

YEARBOOK OF
BENNETT & DENNIS HERRICK MEMORIAL POST 626
THE AMERICAN LEGION
GLADSTONE MISSOURI



FOR: JULY 2015 – JUNE 2016
BY: DOUGLAS W. MILLISON

INTRODUCTION

A group of 20 officers who served in the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in France during World War I is credited with founding the Legion. AEF Headquarters asked the officers to suggest ideas on how to improve troop morale. One officer, Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., proposed an organization of veterans. In February 1919, the group formed a temporary committee and selected several hundred officers who had the confidence and respect of the whole army.

About 1,000 officers and enlisted men attended the Paris Caucus in March 1919. They adopted a temporary constitution and the name The American Legion. The group also elected an Executive Committee to complete the organization's work. It considered each soldier of the AEF a member of the Legion. The Executive Committee named a subcommittee to organize veterans at home in the United States.

Two months later, in May 1919, the Legion held a second organizing caucus in St. Louis. It completed the constitution and made plans for a permanent organization, setting up a temporary headquarters in New York City and beginning its relief, employment and Americanism programs.

Congress granted the Legion its national charter in September 1919. The first national convention convened in Minneapolis, adopting a permanent constitution and electing officers to head the organization.

In March of 1974 a temporary charter was granted to Commander C.E. Farrar and Adjutant F.V. Cannon for the formation of Post 626 in Gladstone, Department of Missouri. Gladstone itself was relatively new, organizing in 1952. A permanent charter was issued to Post 626 under Commander Bobby Watts and Adjutant Don Austin in June of 1975.

During a ceremony on the 19th of March, 1988, under Commander Burt Nelson and Adjutant Roger Kohrs, American Legion Post 626 became the Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 of Gladstone Missouri.

BENNETT HERRICK

Bennett James Herrick, "Bennie" was born in Denver, Colorado, April 29, 1948. The family moved to Kansas City in 1951 and Kansas City remained his home until July, 1966, when Bennie decided to fulfill his 'obligation' to his country, even though he had already made arrangements to go to college and scholastically would have been draft exempt. Bennie opted for the para-troops and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division after graduation as honor graduate from jump school at Ft. Benning. While training at Ft. Campbell with the 101st, Bennie was named soldier of the month twice.

He arrived in Vietnam in October, 1967, and his unit went into the field on arrival. Bennie was wounded twice in combat prior to his death while leading a patrol, March 25, 1968. Bennie's legacy to his friends is a Scholarship at Oak Park High School. This Scholarship to the top drama student of each graduating class will have helped start the 20th student to a higher education with the class of 1988.



DENNIS HERRICK

Dennis Haldane Herrick was born in Denver, Colorado, April 5, 1950. Kansas City was 'home' to Dennis from April, 1951 until June, 1969. Even though Dennis was draft exempt as sole surviving son, he enlisted in the Army soon after finishing his first year in college. Dennis was hurt badly by the death of his brother and found it impossible to be a civilian student, subject to the anti Vietnam propaganda that pervaded the college campus. Dennis could not be sent to a combat theatre with the status of sole surviving son unless he volunteered in writing. He arrived in Vietnam August 5, 1970, and his parents were notified of his death shortly thereafter.

Dennis participated in all forms of athletics and also enjoyed 'rock' music and played in a band his junior and senior year in high school. A knee injury in his junior year in high school was such that he couldn't pass the high school physical to play football but was still accepted by the army for unrestricted duty.



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PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR
THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA;

TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER;

TO FOSTER AND PERPETUATE A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT
AMERICANISM;

TO PRESERVE THE MEMORIES AND INCIDENTS OF OUR ASSOCIATIONS
IN THE GREAT WARS;

TO INCULCATE AN INDIVIDUAL SENSE OF OBLIGATION TO THE
COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION;

TO COMBAT THE AUTOCRACY OF BOTH THE CLASSES AND THE
MASSES;

TO MAKE RIGHT THE MASTER OF MIGHT;

TO PROMOTE PEACE AND GOODWILL ON EARTH;

TO SAFEGUARD AND TRANSMIT TO POSTERITY THE PRINCIPLES OF
JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY;

TO CONSECRATE AND SANCTIFY OUR COMRADESHIP BY OUR
DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS.

COMMANDERS BIOGRAPHY

Commander, 2015 – 2016 Nelson L. Duncan



Commander Duncan Joined the Marine Corps and served as an Aviation Crew Chief In El Toro CA until 1963 when he transferred to the Naval Reserves at Las Alimitos NAS CA. He Served there as a 1st Mechanic Crew Chief in VP 778 until joining the IRR in 1967.

He returned to the Naval Reserves in 1982 serving in VR 57, NAS North Island, San Diego CA until his retirement as a CPO/ AMHC in 2000. While there he served as a Crew Chief, NATOPS instructor and made multiple deployments in support of operations worldwide by ship and air, including Desert Storm/Shield.

As a civilian he lived in Saudi Arabia from 1978 to 1982 with his family while working for TWA - Saudia. He completed his aviation career as a Heavy Jet Designee for Boeing, Douglas and Lockheed aircraft in the commercial aircraft fleets for TWA and served his union as Steward, Alt. Committeeman, Trustee and Legislative Committeeman.

He and his wife Linda have 4 children, Sherri, Jeremy, Joshua, Heather and 8 Grandchildren

Commander Duncan has been a member of the American Legion for 12 years, has served as Sr. Vice Commander from 2012 to 2015 and is a member of the Post Honor Guard.

Post 626 Officers for 2015 - 2016

COMMANDER



Nelson Duncan

ADJUTANT



Phyllis Rosales

SR VICE COMMANDER



Robert Box

JR VICE COMMANDER



Gerald Braton

FINANCE OFFICER



R.D. Mallams

CHAPLAIN



Robert Courtney

HISTORIAN



Douglas Millison

JUDGE ADVOCATE



Andrew Lester

SERGEANT AT ARMS



Robert Owens

AWARDS



Toot Our Horn Award

Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial Post 626

Has met the requirements to promote the
American Legion locally and state wide.

2014

2015



DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Historian Award

First Place

ONE YEAR POST YEARBOOK

2014 - 2015



The American Legion

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH



ANNUAL

Children & Youth Citation

is issued to

Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial Post 626

for

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

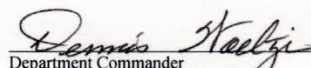
in the programs of

Children & Youth

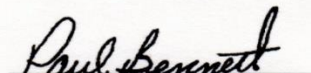
for

2014 – 2015


National Commander


Department Commander


Committee on Children & Youth Chairman


Department Children & Youth Chairman

RESOLUTIONS

**NINETY-SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Baltimore, Maryland
September 1, 2, 3, 2015**

**Resolution No. 68: Prisoner of War Status for Patrick O. Ford
Origin: Missouri
Submitted by: Convention Committee on National Security**

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Patricia Ford Ivey having appeared before Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 and offered testimony and evidence not previously seen to enlist our help in getting her Uncle Patrick O. Ford's cause of death verified as at the hands of the enemy while being a Prisoner of War; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Ford was serving as an aft machine gunner on River Patrol Boat (PBR) 750 which was ambushed from shore during a two boat combat patrol by a Viet Cong force using rockets and heavy machine guns on 21 June 1968, disabling his craft and sending it drifting directly toward the enemy position; and

WHEREAS, Records received by Petty Officer Ford's family have multiple causes of death to include drowning and machine gun fire at the time of PBR-750's ambush on 21 June 1968, and list him as Missing in Action from that date until 25 June 1968 when his body was recovered; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Ivey has been conducting interviews with Sailors who served with P.O. Ford who insist he made it to shore in order to provide covering fire before being captured by Viet Cong forces and subsequently tortured over several days and killed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Baltimore, Maryland, September 1, 2, 3, 2015, That The American Legion support the change of status for the period of 21 June 1968 to 25 June 1968 from MIA to POW for Patrick O. Ford, Gunners Mate Second Class, United State Navy.

