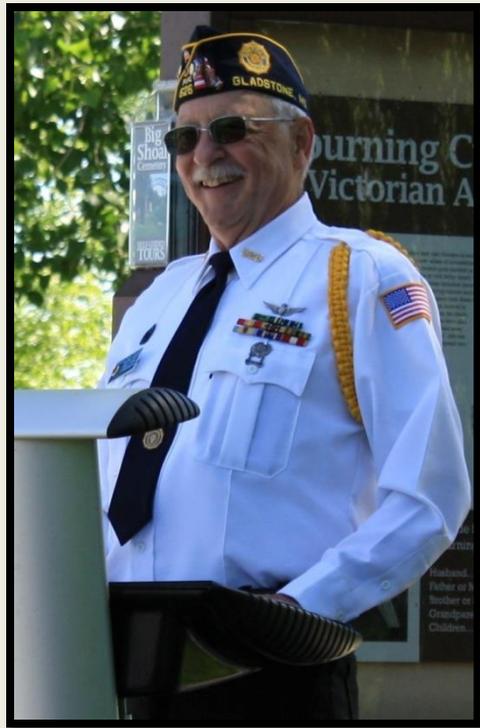


Commander, 2014 – 2015 Wayne E. Beer

Commander Beer joined the Iowa National Guard's Aviation Branch in July of 1967 and transferred to the Kansas Guard in 1972, serving there until 1989 when he joined the Individual Ready Reserve. 1SG Beer retired in 2003.



Commander Beer has been a member of the American Legion for 33 years and is a Charter Member of Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 (1988). Early in the Post History he established the Honor Guard and still serves as one of its members. He has served as a Service Officer, Finance Officer and as Commander from 2009 to 2015.

He is very active in his community and worked for the school district until he retired. Commander Beer served on the Gladstone City Council from 2002 to 2009 and served as Mayor in 2004. In 2009 Wayne established the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) in Gladstone and is the volunteer manager of the volunteers which serve our community.

Commander Beer is married to Judy Beer and has two sons, Van and Matt.

Post 626 Officers for 2014 – 2015



Commander
Wayne Beer



Adjutant
Phyllis Rosales



1st Vice CDR
Nelson Duncan



2nd Vice CDR
Jerry Braton



Finance Officer
Bob Box



Historian
Doug Millison



Service Officer
Paul Mimms



Asst. Service Off.
Brook-Lyn



Sergeant at Arms
Chris Love²

CONGRATULATIONS

A well-deserved round of applause to Paul Mimms and R.D. Mallams.

Our Service officer Paul Mimms, who is also a member of the BVA, was awarded the Major General Melvin J. Mass Achievement Award for exemplifying the principles of initiative, independence and self-reliance to which the Blinded Veterans Association is devoted.

R.D. was inducted into the Kansas National Guard Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. The Hall recognizes graduates who have made significant contributions to the achievement, tradition and history of the program and the armed services. A long story short, COL. Mallams' (Retired) long career in the guard and as an educator in the school system was long and distinguished. He is currently serving on the Gladstone City Council and is involved in many civic organizations as well as Post 626.

We do have some great members doing great things! Congrats to you both.



GLADSTONE Dispatch

September 11, 2014
Volume 4 • Issue 44
\$1.00



Send community news to gladstone@pogga.com

A8 Gladstone Dispatch

Mallams joins ranks of Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame

By Amy Neal

R.D. Mallams joined an elite military group last month when he was inducted into the Kansas Army National Guard Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame.

The roster recognizes graduates who have gone on to make significant contributions to the achievement, tradition and history of the program and the armed services.

"It was a lot of hard work and sacrifice made away from the family," said the colonel of the career path he embarked on when he enlisted in 1970. "The higher you go up in rank, the more the military requires of you."

Mallams first served in a combat engineer battalion. After attending the Kansas Military Officer Candidate School, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the summer of 1972. His military service would include six years on active duty, a stint at the Pentagon, several years in the Guard and an ongoing commitment to the Inactive Ready Reserves.

In a letter informing Mallams of the Hall of Fame honor, Col. Judith Martin wrote, "Your dedicated service to the Kansas National Guard and the U.S. Army is in the finest tradition of the Officer Corps and with America's military leaders."

Martin served with Mallams at the Kansas



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Col. R.D. Mallams was inducted into the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame for the Kansas National Guard in August. His 26-year military career included active duty, and service in the Missouri and Kansas Army National Guard.

Military Academy when she was a non-commissioned officer.

In both his military and civilian work, Mallams has been an educator. Among his Army assignments, he completed a three-year tour as an assistant professor of military science at Missouri Western State University, served as a training officer and battalion commander for an armor battalion, and was the commandant for the Kansas Military Academy.

Out of uniform, Mallams spent 30 years working as a school administrator, teacher and coach. In 2009, he was named Principal of the Year by the Kansas City Suburban Elementary Principals' Association.

For him, the rewards of teaching children in public

school are the same as those of teaching adult soldiers.

"It gives you a very self-satisfying feeling to see the people you're working with grow and reach their potential," he said.

The stress, anxiety and pressure of military classrooms is greater, though.

Regardless of the setting, Mallams advocates hands-on experiences for students.

"Whoever you're teaching, if you can have them touch and do what you are teaching, learning is improved," he said.

His own education has included Combined Arms Services Staff School, Command & General Staff College, a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University, master's and educational specialist degrees from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a doctorate from St. Louis University.

His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with five oak leaf clusters.

Mallams currently serves on the Gladstone City Council and the Kansas City Northland Elks Lodge Board of Directors. He and his wife, Toni, have eight grown children and seven grandchildren.

