

THE GIBBONS MISSION

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF ASSEMBLY 150 NEWARK, DELAWARE

July, August, September - - 2024

Meets ordinarily the first Monday of Month-7 PM at St. Mary's, Hockessin
Coffee Run Room

Changes in times and venues are e-mailed by the Navigator



ASSEMBLY 150 S.K. OFFICERS 2024-2025

John Bordonaro	Navigator
Frank Campbell	Captain
Rev. Christopher Hanley	Friar
Ralph Paulus	Comptroller
Robert J. Kerrigan	Admiral
James R. Metz	Pilot
Joseph E. Koskol	Scribe
Michael Handlin	Purser
Lewis E. Shumaker	Inner Sentinel
John J. Mayberry	Outer Sentinel
Gerald L. Safranski	1 Yr. Trustee
Frank R. Strawser	2 Yr. Trustee
Lawrence B. Maguire	3 Yr. Trustee
Frank Campbell	CC Commander
Michael Handlin	-----VA Affairs
Newsletter Editor	Robert E. Zeigler
Co-Editor	Michael Handlin

THIRD DEGREE AFFILIATED COUNCILS

- 3751 Blessed Sacrament / Corpus Christi
- 4548 St. Michaels / Holy Family / Newark
- 6768 Coffee Run / St. Mary's / Assumption
- 11384 San Pablo / St. Paul's / Wilmington
- 11469 Our Lady of Fatima / New Castle
- 11796 St. John The Beloved / Milltown
- 12104 Holy Angels / St. John's / Newark
- 12842 St. David's / St. Margaret of Scotland



Some words from the Editor

There have been three losses to this Assembly and the community of Christians...but Heaven has gained ultimately.

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S.K. Michael Handlin lost his son, S.K. Joseph Handlin, in a tragic accident.

S.K. Edward Ted Godsell, who was in long term fragile health.

S.K. Thomas D. Green, FN, who succumbed to cancer.

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These souls have been released from earthly bounds and have been taken by their Creator to be with Him and all the other faithful departed and now enjoy eternal rest.

Family, loved ones, friends and others remaining behind will surely miss them. This can be painful. The Scriptures refer to this "vale of tears". We remaining souls must remain steadfast and supportive in any way to each other as we mourn. But above this, we must not lose sight of that eternal peace as promised by Jesus Christ and that everlasting peace is a never ending reward for those souls who practiced faith, hope and charity and thus fulfilled the Will Of God as given by the Ten Commandments / The Old Testament and New Testament.

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PRAYERS ARE REALLY NEEDED FOR ALL AND MORE IN THIS TEXT BLOCK

- ◆ POPE FRANCIS, OUR BISHOP, OUR PRIESTS, DEACONS, BROTHERS, SISTERS, LAY MINISTERS, SEMINARIANS, TEACHERS AND ALL THOSE WHO LABOR IN THE NAME OF CHRISTIANITY.
- ◆ THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES, BOTH LIVING AND DECEASED, PEACE OFFICERS, EMT'S, FIREMEN AND LADIES AND....THEIR FAMILIES, BOTH LIVING AND GONE.
- ◆ ALL THE SICK AND DISABLED AND ANY OTHER AFFLICTED BY DISEASE
- ◆ PRAY FOR ALL THOSE MISLEAD BY HATRED, RUMORS, LIES AND INNUENDO
- ◆ PRAY FOR ALL EXPECTANT MOTHERS THAT THEY WILL DELIVER THEIR CHILDREN AS GOD'S CREATION
- ◆ PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS IN THE MID-EAST AND EVERYWHERE AND THE END TO WAR IN THE UKRAINE PRAY FOR PEACE IN ISRAEL

Play me a Melody

Musical Outreach opportunity



Listening to the tinkle of the ivory keys, or the sound of an acoustic guitar has been known to have a song in your heart or your foot tapping to a song. Imagine for just a second how it might help a veteran waiting at the VAMC for that appointment.

The Veterans Administration Medical Center, (VAMC) in Wilmington on Kirkwood Highway is looking for individuals, men, or women, students too, who play piano or guitar, who will sit at the piano or bring their guitar and just play music in the mornings at VA maybe for an hour in the mornings Mondays thru Fridays. Are you willing to play for the greatest audience ever, our Veterans! Jim Coty is looking for you! Piano players, guitar players are needed in the mornings to play for veterans, as the veterans wait for their appointments or interviews.

You do not need to be a concert pianist or play First Chair in an orchestra. Just be willing!