**NINETY-SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Baltimore, Maryland
September 1, 2, 3, 2015**

Resolution No. 69: Medal of Honor for Patrick O. Ford

Origin: Missouri

Submitted by: Convention Committee on National Security

WHEREAS, Legionnaire Patricia Ford Ivey having appeared before Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 and offered testimony and evidence not previously seen to enlist our help in getting her Uncle Patrick O. Ford's Navy Cross upgraded to The Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Ford was serving as an aft machine gunner on River Patrol Boat (PBR) 750 which was ambushed from shore during a two boat combat patrol by a Viet Cong force using rockets and heavy machine guns on 21 June 1968, disabling his craft and sending it drifting directly toward the enemy position; and

WHEREAS, Although seriously wounded P.O. Ford returned a continuous volume of fire into the Viet Cong position until he realized the condition of his craft and crew at which time, in the face of point-blank enemy fire, and with his clothing on fire he assisted three of his more seriously wounded shipmates into the water to be picked up by the second boat; and

WHEREAS, P.O. Ford did not leave PBR-750 until he ensured there were no more survivors and when he did he took his M-60 machine gun with him and went away from rescue and towards the enemy, providing covering fire even while seriously wounded while the second boat retrieved the survivors from the water until he ran out of ammunition and was captured by the enemy, tortured and killed; and

WHEREAS, A review of The Congressional Medal of Honor Society's records show that out of 16 Medal of Honors awarded to Navy personnel in Vietnam between 1965 and 1972 half of these were officers, of the enlisted men two were awarded the Medal of Honor for saving the lives of officers, four were Corpsmen assigned to the Marine Corp, one was a construction engineer assigned to an SF Group (Army), and one, a Petty Officer First Class was serving as a Boat Commander and Patrol Leader; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Baltimore, Maryland, September 1, 2, 3, 2015, That The American Legion supports the upgrade of the Navy Cross to the Medal of Honor for Patrick O. Ford, Gunners Mate Second Class, United States Navy.

The Year in Pictures 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016



JULY



Independence Day button sales fundraiser, 3 July
L - Mike Bland, Robert Owens and Bob Box; R – Wayne Beer, Owens & Box.



Paul Bennett & Dennis Woeltje presenting The Historian Award to Douglas Millison.



Kenny Goth & Dennis Woeltje presenting the Dept. FF/EMT Award to our nominee CPT Shawn Rulon.

Post members prepare donations for the new teachers welcome baskets. McDonald, Pappert, Hammond, Box, Lester & Duncan.



The new Dept. Commander George Scarborough

Instillation & Induction Ceremony, July 25



Commanders Nelson & Holtz



Bill McDonald with the prayer, Robert Owens & Bob Box on the right.



Reading the initiation for Owens, Lester, Ford, Lantz, Bland, King and Mallams.



Induction of this years officers, Duncan, Mallams, Braton, Rosales, Millison, Lester, Box & Courtney.



Commander Duncan presenting Jerry Braton with This years Distinguished Legionnaire Award.



Una & Robert Courtney



Mike & Phyllis
Rosales



Patricia Ivey &
Robert Ford



Bob Box, Nelson Duncan & Jerry Braton

4 names added to veterans memorial
PAGE A4



August 20, 2015
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\$1.00



Send community news to gladstonenews@npgco.com

GLADSTONE Dispatch

Thursday, August 20, 2015

Gladstone Dispatch A3

The engraved names of four Clay County citizens who died while serving in the U.S. military in Afghanistan are added to the Clay County Veterans Memorial on Aug. 13 by Trip Johnson and David Pittman while Gerald Braton helps with the cleanup.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

American Legion updates county veterans memorial

In the post's past year as steward of the Clay County Veterans Memorial, Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 members found out that four citizens of Clay County who gave their lives in Afghanistan for their country were not represented on the memorial. That has been corrected with the help of Johnson Concrete from North Kansas City, which

added the engraved names Aug. 13. Post 626 will host an unveiling and wreath-laying ceremony for the four veterans from Gladstone, Kansas City and Liberty at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, at the memorial. "It's only natural to have it on 9/11," said Gerald Braton, co-chair of the post's memorial committee. "It's the reason we got involved over there in the

first place, going after the Taliban." The Clay County Veterans Memorial is located in Anita Gorman Park at the intersection of North Oak Trafficway and Vivion Road in Kansas City. Parking is located on Holmes Street, one block east of North Oak off of Vivion. Seating at the memorial are limited.



PUNGUS FIGHTER Bluegrass Sod
BLUE WAVE Sod
UNCLE'S LAWN

August

Jerry Braton (top) and Nelson Duncan (Bottom) pictured with the staff Of Johnson Granite.

Kansas City Airshow, 22 & 23 August.



Day 1 Crew – Nelson, Owens, Beer, King, Terry & Mike Bland, Millison kneeling, Braton not pictured, 2 volunteers in yellow

Day 2 Crew – Beer, M&T Bland, Millison, then Braton, Pind, Bill Minner & Wife and 2 Volunteers.



A big thank you to Our two volunteers Who are friends of Jerry; Stanley Maynard & John Sherbott!!!



SEPTEMBER

© Carson-Dellosa CD-2563

**Clay County Veteran's Memorial Wreath Laying
September 11, 2015
hosted by
Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial
American Legion Post 626**

Welcome: Nelson Duncan

Anthem: Paula Fulkerson

Pledge of Allegiance: Jerry Braton

Invocation: Rev. Courtney

Speakers: Jerry Nolte, Presiding Commissioner of Clay County

Mayor Bill Garnos, Gladstone Mayor

Wreath laying: Jerry Braton

Reading of Names: Phyllis Rosales

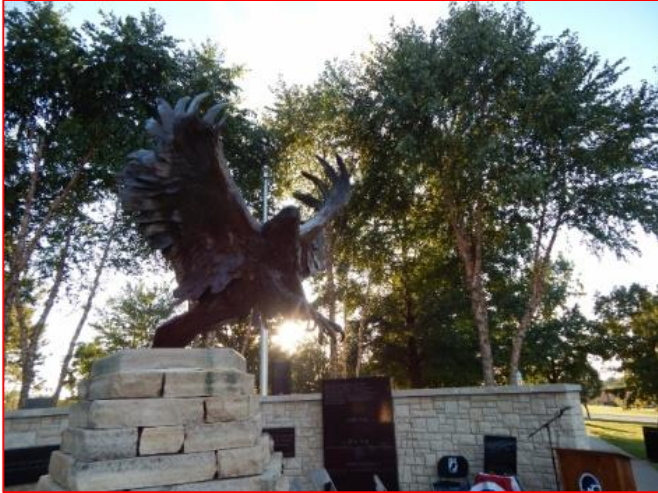
- Trenton L. Rhea
- Shawn M Mittler
- Robert Wayne Crow, Jr.
- Matthew Mason

