The Memorial City
Grafton
West Virginia
Welcomes you to the 155th West Virginia Memorial Day Parade

We thank each of our service men, women, and families for their heroic sacrifices as they fought and continue to fight for our freedom

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Vice Mayor-Karen L Willis
Councilman-Peggy Knotts Barney
Councilman-Phillip R McDaniel
Councilman-Earl C Bartlett
City Manager-Kevin M Stead
City Clerk-Larry M Richman
Public Works Director-Jason R. Setler
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Albert "Butch" Charleton
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Robert W Beltner
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Remember Our Heroes - Past, Present and Future

155th Annual Memorial Day Celebrations

West Virginia's National Cemeteries

May 29 & 30, 2022

West Virginia's Official Memorial Day Parade

Memorial City Post #3081 VFW

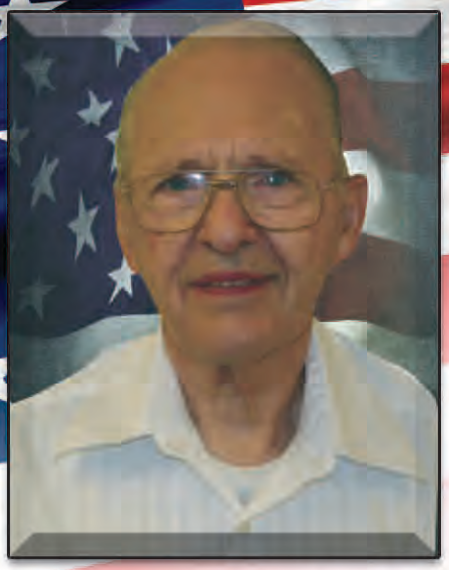
Taylor County Post #12 American Legion

West Virginia Division of Veterans Assistance

Disabled American Veterans

West Virginia Memorial Day Committee, Inc.

City of Grafton Taylor County Commission



G Thomas Bartlett III
Colonel (Retired) U.S. Army ~ Parade Marshall

G Thomas Bartlett III graduated from Grafton High School in 1954. He attended Potomac State College and West Virginia University. Mr. Bartlett received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering in June of 1960. At that same time, Mr. Bartlett was commissioned as Second Lieutenant, Ordinance Corps with the West Virginia University ROTC. He continued his more than thirty-year military career and was placed in standby reserve status in February of 1990. He served on active duty at Aberdeen Proving Ground MD beginning in June of 1961. Mr. Bartlett was promoted to Colonel U S Army Reserve Chemical Corps in December of 1985. In January of 1990 in recognition for sustained exceptional service as CBR Officer, FEMA and Commander, 143rd IMAD Colonel Bartlett was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. Bartlett was also awarded the Army Commendation Medal in 1985 and the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service in 1991.

Here in Grafton, in October of 1999 through August of 2004 G Thomas Bartlett was appointed and served on the Board of Directors of the Grafton City Hospital. In November of 2002 he was elected to serve on the Grafton City Council and in 2004 elected and proudly served as Mayor of the City of Grafton until 2018. He is presently a member of the Grafton Rotary Club and Taylor County Camp of Gideons, International where he serves as President. Mr. Bartlett also serves as Chair of the Local Emergency Planning Committee, as well as a consultant to the Taylor County Office of Emergency Services for emergency preparedness.

The West Virginia Memorial Day Committee, Inc. proudly recognizes G Thomas Bartlett III for his years of service to his country and his continued commitment to this community.



Milton Edward "Pete" Moore Jr.

Seven hundred and sixty miles round trip is the distance Pete and his wife, Pattie, would drive every May to return home for this Memorial Day Parade. Six hours and twenty-seven minutes is the amount of time it takes to drive to Grafton, WV from Charlotte, NC where Pete and Pattie lived. Although the older you get, the harder that drive is to make. This retired Navy Lt. and his wife faithfully made this drive every year until 2019 when his health started to decline. Despite his health issues, my grandpa made it a point to stand for the national anthem every time it was played and to salute the flag, while on his feet, every time the colors passed him by. The honor he had to say he served our country is something he was always proud of. He LOVED America. At the parade, if he couldn't stand on his own, he would stand with support of others, support of a walker, or support of a cane... but he ALWAYS stood up to respect our country in any way necessary. His patriotism comes from a generation of grit, God, and country. They aren't made like this anymore. When I heard my grandpa was being honored with this award, I was brought to tears. He is a humble man, but hard work and dedication have always taken him to worthwhile places.