If you have the skills, join volunteers who give of their time for our veterans. Be a sounding board for this idea, spread the word, please.

Contact Jim Coty at the VA, room 189, phone >>302-994-2511 Ext. 4545.

NOTE: The November Edition of "Columbia" has a wonderful series on Veterans



Programs needing support at the VA in Elsmere DE

- ◆ **Food Pantry** This is a year-old program helping Veterans with food and nutritional issues. The VA has opened a Food Pantry Outreach program. The FOOD PANTRY needs constant support from SPAM to food for diabetics-low sugar.
- ◆ **Patient lounge** The Patient Lounge offers veterans a place to get a FREE cup of coffee or tea or water or hot chocolate. For the drink to be free, donations are needed: FOLGERS reg-grind or decaf coffee, tea bags both reg and decaf, 8-ounce bottle of water, Swiss Mix packets of hot chocolate.
- ◆ **Gift Cards** Thanksgiving Gift Card Program. Groups are asked to donate Supermarket gift cards including Walmart, so struggling Veterans can catch a break on the cost of a Thanksgiving dinner. Usually, 145 veterans are given assistance. The VA hopes to give each veteran \$50 this year- dinners are not cheap.
- ◆ **Musicians** A call for piano players and guitar players. It is a well-known fact that music can calm individuals. The VA is looking for piano and guitar players to play music in the morning at the VA in the grand lobby. You do not need to be FIRST CHAIR, just willing. The audience is the best in the world.
- ◆ **Lunch or dinner program** Could your group sponsor one lunch for the veterans in the CLC-VA Nursing home. There are 40 residents that love the opportunity to get lunch or dinner from a restaurant and not the VA services. Restaurants, such as, Olive Garden, CHICK-fil-A, and others know the routine. Cost runs about \$500 depending.

If you or your group can participate in any of the above programs or have questions, please contact *James A. Coty, Service Chief*

VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE)

Wilmington VA Medical Center, Room 189

(302) 994-2511, ext. 4545

2024, Second Saturday, 1:30 PM—ELSMERE VA CLC BINGO SCHEDULE FOR THE ASSEMBLIES



JULY	13	ARCHBISHOP FITZMAURICE
AUGUST	10	CARDINAL GIBBONS
SEPTEMBER	14	BISHOP MARDAGA
OCTOBER	12	ARCHBISHOP FITZMAURICE
NOVEMBER	9	CARDINAL GIBBONS
DECEMBER	14	BISHOP MARDAGA



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED EVERY WHERE IN THE VA MEDICAL CENTER



There is no mission more noble than serving Veterans and their families. At the Wilmington Veterans Affairs Medical Center, we constantly strive to improve the way we do our job, we need the help of Volunteers to succeed.

Volunteers provide many important functions throughout the medical center. Volunteers can perform a number of services where talents are closely matched with one of our many assignments.

The suggested minimum volunteer time is only 4 hours per week. Volunteers are needed to:

- ◆ · Volunteer to play the piano or guitar in the mornings in the main lobby for just one hour
- ◆ · Volunteer as Patient Escorts
- ◆ · Volunteer as VA Ambassadors and greet Veterans and their families
- ◆ · Volunteer in the Patient Lounge
- ◆ · Volunteer in the CLC Nursing Home
- ◆ · Volunteer as a driver locally or statewide
- ◆ · Volunteer in the pharmacy
- ◆ · Volunteer to assist at daily or weekend Mass
- ◆ · VOLUNTEER TO VOLUNTEER!



To learn more about Volunteering at the VA, go to www.wilmington.va.gov/giving/index.asp To register as a Volunteer, fill out VA Form 10-7055 Application for Voluntary Service and click on the "Submit by E-mail" button to send it directly to our Voluntary Service by mail at: Voluntary Services, c/w Wilmington VA Medical Center, Attn. James Coty, Chief of CD&CE, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy., Wilmington, DE 19805.

We will be happy to receive your application and discuss how you can help us in our mission to provide comfort and care to America's Veterans.





Meet the 700-pound pig who raised \$19 million for the Navy in WWII

King Neptune, the porcine celebrity, selflessly auctioned portions of himself to raise funds for war bonds. (Eric Smith) Move over Wilber, there's a new pig in town.

Sure, you got Charlotte to weave a web of lies to save your life, but Parker Neptune, later dubbed King Neptune, did it the hard way — by raising so much money for the U.S. Navy during World War II that naval officials had no choice but to spare him from his fate on a barbecue spit.