Presentation of Rubbings

Closing Prayer: Rev. Courtney

Taps: Olivia Fergerson

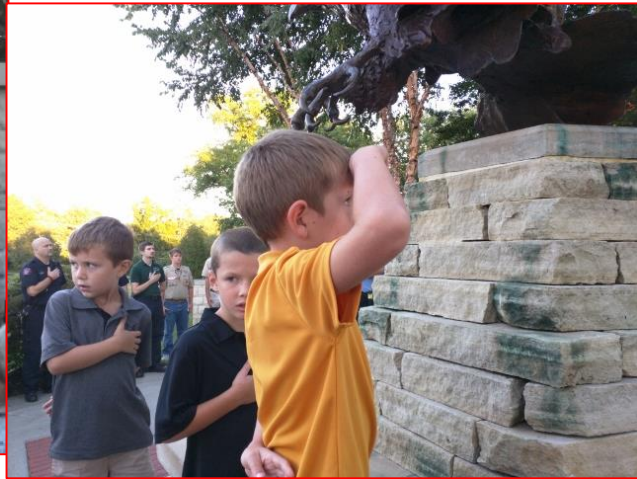
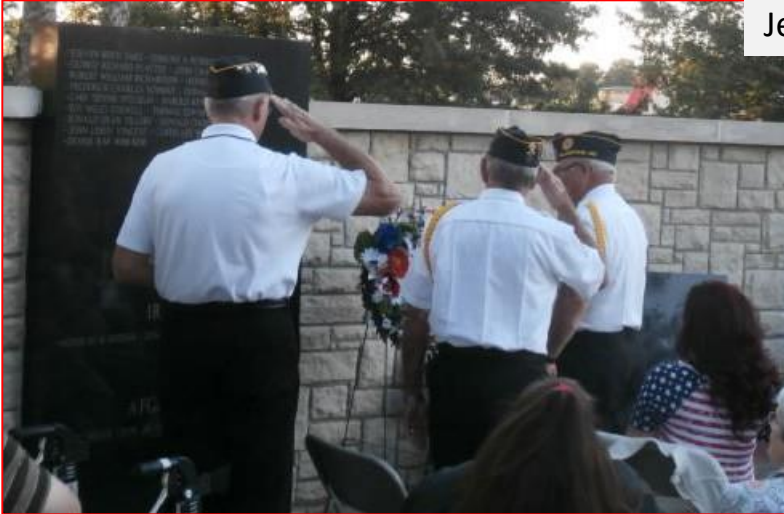
Clay County Veterans Memorial Wreath Laying And name addition dedication



Mike Bland, Bill McDonald, Jerry Braton.



Clay County Presiding Commissioner Jerry Nolte with Braton and Duncan.



Legionnaire Pete Hall speaking on the origins of the memorial.



Commander Duncan's remarks

Cold War movie
warms audience
hearts PAGE A10



October 22, 2015
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GLADSTONE Dispatch

4 names added to Clay County Veterans Memorial

Bennett & Dennis

Herrick American Legion Post 626 recently updated the Clay County Veterans Memorial located in Anita B. Gorman Park in Kansas City. The memorial had been left without the inclusion of U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan and the Clay County residents who died there while serving in the armed forces.

Newly formed committee co-chairs Gerald Braton and Phyllis Rosales reviewed the names already on the memorial, then rectified the discrepancies.

On Patriot Day, Sept. 11, Post 626 sponsored an unveiling and wreath-laying for the veterans added to the memorial with over 50 people in attendance, including family members of the honored veterans.

Added to the memorial were:

- Robert Wayne Crow Jr. and Shawn Mittler, who were killed on July 10, 2010, when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device;
- Matthew Mason, a member of Navy SEAL Team 6 who was killed along with other members of his team and the aircrew when their helicopter was shot down on August 6, 2011; and
- Trenton Rhea, who died May 15, 2013, during combat operations while serving with the Army's 603rd Military Police Company.



Pastor Courtney's Closing prayer.



Phyllis Rosales presenting Rubbings to the family's.



Volunteer Olivia Ferguson plays Taps.

Commander Barnett's WALK FOR VETERANS

3 Oct.



National Commander Dale Barnett



Commander Barnett with Dept. CDR George Scarborough.

OCTOBER



Post Historian and all around walking dude Douglas Millison



Past National Commander
Joe Frank



St. Louis Legionnaire Jackson
with Unit 61 member Michelle
Bresee and her husband and
626 member Douglas Millison



Gladfest Parade

3 October



Nelson Duncan & Jerry Braton



Olivia Ferguson, Phyllis Rosales & Bill McDonald.

Flightless Honor Flight, 22 OCT



Nelson Duncan, Bill McDonald & Mike Bland.



PR Chairman Millison at the Chambers Laughing Place Bakery Ribbon Cutting, 22 Oct.



CDR Duncan and ADJ Rosales At the Chambers Friday Fright Night, 23 Oct



For the Vets
at the Kansas City Veterans Hospital

Sponsored by the Kansas City Northland Elks Lodge
&
American Legion Post 626, Gladstone

NOVEMBER

COAT DRIVE

November 1 through November 30

November 30 last day for drop-off

Drop-Off Coats at Elks Lodge, 7010 North Cherry, Gladstone

Coats / Hooded Sweatshirts

Must be clean, lightly used or new

Zippers must work

No missing buttons

Points of Contact: R.D. Mallams & Michelle Lewis

CDR Duncan and JR Vice Braton joined the Clay County Veterans Commission, members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Clay County Sherrif's Office when the County is Designated a "Purple Heart County".

Commission approves Purple Heart designation

(Gladstone Dispatch, 5 Nov 2015)

Clay County became the 37th Purple Heart County in the state of Missouri Monday, Nov. 2, as the County Commission approved the designation during its work session.

In part, the resolution stated the county pursued the designation to recognize and honor the "contributions and sacrifices" of the men and women from Clay County who have served in the armed forces. Their service has been "vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens."

Presiding Commissioner Jerry Nolte said the county has a large veteran population and Purple Heart recipients, and that he appreciated their service to the country.

"One of the most important parts mentioned in this resolution is the idea that we never forget the sacrifices made and continually being made by members of our armed forces," Nolte said.

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in present use and is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who have been wounded or killed while serving. It was first created by George Washington in 1782 as the Badge of Military Merit.

Signage noting the county's Purple Heart status will be installed in the coming months.





Bill McDonald, Dan Lester & Jerry Braton getting' chilly During the 7 Nov Poppy Sale.



Our Outreach Board was at The MCPL Antioch Branch for The month of November.



Doug Millison got Bob Box to his Honor Flight at O'Dark Thirty on Veterans Day, 11 November.

ANTIOCH MIDDLE SCHOOL



Veteran's Day Ceremony

November 11, 2015

Hosted by:
7th Grade National Junior Honor Society
8th Grade Band

"...To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his children." - Abraham Lincoln, 1865



Mike Bland in the classroom.



CPT. Guillebeau telling it like it is.



Millison, Duncan, Mallams, UNK, Courtney and Owens being honored.