GLADSTONE Dispatch

September 18, 2014

Volume 4 • Issue 45

\$1.00



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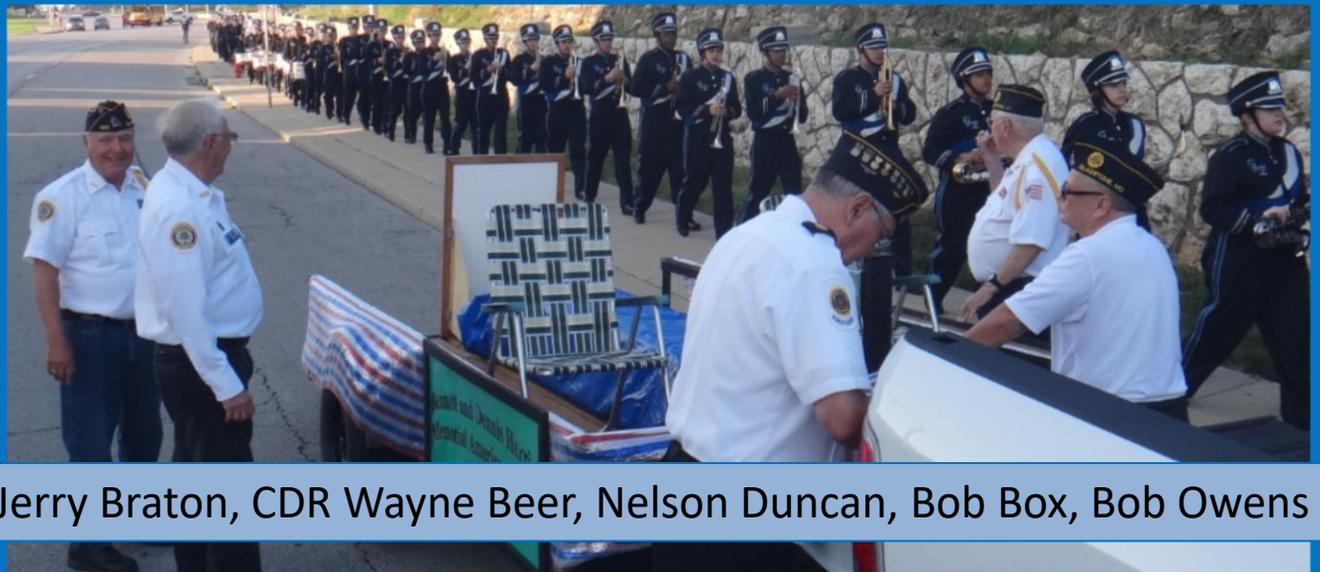
Send community news to gladstonenews@npgco.com

Lowering the flag in honor of 9/11 victims



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two members of The Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626, William McDonald and Nelson Duncan, put the flag at Big Shoal Cemetery to half staff Thursday, Sept. 11, for Patriot Day.



Jerry Braton, CDR Wayne Beer, Nelson Duncan, Bob Box, Bob Owens

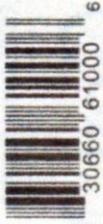


American Royal Parade
27 September 2014
Kansas City MO



Bob, Jerry, Bob and Nelson





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Legion Post 626 Cmdr. Wayne Beer presents a certificate of appreciation to Paula Brooks, event specialist with the Gladstone Department of Parks and Recreation, and Richard King, the city's public information coordinator.

City employees earn Legion's appreciation

Richard King and Paula Brooks were awarded Certificates of Appreciation by The Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 during a City Council meeting in early September.

Cmdr. Wayne Beer commended the two city employees for their outstanding support at the flagpole dedication ceremony held at the Big Shoal Cemetery during the Veterans Appreciation Celebration in May. A continuous rain throughout

the morning had the potential to ruin the day's plans.

"I thought for sure that we were going to have to cancel the event" Beer said in a press release. "But when I arrived, there they were, soaking wet with tents set up for us to use."

Their actions went above and beyond what the American Legion was expecting, earning them "recognition and sincere appreciation for outstanding service and assistance

which contributed to the advancement of the American Legion programs and activities dedicated to God and country."

With a current membership of 2.4 million wartime veterans, the American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veteran's affairs, Americanism and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 14,000 posts across the nation.

Gladfest Parade, 4 October 2014



Jerry Braton , Nelson Duncan and Bill McDonald



Phyllis Rosales, Bill McDonald and Jerry Braton (Back to Camera)

Robert Owens and Doug Millison Deliver pies to the City Council



Commander Wayne Beer

Post members Phyllis Rosales, Nelson Duncan, Bob Box and Bill McDonald met with the Journalism class at Winnetonka High School in October to talk about their military experiences, patriotism and how to help the Veterans of America.

They also demonstrated flag etiquette and explained the meaning associated with the flag folds.

Griffin Rites

Winnetonka High School | November 4, 2014 | Vol. 45 Issue 2



PTSD Editorial Pg. 3

Health Occupation Student Organization Pg. 5

All in the family: Gifted students Pg. 8-9



Visit Winnetonka's news site at: <http://tonkanews.com>

Griffin Rites staff

.....meets local veterans 10/20 5-8 p.m.



Learning symbols while folding the U.S. flag.



Interviewing about war time experiences, patriotism and how to help soldiers now.

A visit from The American Legion Post: Gladstone, MO- Phyllis Rosales, Nelson Duncan, Bill McDonald and Bob Box.



Historian Douglas Millison was on hand (far right) at the October fall conference in Jefferson City to receive the Posts first Toot Our Horn Award as well as to participate in our first Newsletter Competition.





Jerry Braton and others braved the cold on Nov 8 for our pre-Veterans Day Poppy Sale. \$100 of the proceeds went to the Cameron Soldiers Home.

While selling Poppy's Post officers bought boxed corn bread mix to be donated to the City's Christmas Store through the Chamber of Commerce.



Gerry and Phyllis selling Poppy's and spreading good cheer at HyVee on Veterans Day.

November 27, 2014
 Volume 5 • Issue 3
 \$1.00
 Send community news to gladstone@ngpc.com
GLADSTONE Dispatch

'We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders Field'



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
 The Veteran's Day Poppy Sale at the Gladstone Hy-Vee generated nearly \$200, which will be used to support veterans facing hardship during the upcoming holidays. Pictured are, from left, Phyllis Rosales, American Legion Post 626; Gary Swearingen, manager of Hy-Vee; and Jerry Braton, American Legion Post 626.





Nelson Duncan and Douglas Millison spending Veterans Day morning with Harrah's HR people during a Veterans Hiring Fair.



In the afternoon our Historian was on duty as a Volunteer in Memory Hall at the WWI Liberty Memorial. The Hall was originally named Legion Hall and has our Preamble and star cast in bronze above the door.