Born in 1942 on the Boner family farm in West Frankfort, Illinois, the Hereford swine caught the attention of a young Patty Boner, who picked the young King Neptune to raise for her local 4-H Club. It was there that this porker took a patriotic turn. After the fair, the animal was donated to Don Lingle, a naval recruiter in the nearby town of Marion. With wartime rationing, pork was a precious commodity and Lingle hit upon the idea of auctioning up portions of the piglet for a Navy fundraising dinner.

The story might have ended there if Lingle wasn't hampered by his conscience and the doe-eyed sweetness of the young Neptune. According to Atlas Obscura, Lingle found that he couldn't muster the will to slaughter the pig — describing him in a later interview as “an innocent-looking thing.”

Despite being safe from slaughter, King Neptune was put to good use when the recruiter joined with local auctioneer, L. Oard Sitter. According to Stu Fliege, vice president of the Illinois Historical Society, the pair hatched the ingenious plan of using the Hereford swine to raise funds for the floundering USS Illinois battleship. “On a whim, he draped the pig with a Navy Blue blanket,” wrote Atlas Obscura. “Maybe it was the blanket, or maybe it was the look in his eyes, but bits of Neptune began flying off the stage.”

A hundred dollars went for a leg, \$300 for a shoulder. Even his squeal was sold for \$25. By the end of the auction, King Neptune had raised a whopping \$11,200. No one demanded their pound of flesh, rather, they happily headed home with a war bond.

The event a smashing hit, Lingle decided to take King Neptune on the road, and as rumors of the pig's lore spread so too did peoples' wallets. By his third appearance, King Neptune was drawing in the likes of \$50,000 in bonds, with Illinois Gov. Dwight Green even “buying” King Neptune for \$1 million in the name of patriotism. By war's end, King Neptune had brought in over \$19 million for the Navy — roughly \$320 million today.

Originally slated to be a Montana-class battleship, the vessel rapidly underwent a redesign — to the tune of \$125 million — to be fitted as a faster Iowa-class variant. Unfortunately, despite being a prodigious fundraiser, only 22 percent of the USS Illinois had been completed by 1945. Its plans were soon scrapped.

The rotund Neptune was by then rounding out to about 700 pounds. Fearing the porcine celebrity would make a very large snack for someone, Lingle took the pig to southern Illinois to live at the farm of Ernest Goddard.

“The hog was so fat, the fat had covered his eyes to where they were just little slits, so he couldn't see where he was going,” Jim Goddard, the grandson of Ernest, told NPR. “So, they would take their cane and tap him on the left shoulder and he'd turn to the right and vice versa. That's how they guided him around.” The original resting place of King Neptune. (Naval History and Heritage Command)

King Neptune continued to live like royalty for another four years on the Goddard farm before contracting pneumonia just shy of his eighth birthday in 1950.

He was given a military funeral and buried just outside of the town Anna, Illinois, under a headstone noting the pig's efforts "to help make a free world."



The pig was eventually moved after his gravestone was vandalized and plans for a highway interrupted his long sleep. He now resides in the shade of oak boughs at the Trail of Tears Welcome Center on northbound I-57, according to the U.S. Naval Institute.

THIS ARTICLE CONTRIBUTED BY S.K. MICHAEL HANDLIN, PURSER

OF LATE REPORT——JUNE 18, 2024

ANOTHER SIR KNIGHT HAS JOINED ASSEMBLY 150

HIS NAME IS: CARL CLOSS

HE WILL BE ADDED TO THE NEWSLETTER MAIL

SO....APEND PAGE 10 OF THIS NEWSLETTER

WILLKOMEN !

INFLATION ? NOSTALGIA ? SIMPLE TIMES ? AFFORDABLE ?

June 21, 1952 My Quarterly non-joke break !!

The downtown hotel pictured below had upscale / fine dining and rooms rented for 5.00 a night.

Top-of-the-line lobster / steak dinners---\$2.75, ...silverware and linen, 5 restaurants.

Those were the days!!! We ate there and roomed there in 1980. A lot of readers were not born then, however a little history won't hurt!