Bob Box on his Veterans Day Honor Flight.

With sincere appreciation for your service and sacrifice
to our nation, The Clay County Commission requests
the honor of your presence at the

Veteran's Day Honor Service



and

Clay County Purple Heart Dedication Ceremony



Wednesday, November 11
1:00 p.m.

Clay County Veteran's Memorial

North East corner of Anita B. Gorman Park
700 NE 47th Street, Kansas City, MO 64116

Please let us know if you will be able to attend.

Questions or replies may be directed to Nikki Thorn at
nthorn@claycountymo.gov or call 816-723-7516

The Clay County Commission
welcomes you to the

Veteran's Day Honor Service and Clay County Purple Heart Dedication Ceremony



Ringing of the Bell

Instruction to Rise/Salute - Vice Cdr Gerald Braton

National Anthem - Paula Fulkerson

Pledge of Allegiance - Vice Cdr Gerald Braton

Invocation - Chaplain Robert Courtney

Welcoming Remarks - Sher-riff Paul Vescovo

Reading of the POW/MIA - Adj. Phyllis Rosales

Purple Heart Declaration
Clay County - A Purple Heart County
(Commissioner Luann Ridgeway)

Revealing of Purple Heart County sign

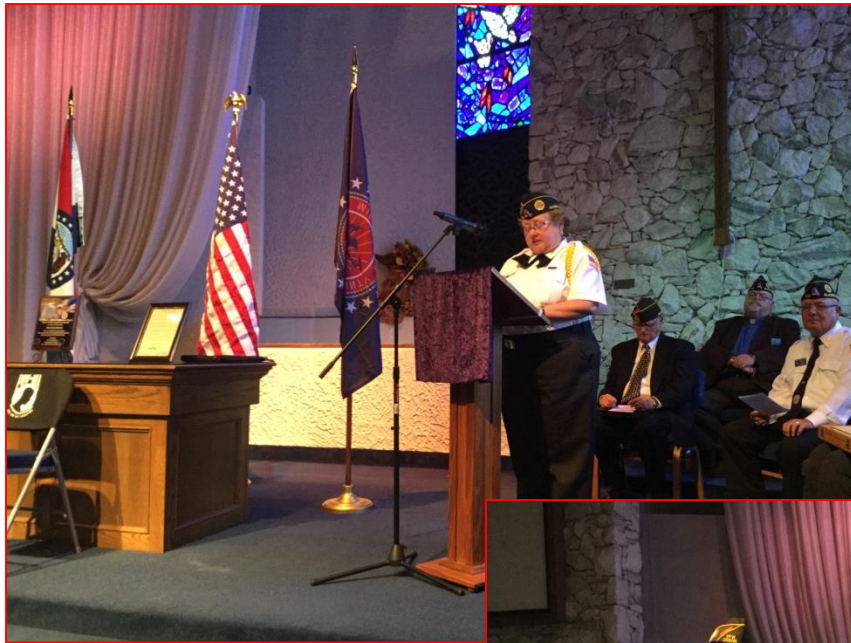
Public Thank You for Service & closing remarks
(Commissioner Owens)

Benediction - Rev. Craig Lentz

7 Rifle Salute - Honor Guard,
American Legion Smithville Post 58 and Gladstone 626

Taps - Vice Cdr Gerald Braton

Paula Fulkerson signing
The National Anthem.



Phyllis Rosales reading
Of the POW/MIA Table



Commissioner Ridgeway unveiling the
Sign along with a VFW member.



Rev. Craig Lantz and the Benediction.



A mix of Post 626 and 58 here and below.





PR Chairman Millison mixing with the VFW at a Chamber Luncheon.



VA&R Chairman Millison delivering donated coffee pots to VAVS in Kansas City.



SR Vice Box delivering our donation to the Cameron Veterans Home.

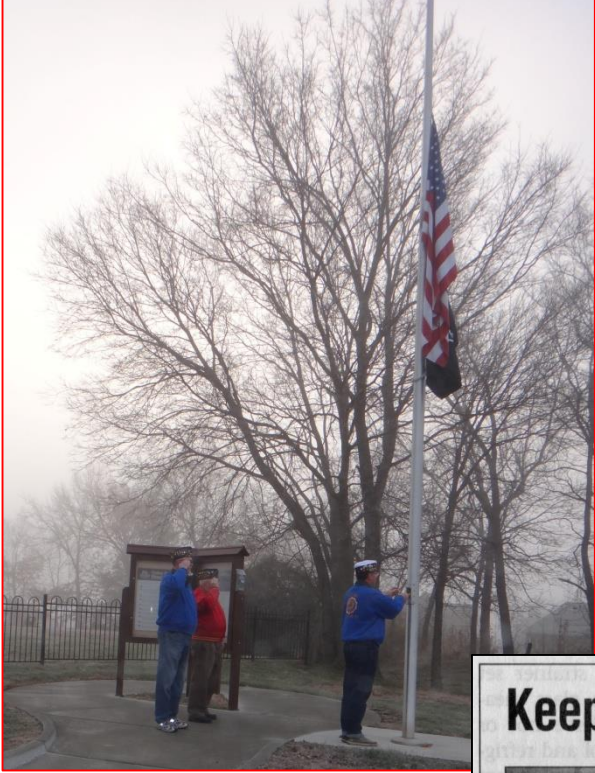


Bill McDonald making our donation to the Mayors Christmas Tree Fund.



JR Vice Braton making our donation to Surviving Spouses And Family Endowment Fund (SSAFE)

Duncan, Box and Millison Lowering the flag to Half-staff on Dec 7th.



Keeping veterans warm



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kansas City Northland Elks Lodge and American Legion Post 626 collected 60 coats, sweaters, gloves and caps that were donated to the veterans in the Kansas City Veteran's Hospital. Pictured from left are: Doug Millison and Phyllis Rosales from the American Legion and Michelle Lewis from the Elks, who organized the Project Warmth collection for the veterans.

December 10, 2015
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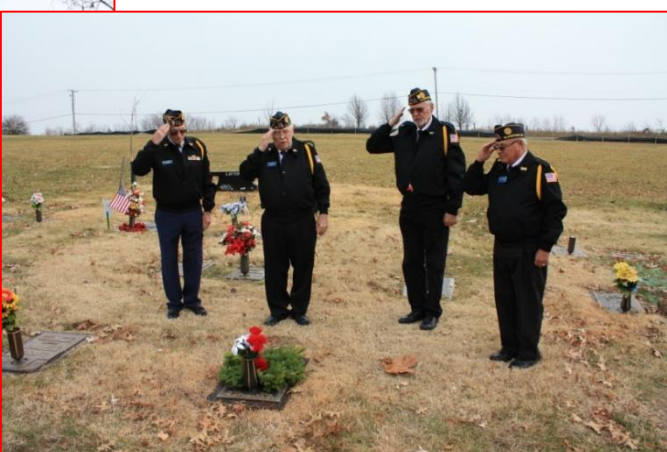
Chill at home with this homemade treat
PAGE A8

GLADSTONE Dispatch

Millison and Rosales delivered the coats donated by the Post for Veterans at the VA to the Elks Lodge.

Wreaths Across America, 12 December

On this page Box, Duncan, Lantz, McDonald, Millison, and Braton lay wreaths on the graves of the Herrick brothers and their parents as well as Box's wife and others.