GLADSTONE Dispatch

November 27, 2014
Volume 5 • Issue 3
\$1.00



Send community news to gladstonenews@npgco.com

Thursday, November 27, 2014

Gladstone Dispatch A7

Annual Boys State, Girls State events help teenagers develop as leaders

The American Legion, the nation's largest veterans organization, and the American Legion Auxiliary are inviting all members of the Gladstone community to join them in sponsoring young men and women to attend The American Legion's Boys State and The American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State programs this summer in Warrensburg.

"These young men and women are the future leaders of America," said Wayne Beer, commander of Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626. "We are seeking boys and girls with outstanding qualifications in character and leadership to attend one of the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction ever designed for high school students."

High school juniors are selected in early spring by local American Legion posts and their auxiliaries to attend the program, which will be held at the University of Central Missouri from June 13 to 20, 2015.

"It is a participatory program where each young man and woman becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government," Beer said.

In most cases, a sponsoring American Legion post, a local business or another community-based organization pays expenses associated with attending these programs. The local post



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Nov. 17, Bettie Rusher of Missouri Boys State and members of Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 of Gladstone brief prospective students at Staley High School on Boys State requirements, programs and procedures.

has started a fundraising effort to facilitate as many students as possible attending this year.

"Hopefully, this will lead to relationships where we can count on certain businesses and individuals to contribute every year," said Douglas Millison, Fundraising Committee chairman.

"Community-based support for these programs is critical."

The post's fundraising for this project will take place in December and January.

The training at Boys State and Girls State is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by

the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs.

"These programs are a unique way for young men and women to learn about the American system of

government by taking part in a mock governmental system," Beer said.

As separate corporations operating in almost every state, Boys States and Girls States vary in content and method of procedure, but each and every program adheres to the basic concept of teaching government from the township to

the state level.

To donate to the program for a student, or to sponsor a student, contact Douglas Millison at 509-5247 or bennetherrick626@gmail.com.

For more information on these American Legion programs, visit al626mo.com and click on "Committees and Programs."



Nelson, Jerry and Bob at the
Mayors Christmas Tree Lighting.
Donations received during this event
Benefit 5 local charities. Post 626
usually donates \$100





Douglas Millison and Bob Box lower the flag at Big Shoal Cemetery to Half Staff on December the 7th.



Members helped with the Dist. 3 & 7 Revitalization on Dec. 11 & 12.



During a Wreaths Across America event Historian Douglas Millison and his wife placed wreaths on the graves of our namesakes Bennett & Dennis Herrick as well as their parents and past Post members Loren & Marge Herrick. (13 Dec)



Members Robert Owens, Nelson Duncan, Bob Box and Gerry Braton attended the wreath laying at the Clay County Veterans Memorial. (13 Dec)



Poppy sales fund gift for veterans

The Bennett and Dennis Herrick American Legion Post 626 was able to donate funds to the Missouri Veterans Home in Cameron and also buy comfort items that were donated to the Veterans Administration Medical Center Voluntary Services in Kansas City in time for Christmas.

Post 626 members said they were thankful for everyone who donated to the post's poppy sales over the past year and for the management of the Gladstone Walmart, who made an in-kind donation, according to a press release.

"The support of our community is what enables us to do what we do to help veterans, active-duty military and their families," said Douglas Millison, the post's Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee chairman.

The Poppy Program is normally run by the American Legion Auxiliary. Because Gladstone no longer has an auxiliary, Post



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bob Box, Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 finance officer, delivers a check to Barbara Caldwell, director of volunteer services at the Missouri Veterans Home in Cameron.

626 collects the funds and selects how they could be best used to meet the program's goal of helping veterans and the current military community.

The ALA believes that meeting the continuing needs of veterans should be the concern of every American who values

freedom. The auxiliary also promotes the poppy as a symbol of the sacrifices our military have made. The financial benefit realized by our nation's veterans as a result of poppy distribution is huge — nearly 3.5 million poppies were distributed by units in 2013, raising \$2.1 million.

In January of 2015 we attended the 3rd District meeting,



interviewed for Boys State,



attended the Linden Woods ground breaking as a member of the Chamber of Commerce,



(Nelson Duncan, Bob Box, RD Mallams And Jerry Braton)



and attended the District High School Oratorical contest at Post 58.



At the March membership meeting Mr. Gary Lint of Kansas City Honor Flight talked about his organization and all the good work that they do, and how we can help.



Nelson Duncan, Phyllis Rosales and Douglas Millison travelled up to Savannah MO for some Legion training by the Dept. training team on March 28th.

Thursday, May 7, 2015

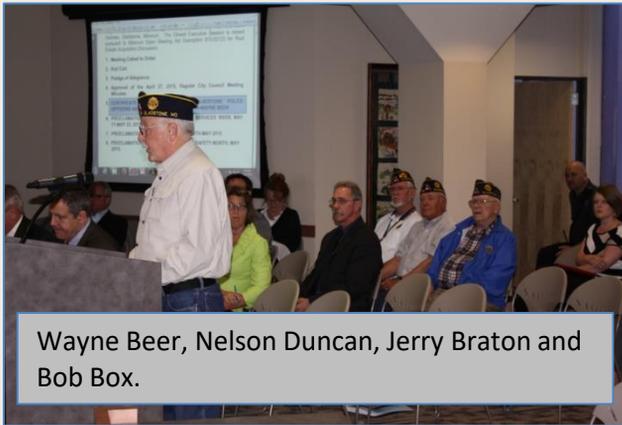


THURSDAY, MAY 7

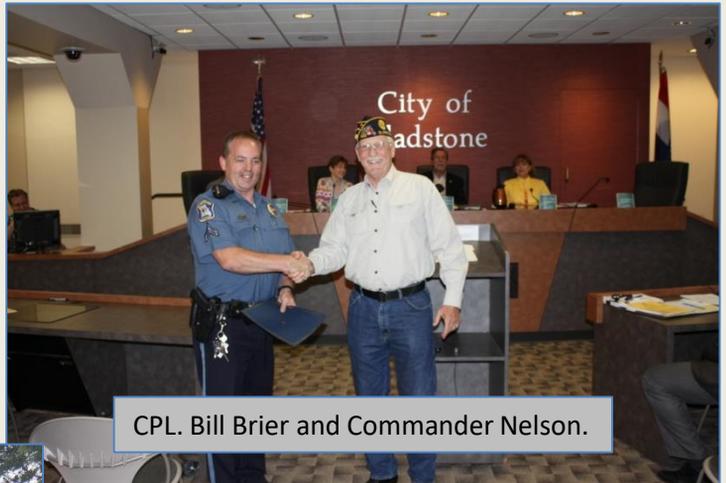
SENIORS: "Young@Heart" will provide information about nonprofit organizations, volunteer opportunities and free activities for seniors and their caregivers during an open house from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Antioch branch of Mid-Continent Public Library.



