployed to Vietnam as a Quartermaster, overseeing operations at the Army Depot parking lot.
- **Jim Kopetsky**, U.S. Marine Corps (1964–1984), After completing Basic Supply School, he spent a year in Vietnam supporting helicopter squadrons with Marine Corps and Navy Supply Units. His interest in mechanized supply systems led him to transition into the IT field, serving in Okinawa, Quantico (as an instructor) and Kansas City before retiring as a Marine after 20 years of service.
- **Richard Sanders** spent 8 months in training from Nov 1966 at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO and Ft. Sam Houston, TX. He served 6 months at Ft. Riley, Kansas shipping off to Third Field Hospital in Saigon, Vietnam. While stationed in Vietnam, Richard managed the Medical Evacuation of patients to other hospitals for recovery.
- **Ron Stevick**, Storekeeper 2nd Class, U.S. Navy (1968–1972), served aboard the USS Holland AS32 Submarine Repair Ship and the USS Newport News CA148 Heavy Cruiser.
- **Bruce Keith** – U.S. Navy, 8 years of schooling and service in Iceland and Kings Bay Georgia.

- **Reggie Townsend** – U.S. Marine Corps, transitioned from Reserves to full-time service in Personnel Finance
- **Kris Turnbow** – proudly served 39 years in the U.S. Navy, beginning in 1971 as an enlisted Sailor on active duty before continuing 35 additional years in the Naval Reserve. Commissioned as an Intelligence Officer in 1983, he served in a variety of leadership and analytical roles, including a deployment to Iraq in 2009. Kris retired in 2010 with Jerri Lynn and Bruce Keith breakfast at HyVee! by service, dedication and commitment to country.
- **Ernie VanHooser** – U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, 21 years of service, retiring as a Commander
- **Tom Circo** - trained at Fort Hood as a First Air Cavalryman with an assignment to Pleiku. However, he experienced an injury to his eye resulting in a honorable discharge and grateful letter of service. Tom continues to support the military in many ways recently donating 200 pair of black socks to Operation Gratitude.

To our Veterans: thank you for your service, your leadership, and your continued commitment to optimism and community. You inspire us every day.



Tom Circo pictured with the President of Community Raymore Bank. Tom donated 200 pair of black socks to Operation Gratitude



L to R: Tom Circo, Carl Kent, Jim Kopetsky, Mike Sanders, Richard Sanders, Reggie Townsend

## Dime – A - Day

We have a 100% Member Participation Goal for Dime-A-Day Donations of \$36.50. Contact Joe O'Neal at [jonealnbct5@gmail.com](mailto:jonealnbct5@gmail.com) to make your donation.

### Members who shared stories on Veteran's Day!

Janet Aliano, Rob Arner, Connie Circo, Tom Circo, Gerry Eftink, Frank Jiminez, Jerri Lynn Keith, Carl Kent, Pete Kerckhoff, Renee Kerckhoff, Alan Klein, Jim Kopetsky, Dave McDougal, Joe O'Neal, Greg Rich, Ed Russell, Mike Sanders, Richard Sanders, Reggie Townsend, Denise Woolf



### Upcoming Events see <https://raypecsunriseoptimists.com> for details

**Tue 11/18** – Students of the Month – Board Meeting after regular meeting

**Tue 11/25** – Thanksgiving - Breakfast with friends! If you are staying around town for the holidays, join us for a casual breakfast. Bring a friend

**11/24-11/28** – Ray Pec School District Closed for Holiday

**12/2** – District Activities and Achievements Award – Denise Woolf

**12/9** – TBD

**12/16** – Students of the Month and RPHS Choir

On November 12th, the Ray-Pec Optimist Club proudly witnessed a milestone moment as Judge Stacey Lett officiated the swearing-in ceremony for the newest graduates of Cass County Youth Court.

These dedicated individuals have successfully passed the Missouri Bar and are now empowered to preside over peer-led proceedings within the Cass County Court of Peers.

Their service marks a powerful commitment to restorative justice and youth leadership, ensuring that referred cases are handled with fairness, empathy, and accountability. We commend these graduates for their achievement and look forward to the positive impact they will bring to our community.





Photos from the RPHS Art invitational November  
13<sup>th</sup> -provided by Alan Klein

## PROMISE YOURSELF

To be **SO STRONG** that nothing can disturb your peace of mind

To talk **health, happiness and prosperity** to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that **THERE IS SOMETHING IN THEM**

To look at the **sunny side** of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to **work** only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the **success** of others as you are about your own.

*To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the **GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS** of the future.*

*To wear a cheerful countenance **at all times** and give every living creature you meet a smile.*

*To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have **NO TIME TO CRITICIZE OTHERS**.*

*To be too large for worry, too noble for anger to strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.*