Wreaths Across America then moved to the Clay County Veterans Memorial for an impromptu ceremony.



Post 626 End of Year Party at Dare to Dabble in NKC, 30 Dec.



Commander Duncan welcoming everyone.



The Armstrongs on the L, Box's family to the right.



Craig Lantz on balloons and Olivia doing the faces.



The Braton's and Mallam's.



JANUARY

A
well deserved
Month off.



Rosales, Farris, Mallams, Braton Bland, Duncan and Box making the 2016 Boys State selections at the Laughing Place.



FEBRUARY

NAIFA - Greater Kansas City
Second Annual

Salute to Veteran's Luncheon



February 18, 2016

The American Legion
Tirey J. Ford Post 21
Independence, MO

Box and McDonald, along with the Duncans, Bratons and Millisons (not pictured).



Thank You to Our Sponsors!



Matt McAvoy, Target Insurance Services
Donna Patton, Principal Financial Group
Wes Fallis, Farmers Insurance Group, Inc
A.D. Banker & Company
Janet L. Heitzig

Richard Hemphill, Hemphill Financial Group, Inc.



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Ralph Ford
Bret Boeger, Blue Chip Advisors
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Jane Redmond, Edward Jones
NAIFA - Missouri, Ann Pugh, President
Terry Westlund/Gary Eickhorst,
Financial Designs, Inc

American Legion Posts

Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial Post 626
American Legion Riders Chapter 21
Tirey J. Ford Post 21

Hickman-Mills Memorial Post 598
American Legion Post 488
Robert L. Clore Post 189



Joe Bartkoski
Debbie Miller, American Family
Stuart Woodbury, Woodbury Holdings, Inc.
Brian O'Laughlin

Ames Stetzler
Fred and Sue Huse
Jerry Cooke
Mike Hooper, Safelite Auto Glass

Special Thanks to:

Carey Iennaccaro, Sprinkled with Sugar - Cake
Tirey J. Ford Post 21 - Decorations



Program

Welcome
Posting of the Colors
Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem
Retiring of the Colors
Taps
Speaker:
Lieutenant General Merle Freitag
Invocation
Meal
Introductions
Veteran Recognition
Recognition of Sponsors
Call for Donations
Adjourn



Donations to St. Michael's Veteran's Center are Welcome
Make checks payable to NAIFA - Greater Kansas City



District Commander RE Holtz joined us for our membership meeting. 43



Box, Farris, Pappert, Braton, Duncan, McDonald and the Millisons attend the Rotary’s “Stacks for Students” fundraiser to benefit local students through scholarships.



MARCH



PR Chairman Millison attends the Chamber of Commerce's Coffee (Left) and After Hours (Bellow) every other month to promote the Post and Veterans issues in the community.



Commander Duncan attending the ribbon cutting at the new Dunkin' Donuts on N Oak.



Farris, the Millisons, Braton, Duncan and the Robertsons (not pictured) attended the Elks Lodge Scholarship Breakfast fundraiser to support the community students.



APRIL

MAY

Expand your
burger horizons
PAGE A11



May 12, 2016
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GLADSTONE Dispatch

A12 Gladstone Dispatch

Thursday, May 12, 2016

CITIZENSHIP

Local Legion to send 9 to Boys State

Twenty Juniors from Oak Park, Staley and St. Pius X high schools were interviewed by representatives from the Gladstone American Legion for selection to attend the American Legion's Boys State held on the University of Central Missouri campus in Warrensburg in June. The Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 will select and pay for at least nine students to attend based on their demonstrated ability to

take on a challenging curriculum, interpersonal skills and civic activities. "We couldn't support so many students without the help of our member donors and the business and spiritual community that supports us," said Douglas Millison, the post's fundraising chairman. "It's entities like Gladstone Dodge and Antioch Bible Baptist Church that keep this program running." The American Legion Boys State program will be held June 18 to 25 and is

a one-week intensive education program of government instruction for high school students. "Boys State was one of the best weeks of my life" said James McNeely, a counselor at Staley High School and a Boys State graduate. "It not only taught me about Missouri government, but it introduced me to some great people." At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties

and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training 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. Missouri Boys State has been operating since 1937 and High School juniors are selected by local American Legion posts.

May 19, 2016
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Think beyond
backyard barbecue
PAGE A12

GLADSTONE Dispatch

Honoring fallen peace officers



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Legionnaires from the Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 and members of Gladstone's Public Safety Department take a moment to honor fallen officers during Peace Officers Memorial Day, Sunday, May 15. The flag at Big Shoal Cemetery near the Atkins-Johnson Farm was lowered to half-staff for the day.



Braton, Mallams, Duncan and Millison (not pict.) and members of the Gladstone PD pay our respects on Peace Officers Memorial Day, 15 May.

Antioch Middle School 8th Grade Breakfast Class of 2015-2016

Awards


Academic Team 8A	Ms. Wolven, Ms. Foster, Ms. Colgan, Ms. Sullivan
Academic Team 8B	Mr. Brosnahan, Ms. Bender, Ms. Suter, Ms. Mann
Academic Team 8C	Ms. Copeland, Ms. Spiegel Mr. Fields, Ms. Rash
Project Lead the Way	Ms. Wiseman-Buckner, Mr. Medina
Modern Language Dept.	Ms. Gibbs and Ms. Kubayko
Art Department	Ms. McKiddie, Ms. Boydston
Antioch Today	Mr. Cain
NJHS	Ms. Woods, Ms. Shuck, Ms. Smith
Student Council	Ms. Duffett
Yearbook	Ms. Liane Garner
AVID	Ms. Evans, Ms. Dorsel
American Legion Post 626	American Legion Representative
Athletic Teams	Dr. Schnoebelen, Mr. Klein, Ms. Hutchinson
Honors Band, Honors Orchestra, Honors Choir	Dr. Schnoebelen, Mr. Klein, Ms. Hutchinson
Distinguished Achievement Award	Dr. Schnoebelen, Mr. Klein, Ms. Hutchinson
Perfect Attendance	Ms. Lori Barnes
Robert Russell Award	Mr. Robert Russell
Joe Gardner Award	Dr. Schnoebelen

Performance by 8th Grade Choir

Thank you Antioch PTA for your support!

Commander Duncan and JR Vice Braton present two 8th grade students with the Legions school Award.





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**

Saturday, May 21, 2016

9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Big Shoal Cemetery

The celebration begins at 9 am at the Big Shoal Cemetery with a tribute to the Veteran's buried at Big Shoal Cemetery, including a rifle salute, speaker and wreath laying ceremony.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Atkins-Johnson Farm & Museum

The Atkins-Johnson Farm & Museum will be open and free to honor Veterans. Civil War military re-enactment demonstrations will take place throughout the day.

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Linden Square

Emcee, Susan Hiland, Fox 4 News, will kick-off the activities at Linden Square at 11 am. Brigadier General Greg Mason, Assistant Adjutant General Missouri Army National Guard will give the keynote address followed by a Future Soldier Swear-In Ceremony, Prisoner of War Observance, Clay County Remembrances and a Flag Folding Demonstration and Explanation of the 13 Folds. The program should last about an hour, after which eventgoers will be able to enjoy a variety of activities including military displays, music, food, kid's activities and more.