Vice Commander Duncan and Historian Millison manning the Outreach Table.



Wayne Beer, Nelson Duncan, Jerry Braton and Bob Box.



CPL. Bill Brier and Commander Nelson.



Commander Beer, Nelson Duncan, Douglas Millison And Jerry Braton.

Above, Commander Beer presents a certificate of appreciation to the Gladstone Peace Officers Association president on 11 May. Left, Honors are presented for Peace Officers Memorial Day on 15 May by Post 626 and the Gladstone Police Officers.

This month's Northland Family explores frugal day trips and meets special dads INSIDE



June 4, 2015
Volume 5 • Issue 30
\$1.00



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GLADSTONE Dispatch

Thursday, June 4, 2015

American Legion shows appreciation for law enforcement during Peace Officers Week

Members of Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 had two events during May's Peace Officers Week to show their appreciation to Gladstone police for what they do every day for the residents of their community.

Post Cmdr. Wayne Beer presented the president of the Gladstone Peace Officer's Association, Cpl. Bill Brier, a certificate of appreciation at the May 11 Gladstone City Council meeting to say thank you for its sponsorship of Austin Barker to the Missouri Cadet Patrol Academy this June.

One of the four pillars that the American Legion builds itself around is national security in which law and order is paramount. Established in 1985 by the American Legion in partnership with the Missouri State Patrol, the Cadet Patrol Academy educates youth about law enforcement as a career, providing insights into the training it takes



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 lower the Big Shoal Cemetery flag to half-staff May 15 for National Peace Officers Memorial Day.

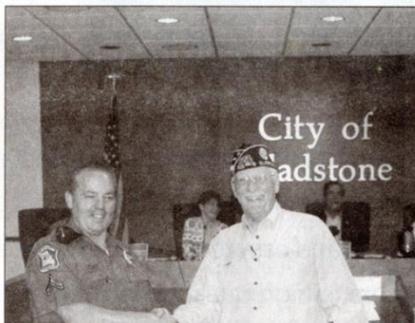
to do that job. Brier found this a good fit for the association in its efforts to "encourage ... charitable, and educational activities

... and promote a healthy relationship between the community we serve and our membership."

"A cornerstone of the American system is the nation's dependence upon law and order," said Beer. "Never, it seems, in our history has this relationship been so strained and under attack, but at the same time, there has never been a greater need or opportunity to convey to the general public and in particular our youth, the need for law and order in our dynamic and progressive democracy." May 15 was National

Peace Officers Memorial Day, and Post 626 had a contingent of officers at Big Shoal Cemetery, where the Legion members lowered the flag to half-staff for the day.

With a current membership of 2.4-million wartime veterans, the American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veteran's affairs, Americanism and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 14,000 posts across the nation.



The AM Shift for the Memorial Day Poppy Sale on 16 May at Walmart. Top, Robert Owens and Bill McDonald. Bottom, Bob Box and Wayne Beer.

ANTIOCH MIDDLE SCHOOL
SPARTANS
 8th Grade Breakfast
 Class of 2014-2015



Please join us on
 May 20 @ 7:00a.m.



School awards presented to Zack Ropka and Samantha Thomas by Nelson Duncan, Wayne Beer and Bob Box.

The VFW National
Armed Forces & Memorial Day Celebration

Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post #626
 Gladstone VFW Post #10906
 & The City of Gladstone

Linden Square ★ 602 NE 70th Street ★ Downtown Gladstone ★ www.lindensquare.info ★ (816) 423-4092

The City of Gladstone is partnering with Gladstone VFW Post 10906 and the Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 to present the VFW National Armed Forces and Memorial Day Celebration on May 23 at Linden Square in Downtown Gladstone. This event will recognize, honor, and celebrate the men and women who served and continue to serve our country at home and abroad during times of war, and military conflict and peace, while also honoring and remembering the sacrifices of the men and women who have died so we may live in peace and freedom today.

9 - 10 a.m.
 Big Shoal Cemetery

- Procession by the 3rd Missouri Infantry, the oldest Civil War re-enactment unit in Missouri
- Flag Raising Ceremony - The Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 and Gladstone VFW Post 10906
- Guest Speaker - John Dillingham
- Tribute to Veteran's buried at Big Shoal Cemetery
- Musket Volley by the 3rd Missouri Infantry

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Linden Square

- Emcee - Susan Hiland, Fox 4 News
- A variety of military displays and booths will be on hand throughout the day. Some of the activities include:
 - Procession - All Veterans, active duty and retired military servicemen and women, and National Guard and Reserve personnel from all branches of the Armed Forces are invited to walk in the procession to be recognized and honored for their service to our country. Those walking in the procession may choose to wear their uniform or simply wear a ball cap or T-shirt that represents the branch of the military in which they served or are serving.
 - Presentation of Colors
 - National Anthem
 - Recognition of Veterans and Armed Forces
 - Guest Speaker - Brigadier General Bob Windham, Assistant Adjutant General Army and Commander of the Kansas Army National Guard
 - Performance by The American Legion Band
 - 3rd Missouri Infantry Drill Demonstration
 - P.O.W. Ceremony
 - Remembrance ceremony for those who gave all - Clay County
 - Flag Folding Demonstration and Explanation of the 13 Folds
 - And more!