Here is a sample of drinks and desserts:

<u>Dinner desserts</u>		<u>Al la Carte Desserts</u>	
Blueberry Pie	.20	Blueberries & Crème	.35
Shoo-Fly Pie	.20	Watermelon	.25
Dutch Schnitz Pie	.20	Strawberries & Crème	.35
Banana Crème Pie	.20	Cantaloupe a la mode	.45
Chocolate Sundae	.30		
Cheese & Crackers	.30	<u>After Dinner Cordials</u>	
Crushed Cherry Sundae	.30	Crème de Menth Frappe	.60
Cherry Tart	.20	D.O.M. Benedictine	.80
Chocolate Éclair	.20		
Fruit Jello	.20	<u>Fountain Drinks & refill</u>	
Ice Cream [2 dips]	.15	Root Beer	.10
PA Dutch Cheeses &		Coke	.10
Saltines	.30	Lime Rickey	.15
Schmierkaes	.30	Ice Cream Soda	.20
Kuppli Kaes	.30	Milk Shakes	.25
Schweitzer Kaes	.30	Orangeade	.20
Pineapple Sherbert	.15	Lemonade	.20
Fudge Cake	.20	Hot Chocolate	.15
Lebkuichen	.20		
Apricots & Syrup	.20		
A grapefruit	.20		
Puddings All	.20		



VETERAN OF THE MONTH. FROM THE MAY EDITION OF THE VFW MAGAZINE

For more than 70 years, Quentin Stambaugh saved his letters in a potato chip can. Here is a sample.....

The World War II veteran had written them to his family back home while serving in the Pacific. Home was in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania, where he was one of eight children born to Jessie and Mabel. In 1944, Stambaugh was a 20-year-old radioman and gunner on a B-52. In February, 2024, he celebrated his 100th birthday. In the days and months that followed, Stambaugh was widely recognized, including by his VFW Post and the Pennsylvania House and Senate; by his side for each of these events was Tara Wenzel, a Life Member of Auxiliary 5265, and a friend.

Wenzel met Stambaugh a few years back through a mutual friend, Mary Morgan, and they "clicked right away." She and her husband began spending time with Stambaugh and Morgan, and it was his involvement with the VFW that inspired Wenzel to join the Auxiliary. She joined under her grandfather, who, as she learned while researching her eligibility, was on a ship patrolling the waters off Japan within sight of the *USS Missouri* when the surrender was signed.

A longtime fan of history and historical record-keeping who has studied World War II leaders Winston Churchill and Dwight Eisenhower, Wenzel told Stambaugh of the memories he put on paper, "We really need to document this."

She has been helping him to do exactly that ever since, organizing the letters into binders and asking many questions about the places he'd gone and the people he'd known. This turned into a memoir-writing project, and in addition to listening to Stambaugh share his stories, Wenzel has been thoroughly researching, not only confirming the details of many of Stambaugh's 39 combat missions, each of which he detailed in what she calls his "little black book," but to find information about some of those Stambaugh knew and lost touch with. This includes a friend confirmed killed in action, and a local boy thought to have died in Hawaii only to learn that the Pearl Harbor survivor had actually been shot down later, over the Bering Sea. She also helps Stambaugh sort through photographs, which include not only Stambaugh and his crew, but pictures he took during missions, including at least one of a Japanese ship he hit from his plane. "Once a week we got together... and we'd go letter by letter and I'd say 'Who is this person?' 'What did you mean by that statement?'" says Wenzel. "I originally thought (the memoir) would be more about this time in the Pacific, but... what these letters painted was what life was like for the families waiting back home."

Prior to his service, Stambaugh had never been out of Jackson Township. He went to a one-room school house, then hitchhiked every day to get to the high school, from which only he and one sibling graduated. After, he worked in an auto parts store, then started working for a company making Navy aircraft. The first time his draft number came up, he received a deferment as he was already working a defense job. The second time, he was ready to serve. Stambaugh soon decided he "would rather fly out than walk out," to quote the man who owned the local airport, and began training as a pilot in the Army Air Corps. He was assigned to a crew of young men with whom he would become friends. They were all sent to Hawaii together, but before they could be deployed, Stambaugh fell ill. He was in the hospital for weeks, from around Thanksgiving to Christmas, during which time he sent letters to his crewmates who'd been sent on ahead. When he was finally well enough to be sent overseas, he hoped to meet up with them again. Buut his last letter was returned, marked deceased.

"He tells his youngest sister in one of the letters, 'I've got some sad news,'" says Wenzel. His entire crew, each of his friends, had been killed, leaving Stambaugh with only the saved letters, black and white photographs and his memories. "He'd had a lot of loss," Wenzel continues. One of his friends was brutally murdered in a prisoner of war camp just after the Japanese surrendered, and nearly seven decades later, his grandson, Cameron, was killed by an TED in Afghanistan. The Private First Class was only 20 years old, about the same age Stambaugh was when wounded during his final mission.