Join us as we recognize, honor and celebrate the men and women who served and continue to serve our country at home and abroad during times of war, military conflict and peace, and honor those who have died so we may live in peace and freedom today.

City of Gladstone, 7010 N. Holmes, Gladstone, MO ★ www.gladstone.mo.us ★ (816) 423-4091

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 21, 2016 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

- 9:00 a.m. Start of the ceremony
- 9:05—9:10 Flag raised by VFW Post 10906 & American Legion Post 626
- 9:10—9:12 Gate to cemetery open – guests please take a seat
- 9:12—9:15 Welcomes and introductions - Erica White
- 9:15—9:20 Invocation by Reverend Craig Lantz
- 9:20—9:30 Remarks by City of Gladstone Mayor Jean Moore
- 9:30—9:45 Remarks by Guest Speaker – Jay Jackson
- 9:45—9:50 Reading of veterans names by Chris Cox and wreath placement
- 9:50 – 9:55 Volley
- 9:55 – 10:00 Closing remarks - Mayor Jean Moore
- 10:00 a.m. Adjourn
- 10 am – 4 p.m. Museum open and free to honor Veterans
 Civil War military re-enactment demonstrations throughout the day

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

Today: Saturday May 21 11:00-3:00 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 30th at 10:00 am

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. The VFW Post 10906 will be at White Chapel Cemetery at 10:00 in front of the internment chapel for a simultaneous ceremony.



Missouri 3rd IN.



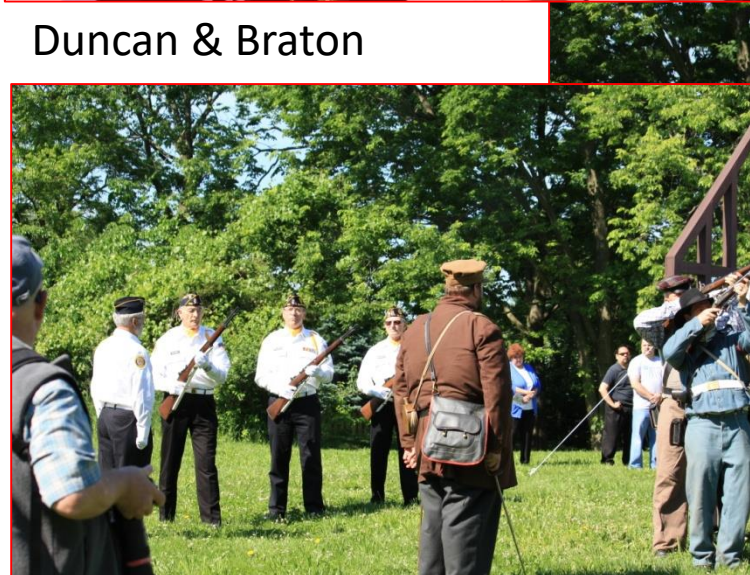
Post 626 Honor Guard Bland, Millison, McDonald and Farris.



Opening prayer by Rev. Lantz



Duncan & Braton



Farris, Bland, Millison & McDonald

LINDEN SQUARE PROGRAM

- 11:00 am** Susan Hiland, Fox 4 News, introduces Mayor Jean Moore
- 11:04 am** Procession, led by Major Brian Komar
- 11:06 am** National Anthem performed by Jacq Hollandsworth
- 11:08 am** VFW Post #10906 Posts the Colors
- 11:09 am** Reverend Lantz delivers the Invocation
- 11:13 am** Comments by Captain John Pham-Ta representing the Vietnamese American Community of Greater Kansas City
- 11:22 am** Brigadier General Greg Mason remarks (15 minutes)
- 11:37 am** Future Soldiers Swear-In Ceremony performed by Brigadier General Greg Mason
- 11:48 pm** POW Ceremony performed by Gladstone VFW Post #10906 Commander Bill Driscoll accompanied by Phil Duncan performing Amazing Grace
- 11:58 pm** Clay County Remembrances

- 12:02 pm** Presentation of First Responder Certificates to the City of Gladstone and comments by American Legion Post #626 Commander Nelson Duncan
- 12:08 pm** Comments by Commander VFW Post #10906 Bill Driscoll
- 12:16 pm** VFW Post #10906 performs Flag Folding Demonstration and explanation of 13 Folds
- 12:35 pm** KC Betty's USO Show
- 2:00 pm** American Legion Band

Kids Fun

- 11 am - 3 pm**
- Face Painting - Fee
- Balloon Artist - Fee
- Patriotic Selfie Station
- Cookie Decorating - The Laughing Place Bakery
- Coloring Pages/Flags (will need volunteers to man station)
- Letter Writing/Cards (will need volunteers to man station)
- Oddball Kids

Other

Booths, Displays, Food, Beer and Wine



VFW Post posting the colors



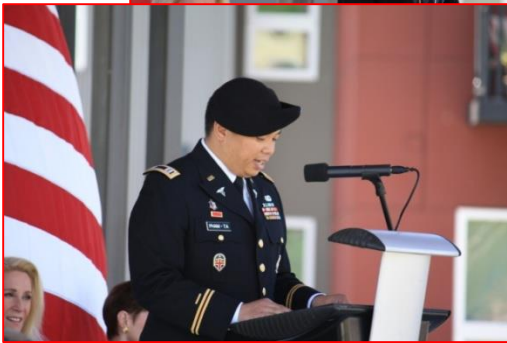
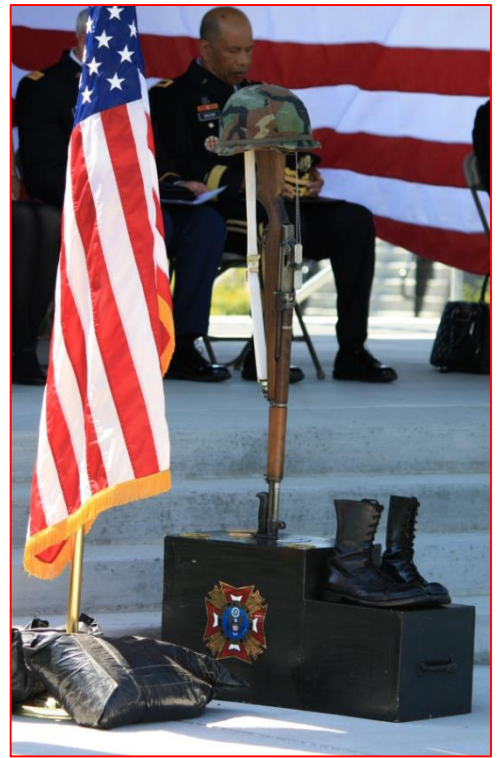
National Anthem.





Mayor Jean Moore.

Rev. Lantz with the opening prayer.



CPT John Pham-Ta.



Legionnaire RD Mallams introducing...



BG Greg Mason





Rosales holding down the fort at the Post store.



American Legion Peace Officer and FF/EMT Awards



Commander Duncan turns it over to...



Last years Dept. FF/EMT recipient CPT. Shawn Rulon who presents the awards to...



FF and NE NG SGT Patrick Farrens and...



PO Terry Allen.