Pete was many things to each of us, a husband, a father, a brother, a grandfather, great-grandfather, a great-great-grandfather, a cousin, or perhaps just a friend; whichever he was to you, he is someone who is truly missed. He came from very humble beginnings as a young boy born in the small town of Grafton, WV. He grew up poor, was from a broken home and at different times of his life was raised by his aunt and by his grandmother

Due to his humble upbringing, he learned the value of work at an early age and had numerous jobs as a boy and a teenager. Some of those included: a shoe shine boy; a job he said people looked down upon like you were a servant, but he didn't care saying it was work and he was earning money. He was an elevator operator and bellhop in a hotel. He worked in a local theatre where he enjoyed collecting movie posters and being one of the boys who got to change the wording on the marquee. He even had a job once cleaning the streets of his town, Grafton, WV.

At one point in his life, around the age of sixteen, he had already dropped out of school. When one day his Aunt Ruth came home after a long day of work and found him lying around watching tv in her living room. As he told it in nicer words, "She exercised some tough love and quickly set him straight" telling him there's no way she was going to work and support him while he sat around doing nothing. Soon after that, he got a job in a bakery and thought about making that his career. However, he has said that when he was young, he would see airline planes fly over and always wondered who was on that plane and where in the world they were off to. He said, "He wished he could also be on one of those planes". As a young boy, little did he know he would end up seeing many parts of the world too. At eighteen, he joined the military where he would spend the next twenty-two years of his life. Rising from a private in the Marine Corps to retiring as a Lieutenant in the Navy, his military career took him overseas to places like Japan, Cyprus, Morocco and numerous ports around the world while serving on ships. He would travel the United States while being stationed in California, Florida, Maine and finally Virginia.

As he started his military career, he also started his family and would help raise five children with his wife, Kay. Not having a steady family growing up he was a proud father, the disciplinarian of the family, when their children were young Kay would often say, "Wait until your father gets home", he was firm, but fair and always there for advice and fatherly love.

After retiring from the military and settling in Northern Virginia, he would start a civilian career working for different defense contracting firms. It's here that he and Kay would work and continue to raise their children, watch them all grow up, and it's here they would become grandparents too. He would continue to work until his wife became ill, retiring only because he needed to care for her, which he did until her passing in 2004.

He would later marry his second wife, Pattie, and move to Charlotte, NC where they would spend the next sixteen years enjoying retirement life and traveling to visit family and friends. Always coming back to the little town of Grafton, WV spending many Memorial Days there.

He loved his family. He was proud of his family. He loved his friends. He loved his country. He was a strong believer in the Constitution and what this country stood for. As the hat he often wore said, he was an "American Patriot". A man who overcame a rough childhood, who in eighty-one years of life, saw the world, served his country honorably, and helped raise a wonderful family... Not bad for a little poor boy from the mountains of Grafton, West Virginia.



IN MEMORY
Delmer Ray Hershman
July 27, 1941 – March 14, 2022

You might remember Delmer for his many years pulling the Caisson of the Unknown Soldier in this parade. He never knew a stranger and loved talking to people. Delmer served as the business manager for the Laborers Local Union # 379 in Morgantown. He was a member of the Evansville United Methodist Church, Aurora Lodge #43 A.F., and Masonic Lodge in Newburg. He was a life member Knights of Pythias, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2345, Tunnelton, and President of the WV Draft Horse and Mule Association

In addition to the WV Memorial Day Parade, Delmer attended the Strawberry Festival Parade and Buckwheat Festival as well as many other events in the area. Delmer leaves behind his wife of fifty plus years, Carol, and his children: Chad and Robyn, Jason and Becky and Tasha Hamilton. He is also survived by many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The West Virginia Memorial Day Committee wishes to recognize Delmer for his many years of dedicated service to his country and to this parade. Delmer will be missed.