When Wenzel nominated Stambaugh for the "My Veteran" feature, she did not list his hardships, or even much about his exemplary military service and medals. Her focus was primarily on the type of person he is.

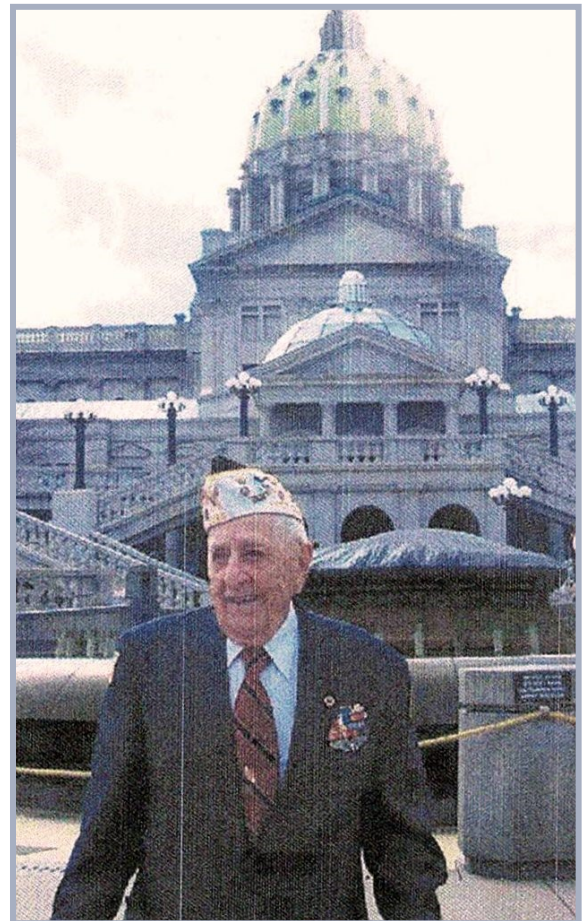
"After serving in the military, he returned home and continued to serve his community by being a magistrate and senior judge until mandatory retirement at age 80 (during which he) "helped those brought before him to get on the right track," according to Wenzel. Additionally, Stambaugh "plants a sizeable garden each year and shares his harvest." Stambaugh tends to both flowers, most notably his beautiful canna lilies, and food, including tomatoes, some of which he cans to turn into delicious sauce, and cabbage. "My husband and I were the beneficiaries of some wonderful homemade sauerkraut that he made."

VFW Post 5265 honored Stambaugh with his VFW Silver and Gold Legacy Life Membership at his 100th birthday party, while both the House and Senate welcomed him with detailed introductions and standing ovations. These celebrations were overwhelming to witness, but also well-deserved. Wenzel is currently trying to help Stambaugh get his Purple Heart, and they are about one chapter away from finishing the first draft of his memoir, which will help to keep Stambaugh's story and the memories of his crewmates alive long after the last veteran of World War II has passed.

Says Wenzel, "He is a wonderful, wonderful man."



US ARMY AIR FORCE [THEN NAMED]



Cardinal Gibbons Assembly is proud to welcome 7 new Sir Knights to the Assembly and the Fourth Degree.

On April 20, 2024, an exemplification of 16 new Sir Knights was held at St Mary of The Assumption church in Hockessin. Of the 16, we are proud to have the following join our Assembly 150. Here are the new members and a little bit about them.



SK Ritchie Molaison is a member of the St John the Beloved Council and is their reigning Knight of the Year. He is an active umpire for the youth sports leagues in the region. He was sponsored by our Scribe.

SK Carl Osterlof is the current DGK and is in line to become GK at the Coffee Run Council. SK Carl is a second generation Knight and his father was a Marshall in New Jersey. Carl helps out with the managing of several events at Coffee Run including the Golf Outing and Fish Fry.

SK Pete Seely is a member of the Coffee Run Council and has been very active in helping in a wide range of activities and he is the main fire marshal at the parish bonfires. He is very active in the Hockessin area and serves on a variety of volunteer boards including the Hockessin Historical Society.

SK Pat Bayuk is a retired Marine and leads the Coffee Run Council Faith Committee. He has been a Knight for many years, joining while still in active-duty service. Pat is one of the oven masters during the fish fry.

SK Mike Greendon is also a retired Marine. He is a long-term parishioner at St Mary's and is active in Fish Frys learning the serving line.

S.K. Keith Dill admitted May 25, 2024...late announcement

We are also welcoming **SK Frank Beeby** to the Assembly. He is **transferring** in from Florida. He has jumped in and become a valuable resource in his short time at Coffee Run and we look forward to him helping our Assembly and our activities.