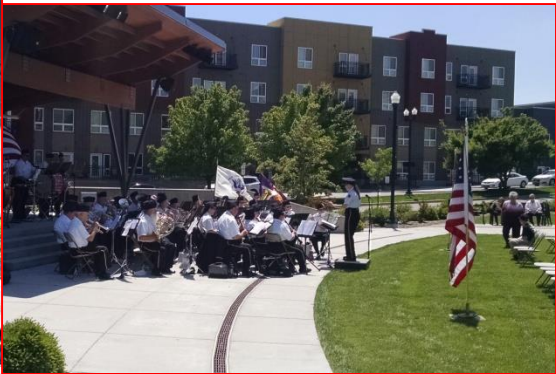
“The Betty’s”.



New Legionnaire Bloss

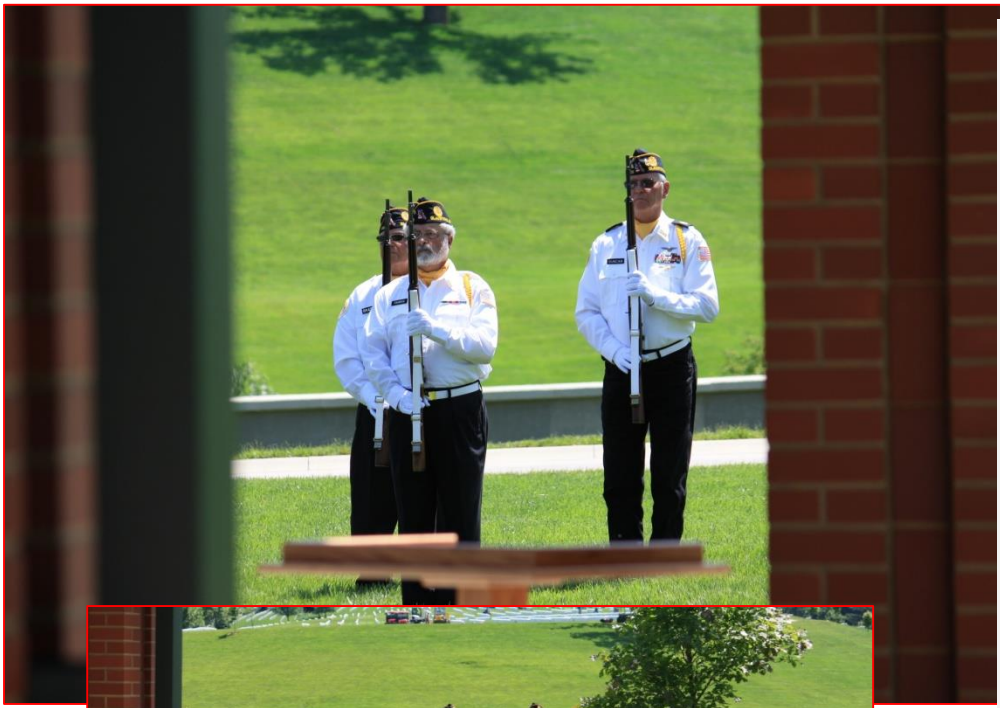


Old(ish) Legionnaire Millison



The American Legion Band of Greater Kansas City.

The Honor Guard steps up and does a last minute funeral at Leavenworth National Cemetery even though they are not yet certified.



Farris, Braton,
Duncan & Bland



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

for a

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

The flag will be lowered to half-staff on
30 May 2016
with a ceremony beginning at 10:00 am.

**Big Shoal Cemetery
4125 NE 64th ST.
Gladstone MO**

**Guest Speaker:
Former Mayor Wayne Beer**

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Decoration Day was born 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.

**Memorial Day at Big Shoal Cemetery
May 30, 2016 at 10:00
Hosted by
Bennett and Dennis Herrik Memorial
American Legion Post 626**

Welcome: Nelson Duncan

Flag Raising: Doug Millison

Anthem: Lacey Main

Pledge of Allegiance: Bill McDonald

Invocation: Rev Craig Lantz

POW/MIA Table Reading: Gaila Sullivan

Speaker: Wayne Beer, Past Gladstone Mayor and Past Commander of Post 626

Wreath Laying: Gerry Braton

Closing Remarks: Nelson Duncan

Closing Prayer: Rev Craig Lantz

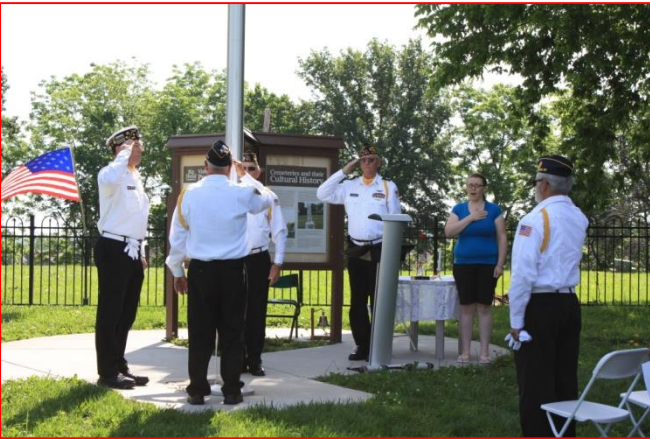
Salute: Post 626 Honor Guard, Captain Joe Farris



Braton, Millison & McDonald
Raise the flag to half staff.



Rev. Lantz with the opening prayer



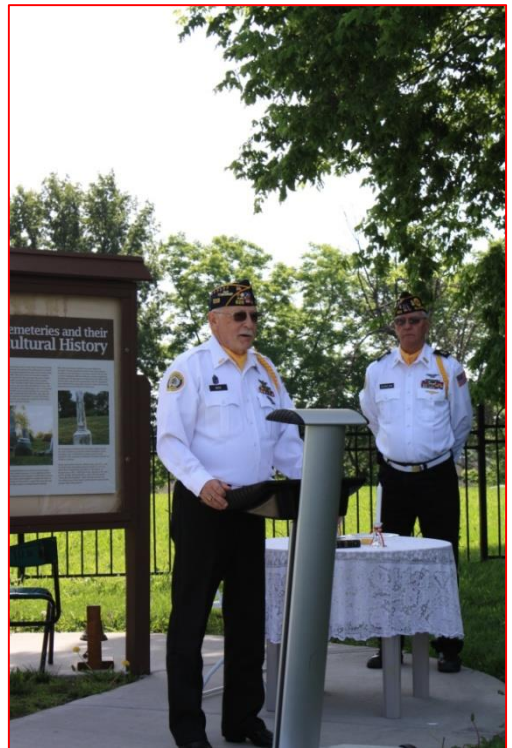
Lacey Main signs the National
Anthem.