Colonel Retired US Army Douglas L Flohr

Colonel (Retired) Douglas L. Flohr was raised in Grafton, West Virginia, the oldest son of Samuel and Wanda Flohr. He was commissioned in the Infantry upon graduation from West Virginia University in 1986. His first assignment was to the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment (MANCHU), 6th Infantry Division, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, as a Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer and Battalion Adjutant.

Following the Armor Officer Advanced Course in 1990, Colonel Flohr served as the Assistant S3 in the1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado. From 1991-1992 he served as the Company Commander for E Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, and from 1992-1993 he served as the Commander of the Long-Range Surveillance Detachment (LRSD), 104th Military Intelligence Battalion.

From 1993-1996, Colonel Flohr served as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at West Virginia University. Following this assignment, he served as an Observer Controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, Louisiana, 1996-1998. In 1998, Colonel Flohr attended the United States Command and General College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Upon graduation he was assigned to the Ranger Training Brigade at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he served as both Battalion and Brigade S3 Operations Officer.

From 2001-2003, Colonel Flohr served in the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia, as the Regimental Plans and Liaison Officer. In 2003, he commanded the 5th Ranger Training Battalion (Mountain Phase) in Dahlonega, Georgia. In 2005-2007, he served as the Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. Following attendance at the United States Army War College (2007-2008), Colonel Flohr commanded the Ranger Training Brigade at Fort Benning, Georgia. During his last deployment to Iraq, he served as the military advisor to the Commander of the Iraqi Ground Forces Command (IGFC).

Colonel Flohr's education includes both a Bachelor of Art's degree in History and a Master of Arts degree in Education from West Virginia University. He also holds a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. His awards and decorations include The Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Legion of Merit (2nd Award), Bronze Star Medal (2nd Award), Meritorious Service Medal (8th Award), Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (6th Award), National Defense Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (6th Award), Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Canadian Parachutist Badge, German Armed Forces Parachutist Badge Gold, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Colonel Flohr has been married to the former Christina Boyce, also of Grafton, West Virginia, for the past thirty-five years. Christina is a Registered Nurse. Their daughter Dr. Rhianna Flohr is married to Patrick Thompson, and lives in Washington, D.C. Their oldest son, MAJ Samuel Flohr is married to the former Courtney DeWitt, and is currently serving at Fort Benning, Georgia. Their youngest son 2LT Benjamin Flohr currently serves with the West Virginia National Guard. Colonel and Mrs. Flohr have five grandchildren: Jackson, Wesley, Adeline, Atticus, and Elora.



Jeff Elkins
Department of West Virginia VFW Commander
Sunday Speaker

Jeff Elkins is a native of Jackson County where he attended and graduated from Ravenswood High School in 1977. He enlisted in the US Navy December 1976 on the Delayed Entry Program, and after High School graduation, entered Naval Recruit Training in Great Lakes, IL on June 23, 1977.

His first duty station was on board the USS COONTZ DDG40 in Norfolk, VA as a Deck Seaman. He went on to serve over the next 30 years at various duty stations to include: Quartermaster "A" School, Orlando, FL; NAS Key West Security Dept; USS Dwight D. Eisenhower CVN69; Navy Security Force School; NAS Dallas, TX Security Dept; Dallas County, TX Sheriff's Academy; USS Deyo DD989; USS Frank Cable AS40; NAS Oceana Virginia Beach Security Dept; Naval Corrections Academy; USS Carl Vinson CVN70; Enlisted Placement Management Center, New Orleans, LA; Naval Station Pearl Harbor, HI Security; Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion, GITMO, Cuba; and Navy Personnel Command Pers 4013 Millington, TN. He retired in December 2008 with 30 years of service as a Master Chief Master-At-Arms.