6:30 - 8 p.m.
 Linden Square Main Stage
 The Bucket Band

4:30 - 6 p.m.
 Linden Square Main Stage
 Anna Lee & the Lucky So and So's

May 23rd
 Linden Square in
 Downtown
 Gladstone

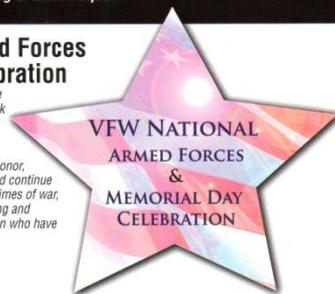


2015 Linden Square Schedule
 602 NE 70th Street ■ Gladstone, MO 64118

All events are free to the public. Call 816-423-4092 or visit www.lindensquare.info or follow us at www.facebook.com/LindenSquare for more details and the latest information on what's happening at Linden Square.

The VFW National Armed Forces and Memorial Day Celebration

The City of Gladstone is partnering with Gladstone VFW Post 10906 and the Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 to present the VFW National Armed Forces and Memorial Day Celebration on May 23 at Linden Square in Downtown Gladstone. This event will recognize, honor, and celebrate the men and women who served and continue to serve our country at home and abroad during times of war, and military conflict and peace, while also honoring and remembering the sacrifices of the men and women who have died so we may live in peace and freedom today.



May 23, 2015 • 9-10 a.m.
 Big Shoal Cemetery

- Procession by the 3rd Missouri Infantry, the oldest Civil War re-enactment unit in Missouri
- Flag Raising Ceremony - The Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 and Gladstone VFW Post 10906
- Guest Speaker - John Dillingham
- Tribute to Veteran's buried at Big Shoal Cemetery
- Musket Volley by the 3rd Missouri Infantry, the oldest Civil War re-enactment unit in Missouri

11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. • Linden Square

Emcee - Susan Hiland, Fox 4 News
 A variety of military displays and booths will be on hand throughout the day. Some of the activities include:

- Procession - All veterans, active duty and retired military servicemen and women, and National Guard and Reserve personnel from all branches of the Armed Forces are invited to walk in the procession to be recognized and honored for their service to our country. Those walking in the procession may choose to wear their uniform or simply wear a ball cap or T-shirt that represents the branch of the military in which they served or are serving.
- Presentation of Colors
- National Anthem
- Recognition of Veterans and Armed Forces

- Guest Speaker - Brigadier General Bob Windham, Assistant Adjutant General - Army, and Commander of the Kansas Army National Guard
- Performance by The American Legion Band
- 3rd Missouri Infantry Drill Demonstration
- P.O.W. Ceremony
- Remembrance ceremony for those who gave all - Clay County
- Flag Folding Demonstration and Explanation of the 13 Folds
- And more!

4:30-6 p.m. • Linden Square Main Stage
 Anna Lee & the Lucky So and So's

6:30-8 p.m. • Linden Square Main Stage
 The Bucket Band

Sponsored by:
 The VFW National; Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post #626; Gladstone VFW Post #626; City of Gladstone; Terrace Park Funeral Home & Cemetery; Northland Elks Lodge; The Heights at Linden Square; Commerce Bank; Wayne & Judy Beer; Sir Knight Formal Wear

Ribs tailor-made
for slow cooking
PAGE A10



May 21, 2015
Volume 5 • Issue 28
\$1.00



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GLADSTONE Dispatch

Armed forces celebration returns to Linden Square

This Saturday, May 23, the city of Gladstone will once again partner with the Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10906 to host the VFW National Armed Forces and Memorial Day Celebration. The event is designed to honor and celebrate veterans, active-duty and retired military servicemen and women, and National Guard and Reserve personnel from all branches of the armed forces, while also paying tribute to the men and women who gave all in service to their country.

The free event will begin with morning activities at Big Shoal Cemetery, followed by a processional and special presentations at Linden Square, and conclude with the season's first Sounds on the Square concert.

At the cemetery

At 9 a.m., the 3rd Missouri Infantry, the oldest Civil War re-enactment unit in Missouri, will march to the cemetery, 4125 NE

ARMED FORCES/Page A3



ARMED FORCES: Concert series begins

Continued from Page A1

64th St., and assemble at the flagpole for a flag-raising ceremony performed by American Legion Post 626 and the Gladstone VFW Post 10906.

Other activities include a tribute to the veterans buried on site, speakers and a gun salute.

Big Shoal Historic Cemetery, established in 1824, and is the final resting place for six Civil War veterans, a veteran of the War of 1812 and a veteran of the Blackhawk Indian Wars.

At Linden Square

At 11 a.m., the celebration will move to Linden Square in downtown Gladstone. Susan Hiland, Fox 4 News, will serve as the event emcee.

Activities will kick off with a recognition procession. Veterans and servicemen and women are invited to walk in the procession so they may be recognized and honored for their service to their country. Participants are encouraged to wear their uniforms, or they may simply wear a ball cap or T-shirt representing the branch of the military in which they served or are currently serving.

Brig. Gen. Robert E. Windham, assistant adjutant general of the Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, will address the crowd.

Col. Don Ballard, Missouri's only living Medal of Honor Recipient, also will be recognized and will conduct a swearing-in ceremony for 10 new recruits enlisted in the U.S. Army or Army Reserves.

Other activities include performances by the American Legion Band of Greater Kansas City and the KC Betty's, a drill demonstration by the 3rd Missouri Infantry Re-enactment Unit, a Prisoner of War and Remembrance Ceremony, and a flag-folding demonstration and Explanation of the 13 folds. There will also be military displays and booths on hand throughout the day, and the Linden Square Concession stand will be open through the event.



Nelson Duncan, Museum Manager Erica White and RD Mallams prepare Big Shoal Cemetery for the 23rd.

The VFW National
Armed Forces & Memorial Day Celebration

Presented by
 Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626
 Gladstone VFW Post #10906
 & The City of Gladstone

**Recognizing our Historic Veterans at Big Shoal Cemetery
 Saturday May 23, 2015 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

- 9:00 Start of the ceremony
- 9:00 – 9:05 3rd MO Infantry begins march to flag pole
- 9:05 - 9:10 Flag raised by American Legion Post 626 and VFW Post 10906
- 9:10 Gate to cemetery opens – guests please take a seat
- 9:12 - 9:15 Welcome and introductions– Erica White
- 9:15 – 9:20 Invocation - American Legion Chaplin Robert Courtney
- 9:20 – 9:30 Remarks by City of Gladstone Mayor Bill Garnos
- 9:30 -9:45 Remarks by Guest Speaker – John Dillingham
- 9:45 – 9:50 Honoring veterans buried at Big Shoal
- 9:50 – 9:55 3rd MO Infantry musket volley
- 9:55 – 10:00 Closing remarks – City of Gladstone Mayor Bill Garnos
- 10:00 Adjourn

**Please see reverse side for a list of all related events.*

Today: Saturday May 23 11:00-4:00 p.m.