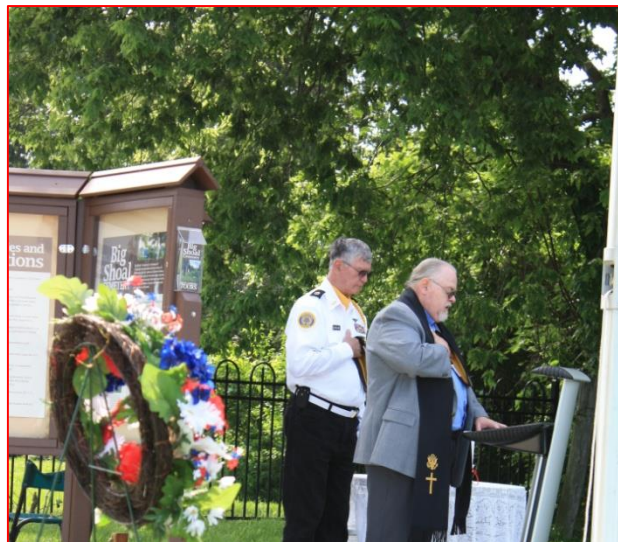
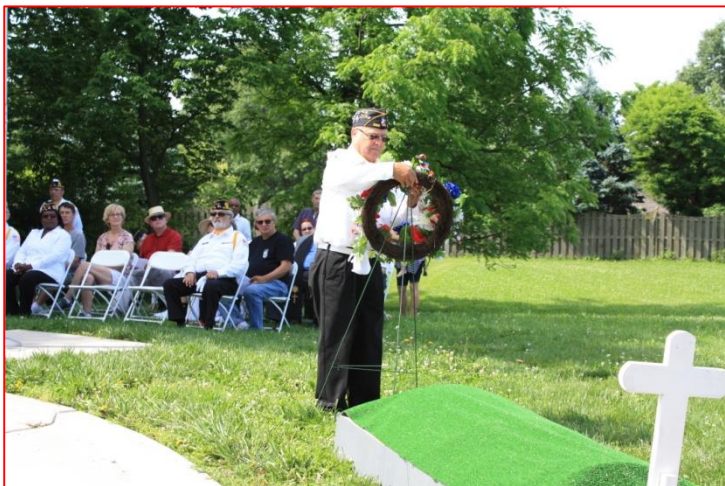
Guest speaker; former Post Commander
& former Mayor Wayne Beer.



Gaila Sullivan reads the MIA/POW
Table.



CDR Duncan with Rev. Lantz & the closing prayer.



Braton places the wreath.



Millison, Beer, McDonald, Braton, (Ferguson) & Farris



BLUESFEST

1996

ARVEST
BANK

2016

TWENTY
YEARS



JUNE

JUNE 3

Jason Vivone & The Billy Bats
The Delgado Brothers Band
Anthony Gomes

JUNE 4

Karla & Too Bad Jim
The Blues Notions
Ghost Town Blues Band
Renee Austin
Hadden Sayers
Bernard Allison

GLADSTONE, MD.

OAK GROVE PARK

Posting the Colors for the opening of the 20th Gladstone Bluesfest.

3 June

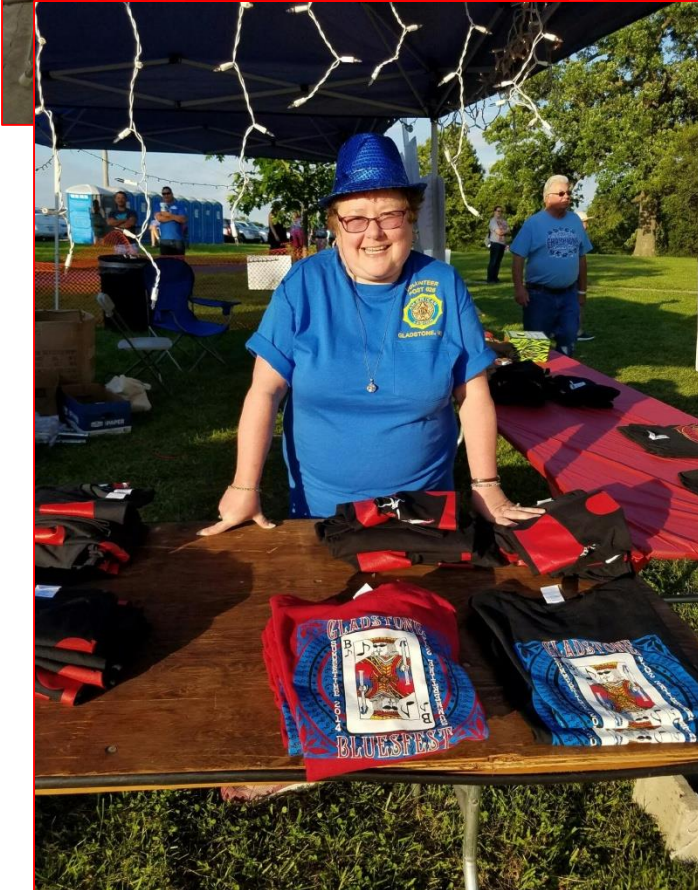


McDonald, Beer, Millison & Farris

4 June



Volunteers making it happen;
Millison, Duncan, Farris,
Robertson, Rosales, Sullivan
& Bresee (Unit 61 in red)





Gaila Sullivan making our Donation to the Cameron Veterans Home.



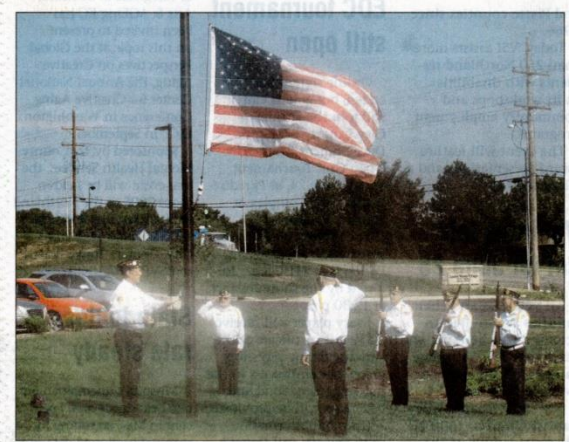
11 June

Post 626 volunteers making the Veterans Benefits Fair in Liberty happen, Braton, Box, Rosales, Duncan & Millison



Jerry manning the Clay County Veterans Memorial table.

First flag to fly



AMY NEAL/Staff Photo

The American Legion Honor Guard conducts a flag-dedication ceremony Monday morning, June 20, at Linden Woods Village, 2901 NE 72nd St. in Gladstone. The first residents moved into the independent living wing of the facility on June 1. The assisted living and health care sections should be open by July 1. A grand opening will follow in August. Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 Cmdr. Wayne Beer spoke about the importance of the symbolism of the U.S. flag after Old Glory was raised. "The flag is a reminder that in America you are free to choose your livelihood, your neighborhood, your friends, your spouse and your religion," Beer said. "America is a land of diverse backgrounds and opinions. Yet, few other symbols can get 50,000 people to stand as one at a major sporting event. It inspires unity in America like no other symbol. This unity is not coerced or mandated. The respect and affection is given freely."

Honor Guard dedicates new flag pole at Linden Woods Village, 20 Jun.



Farris, Millison, Bland, Lester, McDonald & Beer.



R- LT Jessica Farris singing the National Anthem.



L – Past CDR Beer making some comments On the importance of the flag.



21 June



Two of the 16 area students who attended Boys State in June, Andrew Macken and Marckson Francois, both Senators of Boys State and Students at Oak Park HS, with Joe Farris.

Your newly MMFHP certified Honor Guard, Bland, Farris, Millison, Duncan, Lester, Braton & McDonald.



OK fella's,
NOW you can put
the patches on!

25 June

Commander Duncan presents Certificates of Appreciation to Bob Baier of Antioch Bible Baptist Church (R), Andy Foster of Gladstone Dodge (LL) and Stephanie Porter of Thoroughbred Ford (LR) for their sponsorship of a students tuition to Missouri Boys or Girls State. 30 June.



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