Master Chief Elkins is a Veterans of Foreign Wars Gold Legacy Life Member of Jackson County Post 6669 in Ravenswood, WV. Additionally, he is the 1st Vice Commander of American Legion Post 107 in Ripley, WV, Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children, member of the Jackson County Honor Guard, and current Committee Member for the Jackson County Hunting Heroes in Ripley, WV.

Master Chief Elkins is a VFW All-American District Commander; 2 time VFW All-State District Commander; 3 time VFW All-State Post Commander; State Surgeon, State Junior Vice Commander, State Senior Vice Commander, and is currently serving as the VFW Department of WV State Commander.

Master Chief Elkins currently resides in Wood County just outside of Parkersburg, WV.



Cindy Dolly
Department of West Virginia VFW Auxiliary President 2021-2022

Cindy Dolly of Wardensville WV was elected to the office of Department President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Auxiliary at the State Convention in June of 2021.

A Life Member of Capon Post 2102 in Wardensville, WV, I joined under the eligibility of my step-grandfather, Cletis O. Dolly, who served in the U. S. Army during World War II.

I have served as the president of Post 2102 Auxiliary for more than 13 years. I also served as District 4 president for about 6 years. I have also held the position of Department Guard, Chaplin, Jr. Vice President and Sr. Vice President. I am now honored to be serving as Department President.

I am employed at E. A. Hawse Health Center in Baker, WV and have been employed there for over 31 years. I serve the health center's patients as a Community Outreach Coordinator and Pharmacy Technician. This job has given me great opportunities to help veterans, their families and our communities in over 3 counties.

I was a registered Emergency Medical Technician from 1985 to 2021 and volunteered with the Wardensville Volunteer Rescue Squad.

I am the proud mother of two young men, Terry Rudolph and Christopher Rudolph.

In my spare time I like helping others.

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Scott Bitner
VFW Grafton Memorial Post 3081 Commander

Scott Bitner of Grafton, West Virginia became Commander of Memorial City Post 3081 in June of 2019.

Scott joined the Navy on October 13, 1981, he graduated from the Great Lakes in November 1981 and was stationed on his first ship, the USS San Diego – AFS6. During his Naval career, he was stationed on several sea going commands, 1 shore duty, and retired from the USS ElRod –FFG55. Scott spent two & half years in Sardinia, Italy with the USS Orion. He was deployed during several conflicts including Desert Storm, Desert Shield, and Kuwait.

He earned the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, SW Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Nato Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, and several other medals and commendations.

Scott joined the VFW in 2005 and became a Life Member in 2014. He is a Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children and a Member of the American Legion Post 12 in Grafton, West Virginia. Scott is also a member of the BUMC.

Scott is originally from Summerdale, PA, but moved to Grafton after retiring from the Navy in 2001.

Brenda Thompson
VFW Auxiliary District President &
Grafton Memorial City Post 3081 Auxiliary President



Brenda is the daughter of the late John Nery a World War II Veteran and life member of VFW Post 573 Clarksburg.
Brenda also serves the VFW Auxiliary Department of West Virginia as president of District Three and liaison to West Virginia Veterans Nursing Home.
Brenda is a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist . She is active in the community. She served on City of Grafton City Council for eight years. Serving as Vice Mayor for four years. She is currently serving as as member of the Grafton Taylor County Library Board. Brenda is also a member of the Grafton Rotary Club.
Brenda wants to welcome all of you to Grafton. Enjoy the Memorial Day Weekend!



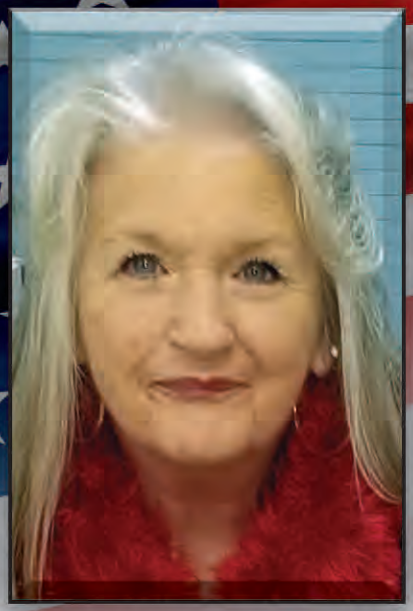
William Haught
American Legion Department of WV Commander