Armed Forces & Memorial Day Celebration at Linden Square in Downtown Gladstone. This event includes military procession of Veterans, Presentation of Colors, speakers, demonstrations and a performance by The American Legion Band of Kansas City.

This event will recognize, honor, and celebrate the men and women who served and continue to serve our country at home and abroad during times of war and peace.

Monday, May 25th at 10:00 a.m.

The Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 invites everyone to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony in the Big Shoal Cemetery. The Post will render honors to the colors and to the men and women who died while in service to their country and those still Missing In Action.



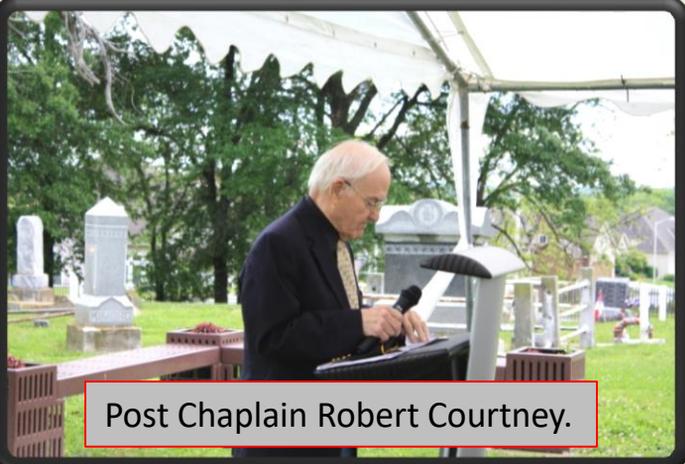
3rd Missouri Infantry.



Nelson Duncan and VFW Members raise the flag.



City Museum Manager Erica White.



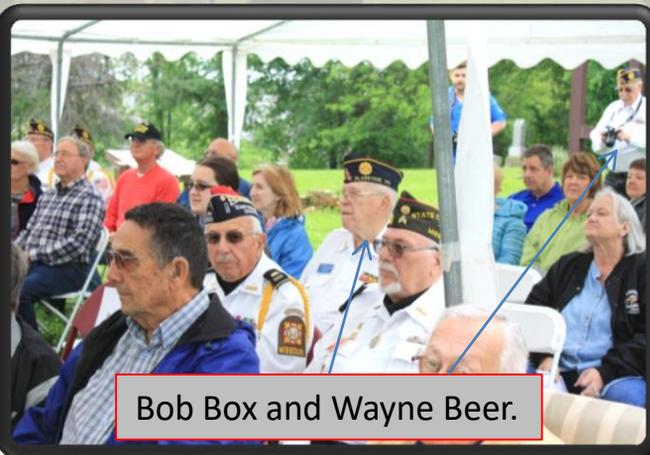
Post Chaplain Robert Courtney.



Mayor Bill Garnos.



Army Historian John Dillingham.



Bob Box and Wayne Beer.



Douglas Millison, Jerry Braton and Nelson Duncan.



2015 ARMED FORCES AND MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

Linden Square, Downtown Gladstone

May 23, 2015

EVENT EMCEE

Susan Hiland, Fox 4 News

WELCOME TO LINDEN SQUARE AND DOWNTOWN GLADSTONE

Mayor Bill Garnos

PROCESSION

Lead by Colonel Don Ballard

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Jacq Hollandsworth

POSTING OF THE COLORS

VFW Post #10906

INVOCATION

Pastor Robert Courtney

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Brigadier General Bob Windham

Assistant Adjutant General - Army, and Commander of the Kansas Army National Guard

AMERICAN LEGION BAND OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

Heather Pickett, Conductor

RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM COLONEL DON BALLARD MISSOURI'S ONLY LIVING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

FUTURE SOLDIERS SWEAR-IN CEREMONY

Colonel Don Ballard

Sergeant First Class Michael J. Aguero

THE KC BETTY'S

3RD MISSOURI INFANTRY DRILL DEMONSTRATION

PRISONER OF WAR CEREMONY

Bill Driscoll, Commander VFW Post #10906

Amazing Grace performed by Phil Duncan

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO GAVE ALL, CLAY COUNTY

Bill Driscoll, Commander VFW Post #10906

FLAG FOLDING DEMONSTRATION AND EXPLANATION OF THE 13 FOLDS

VFW Post #10906



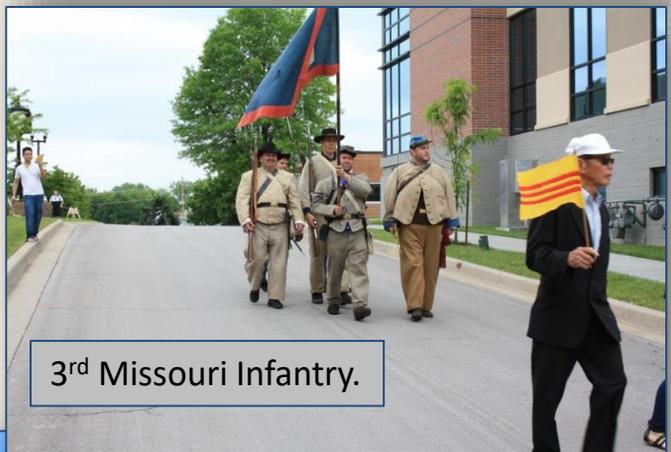
Douglas Millison



Nelson Duncan and Phyllis Rosales.



Led by former member and MOH Awardee "Doc" Ballard.



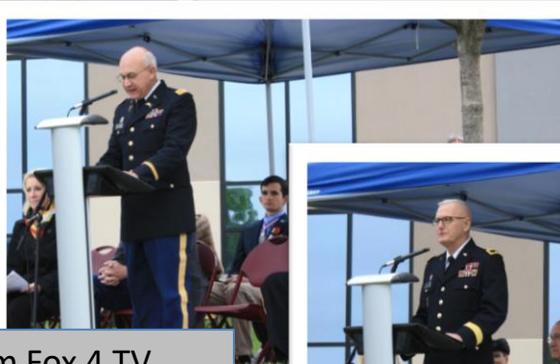
3rd Missouri Infantry.