NOTE : REGARDING LEFT SIDE PHOTO ABOVE

From the Editor at Council 7990, Mother Seton: Former Regalia...The visit of Cardinal Archbishop Christian Wiyghan Tumi to the Parish and the K of C.

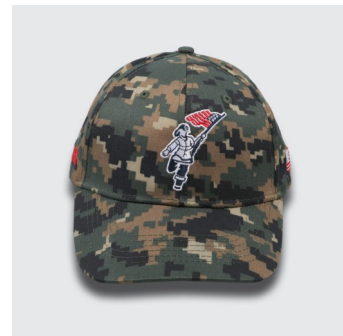
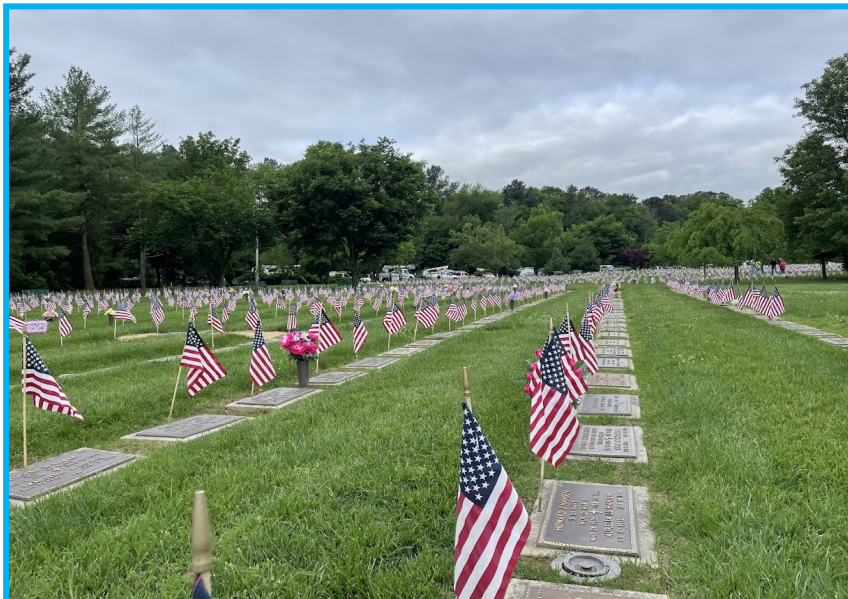
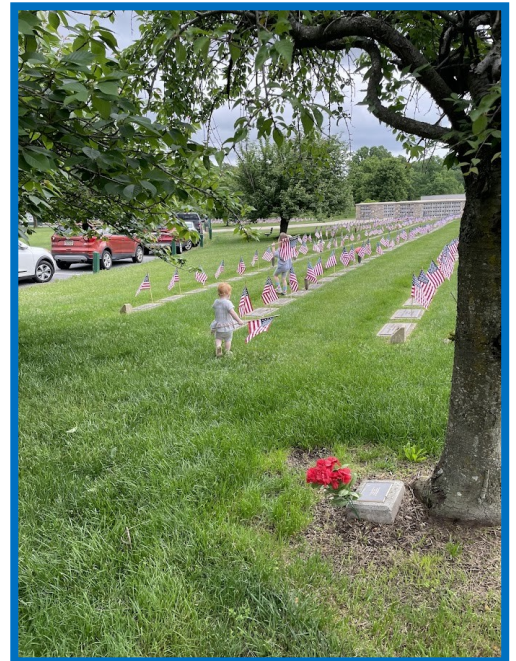




**VETERAN'S CEMETERY AT BEAR DE
17 MAY, 2024**

**YOU MAY KNOW THE S.K. ON THE RIGHT SIDE...
HEAD OF THE K OF C "FAMILY OF THE YEAR"**

**THIS LOCATION, ONE OF MANY THROUGHOUT THE USA; IS THE
RESTING PLACE FOR THE REMAINS OF THOSE, REMEMBERED AND
EVEN FORGOTTEN WHO GAVE THEIR ALL FOR THIS NATION.
THEIR SOULS ARE NOT HERE, BUT WITH OUR DEAR LORD WHO
GAVE THEM EARTHLY LIFE. HE CALLED THEM TO SERVE THE REST
OF MANKIND AND AT HIS CHOOSING, CALLED THEM BACK TO HIS
PARADISE. THEY DO REST IN PEACE!**



SEE PAGE 13 ALSO