I was born and raised in Follansbee in Brooke County. I have lived here all my life and attened public school graduating in 1968 from Follansbee High School. I attened West Liberty College for one year then joined the Navy in June 1969. After boot camp I served on the USS Hank (DD 702). Then it was Washington, DC for further assignment. I had to take a complete physical and the eye doctor said I couldn't stay because of a birth defect in my eyes. I was honorably discharged from active duty in August of 1970.

When I got back home, I got a job at Weirton Steel Corporation until I retired with 30 years of service in 2001. I also served as the Chief of Police from 1977-1979. Then I joined the Brooke County Ambulance Service as a CPR/First Aid driver. I retired from there in 2006 after 26 years as a National Registry EMT/Paramedic. I also taught the different aspects of emergency medicine after completing class at WVNCC and WVU.

My dad signed me up as a member and I held many offices in our Post, including Adjutant when my dad was the Post Commander in 1984-1985.I was elected Commander in June 2015 until July 2021. I served 8 years as the First District Adjutant and gave that up this year to become Department Commander.
My goal for my term in office is to bring our Posts and Districts up to 100%.

The COVID pandemic has hurt our membership. Now is the time to Begin working on getting our membership back up a lot higher than what it has been the last 2 years. The Department membership term, myself included, District Commanders, Vice Commanders, and Post membership teams need to get on the ball and get our members signed up. I have a challenge. 100% in 100 days. This starts October 1st until December 31st. Do 'Buddy Checks", phone calls, visits and make sure everyone has a blank membership application. My department membership team and myself will be checking how you're doing and if you need help!



Cathy Darlene Post is the American Legion Auxiliary President for Department of West Virginia. She was elected in July 2021, serving until July 2022

Cathy is eligible under her husband Roger D. Post a Vietnam Veteran of the United States Navy. Cathy is a 13-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Cathy has held offices on the unit level serving as President two times, Treasurer and chaired several committees in Unit 67 and is currently on her fourth term as President of Tyler County Unit 48.

Cathy has served three terms as 4th District President, one term as District Vice and Chairman of Children and Youth.

She is the Past Department First Vice for the year 2019-2020-2021, is a Past Department Second Vice President and Chaplain, and served one year as the Americanism Chairman winning a Department award, Cathy was selected as the Senior Citizen of the year for Tyler County.

She is a paid Up for Life member of VFW Auxiliary Post 6327, serving as past Guard, Chaplain, Trustee of Investigating Committee and the Patriotic Chairman. A nine-year member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks Lodge #333 and has served two terms as Inner Guard and one term of Chaplain.

During her term as Department President, she has a Special Project of Gold Star Mothers Living Memorial and will dedicate this July 2,2022 in Middlebourne, WV. She has initiated the start of the American Legion Auxiliary Dept of WV link for Wreaths Across America for the National Cemetery in Grafton. Cathy's passion is Veterans, active military and Children. She chairs a Coats 4 Kids program in ALA Tyler County Unit 48, as well as the Veterans Christmas Tree in Middlebourne and assists Post 48 in flagging over 15 cemeteries for Memorial Day. She also was instrumental in reestablishing Memorial Day Services in her local town and oversees all fundraising for Unit 48. She participates in Tyler County Kids Camp teaching Americanism and flag etiquette.

Cathy has four children, including two sons serving in the United State Navy and one Son in Law a retired Major in the United States Air Force, two are members of Post 48 and two daughters both are members of Unit 48. She has 5 Grandchildren; two girls are members of Tyler County Unit 48 and one Great Granddaughter. Her Father was also a United State Army Veteran of WWII. She is a past EMT and Firefighter for Middlebourne Volunteer Fire Dept. Next to her family, Cathy dedicates her life to serving others.