Colors posted by VFW.



EMCEE Susan Highland from Fox 4 TV, City Councilman & Legionnaire COL (RET) RD Mallams and Keynote speaker BG Bob Windham.



Posting of the Colors by the American Legion Band of Kansas City.



Medal of Honor recipient and past Post member COL (RET) "Doc" Ballard.



Eight Army recruits getting sworn in by an Medal of Honor recipient. They should remember that!



The Kansas City Betty's and a military vehicle display.



Commander Beer presents the Posts Legion Law Enforcement Award to Officer LeAnn Smith And the Firefighter/EMT Award to FF/P Shawn Rulon (shown with Paula Brooks from the City of Gladstone). Shawn went on to receive the Department of Missouri's Firefighter Award.



The Travelling Wall was at the WWI Museum and Monument for the weekend and several Post members Volunteered their time. Here Nelson Duncan, Douglas Millison and Bill Morris glam it up with Goldengirl Liz Kelly who toured Vietnam in 1970 with Bob Hope.

**Join Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial
American Legion Post 626
for a**

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

The flag will be lowered to half-staff on
25 May 2015
with a ceremony beginning at 10:00 am.

Big Shoal Cemetery
4125 NE 64th St
Gladstone MO

Guest Speaker:
Councilman R.D. Mallams
COL. USA (RET)

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. Memorial Day is now observed on the last Monday of May and became a national holiday in 1971.



Bob Box, Bill McDonald, Nelson Duncan and Andy Lester.



Nelson Duncan, Douglas Millison and Bob Box.



Paula Fulkerson sings the National Anthem.



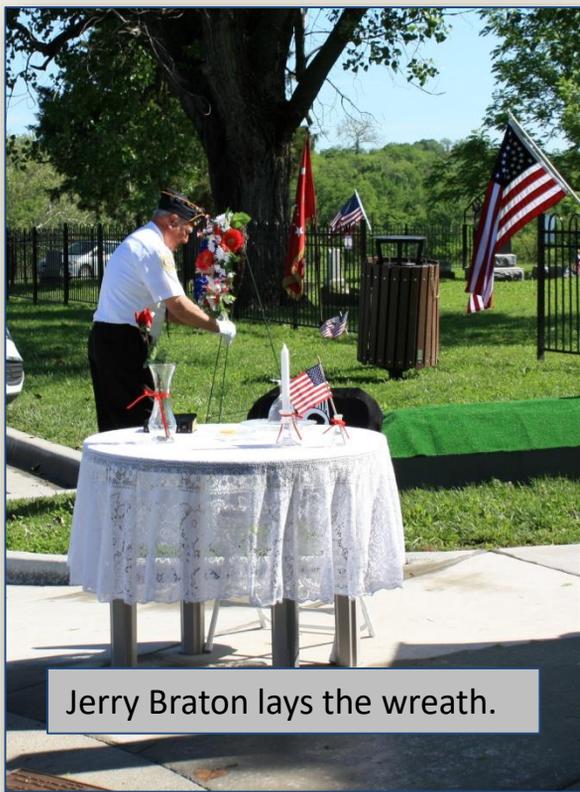
Bill McDonald leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

Post Chaplain Robert Courtney gives the invocation.



Commander Wayne Beers opening remarks.





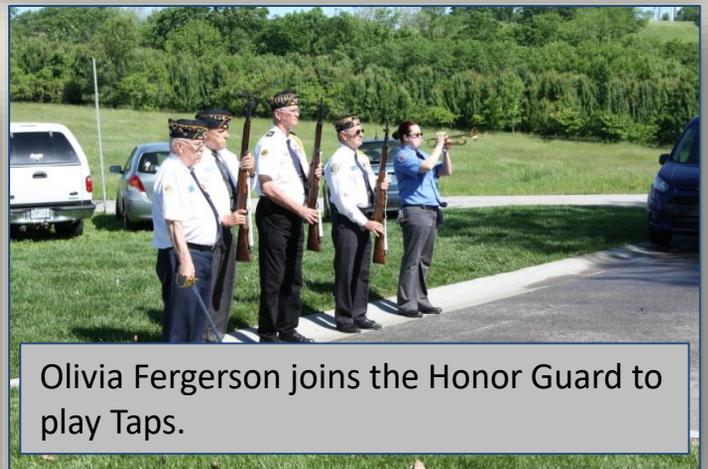
Jerry Braton lays the wreath.



Phyllis Rosales with the POW/MIA ceremony.



Keynote speaker Councilman and Legionnaire COL (RET) RD Mallams.



Olivia Ferguson joins the Honor Guard to play Taps.





The Meadville Tribune

75 cents

meadvilletribune.com

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2015

Family aims to set record straight about sailor's death



Gunnery Mate Second Class Patrick Ford was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross.

Editor's note: One of Meadville resident Charlie Schmitz's enduring memories of his service during the Vietnam War was the day Patrick O. Ford went missing in action after a heroic effort to fight off enemy soldiers long enough for help to arrive and rescue his injured fellow crewmates. Ford left his burning boat after ensuring the remaining crew members who were alive were safely in the river. Then he went into the river, up the riverbank

and fought with the enemy. Schmitz was among those who responded to the call for help. Schmitz left his boat in an effort to locate and assist Ford, but once on land Schmitz drew fire and he could not find Ford. Ford's remains were found days later, bound hand and foot to a tree, used in an attempt to draw his fellow soldiers into a boobytrap. When Schmitz retired from his career in law enforcement years ago, he started the nonprofit WCJ Ranch in

Richmond Township, where veterans benefit from outdoors and hunting therapy. A trail at the Ranch bears Ford's name. To Schmitz's surprise, less than a year ago, a relative of Ford's tracked him down and was full of questions about what really happened to Ford. The answers to those questions invalidate the Navy's official account of Ford's death and, in part thanks to a written log Schmitz kept during the war, may lead to Ford receiving posthumously

the Medal of Honor, the highest award that can be given to military personnel. The story about Ford and his niece's effort to set the record straight is shared below courtesy of American Legion Post 626.