Brian Gano
Sons of the American Legion Detachment of WV Commander

Brian Gano was elected Detachment Commander at the WV State Convention in Huntington, WV in July 2021. He has been a member of Squadron 14 in Martinsburg, WV for the past 12 years. He joined the SAL under his father, who was a member of the United States Army until his retirement.

Brian has held numerous offices in Squadron 14 as well as in the 10th District. He has held the positions of Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Vice Commander, and Commander of each level. At the Detachment level, he as been Chaplain, Vice Commander, and is the current Commander.

Helping the veterans is one of his passions and he also donates his time helping the American Legion Family, including as a member of the American Legion Riders. He is also a counselor at American Legion Boys State.

In addition to his dedication to the SAL and the American Legion Family, Brian is the devoted husband to his wife of 23 years, Mikki. Together, they are the parents of three sons- Scotty, Dylan, and Zackery and are excited to be the grandparents of Asher. When not volunteering his time, Brian enjoys the outdoors, hunting, and fishing.

Remembering Our Heroes: Past, Present & Future



Emaleigh Renee Watson is the 10-year-old daughter of Brad & Delma Witek and the granddaughter of Bob & Glenda Setler of Grafton, WV. She attends Anna Jarvis Elementary School where she is in the fourth grade.

She enjoys spending time with her sister, Raelynn, playing with her niece Evie and nephew Brantlee, and cooking. She loves going to church and telling others about Jesus. She enjoys hunting with her grandparents and loves horses.

Emaleigh was inspired to enter the Memorial Day Theme Contest because she comes from a very patriotic family, with a long line of veterans in it. She is very proud of her grandfather, who is a 28 ½ year career Navy veteran. Her Great Grandfather's, who were both veterans, as was her Great Uncle Ralph who was KIA in World War II. He was never brought home. She has several great uncles and a cousin wh.o are also veterans.

When asked how she felt about being selected as this year's winner, she responded with, "I'm proud to be an American, I'm proud of my military family and I'm proud to honor all our veterans."



DAVID L. "ROBBIE" ROBINSON
SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT (RETIRED)

Senior Master Sergeant Retired David L. Robinson was born 4 May 1959, Grafton, WV and is the son of James and Virginia Robinson. Sergeant Robinson is married to the former Jo A. Howard of Glen Burnie, MD.

Sergeant Robinson is a 1977 Graduate of Grafton High School. Prior to graduation, in April 1977, he enlisted in the United States Air Force under the delayed enlistment program. He reported to Lackland AFB, TX in September 1977 for Basic Military Training. Upon completion of Basic Military Training, he was assigned to Keesler AFB, MS for Technical Training as an Information Management Specialist.

Upon completion of technical training, he was assigned to the 6940th Electronic Security Wing, Ft Meade, MD, from November 1977 through September 1983. Then he moved overseas to Det 25 1945th Communication Group, Radio Relay Location, Federal Republic of Germany from September 1983 to April 1988. Returning to the States, he was assigned to the 42d Bombardment Wing, Loring AFB ME, where during Desert Shield and Desert Storm he supported two deployed operating locations. In May 1991, he was handpicked for a special duty assignment with Headquarters Air Force Element/Program Resource Office at Bolling AFB, Washington DC. In January 1998 he was requested, by name, to fill another special duty assignment with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and worked in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Office of the Deputy to the Under Secretary of Defense Policy Support, Special Advisory Staff at the Pentagon. Sergeant Robinson retired from the United States Air Force on 1 July 2001 at Bolling Air Force Base Washington DC, with honors. He is a graduate of Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Professional Military Education (PME) Courses, NCO PME I March 1980 and NCO PME II October 1981. He is also a graduate of the Electronic Security Command NCO Leadership School, March 1983, and the Military Airlift Command (East) NCO Academy, September 1989, where he won the Speech Award. He is also a graduate of the United States Air Force Senior NCO Academy, October 1997. Sergeant Robinson holds an Associates Degree in Information Management from the Community College of the Air Force. He continued to serve as the Veterans Affairs Officer, for the West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance, Martinsburg Field Office, Martinsburg WV. On September 1, 2019, he retired from state service and moved to his hometown Grafton, WV