By Douglas W. Millison
AMERICAN LEGION POST 626
HISTORIAN

Patricia Ford Ivey was a little girl when she first heard the story

SEE **SAILOR**, PAGE A8

Sailor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

about her namesake, Gunnery Mate Second Class Patrick O. Ford. The uncle she never met was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his actions on June 21, 1968.

While on patrol aboard PBR-750 on the My Tho river in Vietnam, Ford's boat was ambushed. While he was providing covering fire from the aft machine gun, his boat was disabled by heavy enemy fire including rockets. In the face of point-blank enemy fire Ford assisted three seriously wounded shipmates from the PBR and into the river. Only after ensuring that all other surviving crewmembers had left the boat did Ford enter the water, where he was reportedly killed by enemy machine-gun fire. His body was not recovered until four days later.

That is the information on his Navy Cross citation, anyway. "We always felt there was more to the story," said Patty, herself now an Air Force veteran and member of Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 in Gladstone, Missouri. "Later in life our father would say that there was indeed more, but was hesitant to go into great detail." The details were gruesome. When the remains were returned to the States, the family opened the coffin to ensure that it was undeniably Patrick, and what they saw led them to believe that he died from much more than machine-gun fire.

Years later, on June 29, 1985, the Navy commissioned a ship in his name, FFG-54, USS Ford. He was again being recognized for heroism in saving two of the three shipmates he had helped over the side that fateful day. When that ship was decommissioned on Oct. 31, 2013, Patrick's family was contacted by a friend of his, Bob Mitchell, who was also in contact with additional friends. "They couldn't understand why he (Patrick Ford) had not received the Medal of Honor," Patty said. "They thought they had more than enough information to give but were never contacted in any kind of investigation. They insisted there was more to what he had done, more to how he had suffered in captivity during the last days of his life. They wanted me to look into it and see if I could correct the record, because only the family could do it; it was out of their hands."

Patty took on the project. "I do that," she said. "I take on a project, put my head down and just plow forward until it's done." And this is a big project. Patty has accumulated many emails and letters from friends and shipmates, even people who didn't know her uncle well but were willing to verify details.

During this project she has grown attached to many of these sailors. "And it's not only about getting Uncle Pat the recognition that he deserves," she said. "It's about putting his memory to rest with his friends, helping them to find peace with what they know about him. And it's about the

friendships I'm forming in this quest. Charlie (Schmitz of Meadville, one of his friends) told me that knowing someone else cares has allowed him to really sleep for the first time in 46 years! I cried."

During this investigation, Patty has been able to get statements about many details that are not part of his Navy Cross citation and that contradict his dying after entering the water. His citation doesn't mention that his clothes were on fire when he put the wounded shipmates into the water. The record ends with his getting into the water and getting killed. It does not mention how he made it to shore with an M-60 MG and helped cover the rescue efforts as another PBR retrieved his crew from the river. Or how he was captured only when his ammunition ran out, or how he was tortured for four days until he was tied to a tree as bait for another ambush. These are the details that his friends know and have known ever since the ambush.

Patty contacted her American Legion post to get advice and any help that they could provide, as well as congressmen Sam Graves and Joseph McCarthy, and senators Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill. Post 626 heard her story in June of last year and encouraged her to keep in contact with her representatives and not let them lose sight of the issue.

In her initial request to her post for help, Patty said, "P.O. Ford's comrades in arms and I believe he went above the call of duty and displayed uncommon heroism in his conduct under fire and that he deserves to re-

ceive the Medal of Honor. Instead of seeing to his own wounds and while his clothing was on fire, he helped his crew members to escape. Instead of swimming away from the enemy, he waded toward them to provide cover. His actions that day displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life and went beyond the call of duty. Furthermore, his courage, daring initiative and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of extreme personal danger sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

"When Patty made her presentation to the post we all knew right then that we had to help her get this sailor's story corrected," said Douglas Millison, the post's historian. "We asked her to provide us with copies of her documentation so we could take it up through our channels while she worked on getting her representatives' help."

The commander of Post 626 wrote a letter of support for her to send with her correspondence to her representatives in Congress, in which he expressed the post's desire to ensure that an investigation be conducted into the events during the ambush as well as the status of Ford up until his body was recovered on the 25th. Post 626 passed two resolutions calling for The American Legion as a whole to support a Medal of Honor investigation as well as a change of status for the last four days of his life to Prisoner of War. These resolutions were passed by the Department of Missouri's Third District in September 2014 and

have been submitted to the Department of Missouri for action at the convention in Springfield this July.

"Congressman Graves has taken the lead in helping us out," Patty said. "It's a relief to know that it hasn't been put in a cabinet somewhere." In July 2014 Graves' office wrote a letter to Rear Adm. Mike Fraken, the chief of legislative affairs, requesting all existing records on Ford, the action on June 21, his recovery on June 25 and the Navy Cross recommendation. His office has since drafted a Letter of Congressional Endorsement to begin the process of awarding Ford the Medal of Honor posthumously. "I am inspired by Patty and her siblings' tireless work to see their uncle is honored as the selfless hero that he was," Graves said. "Gunner's Mate Patrick O. Ford gave everything for his country, and the lasting legacy of his life will be the sacrifices he made protecting his fellow soldiers and defending our freedom. It is humbling to have the opportunity to help his family ensure he gets the recognition he deserves."

"I am looking forward to moving this process ahead one more step this summer," Millison said. "If The Department of Missouri passes it at convention, it then goes to National for their action. If approved there, we can count on the full influence of The American Legion getting behind Legionnaire Patricia Ford Ivey's efforts for her uncle and his shipmates. To this Legionnaire it is extremely important that the record be set right."



Commander Beer and Fundraising Chair Douglas Millison present certificates to Missouri Boys and Girls States sponsors Andy Foster from Gladstone Dodge and Pastor Bob Baier from Antioch Bible Baptist Church. (27 May)



Visiting the 46th Missouri Cadet Patrol Class, 4 Jun.



626 sponsored Cadet Austin Barker.

Visit to Missouri Boys State, 16 Jun. Representative Mike Colona instructs the Boys State House of Representatives on the fine details of operating the house.



School of instruction on political campaigning and journalism.