Sergeant Robinson's honors and decorations include: Airman of the Month in August 1979; promoted to Senior Airman Below-the-Zone, March 1980; NCO of the Quarter, July-September 1982; Named Professional Performer by the Electronic Security Command and Air Force Communications Command Inspector General teams, NCO of the Quarter for all four quarters, 1984; NCO of the Year, 1984. NCO of the Quarter, September-December and of the year 1985; NCO of the Year for European Communication Division, 1984; 42d Bombardment Wing NCO of the Quarter, April-June 1990; Air Force District of Washington Information Manager of the Quarter, July-September 1991 Sergeant Robinson proudly wears seventeen awards and decorations; The Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf cluster, Joint Unit Meritorious Service award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Organization Excellence Award with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with one silver and one oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with four oak leaf clusters, NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon with two oak leaf cluster, Air Force Small Arms Marksmanship Ribbon and the Air Force Training Ribbon. He also wears the United States Air Force Master Information Managers badge and the Office of the Secretary of Defense badge.

David L. Robinson (ROBBIE) is very active in the American Legion. He served as and Americanism Officer, Children and Youth Officer, Service Officer, 1st Vice Commander and Post Commander of The American Legion Post 14, Martinsburg West Virginia. He served the 10th District as Service Officer, Americanism Officer, Children & Youth Officer, Oratorical Chairman and Mountaineer Boys State Representative. At the Department level he has served as the Department Service or Asst Service for the past 12 years, he also served as the Department Asst Sgt-at Arms. He is currently the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State Director. At Post 12 in Grafton, WV he has served as Chaplain, and is the current Post Commander. He has been named The Legionnaire of the Year, a Ben I. Golden award, and the Distinguished Service Award Recipient. Serves as a volunteer for the Family Resource Network in Taylor County representing American Legion Post 12. He is also an active member of the West Virginia Memorial Day Committee representing the American Legion.



Richard Colosky
Cemetary Director

Richard Colosky was named Director of West Virginia National Cemetery effective February 13, 2022. In this role, he is responsible for all burial, maintenance, and administrative operations at the facility.

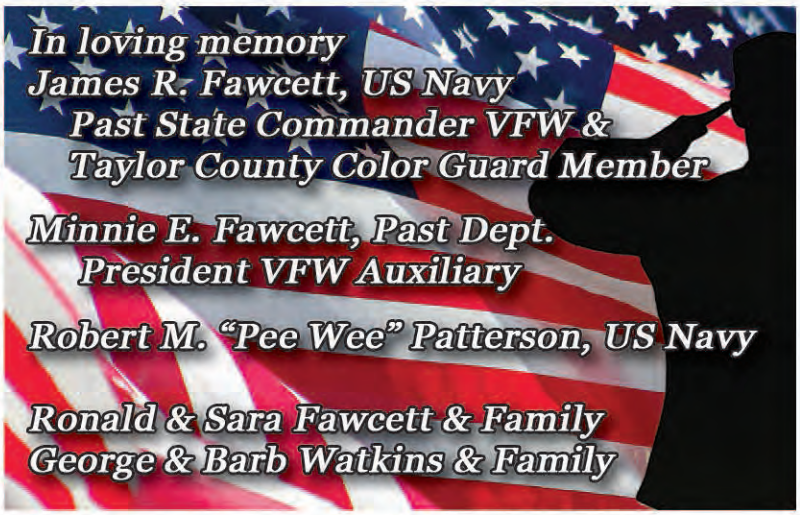
Prior to this assignment, Mr. Colosky served as the Assistant Director of Dayton National Cemetery Complex, at Marion National Cemetery beginning in August 2021. Also Mr. Colosky served as the Maintenance and Operations Supervisor at Dayton National Cemetery beginning in June 2019. In 2019 Mr. Colosky also received his bachelor's degree at Southern New Hampshire University in Business Studies and Accounting.

Mr. Colosky joined the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) in January 2017 as a Caretaker for Fort Custer National Cemetery. In August 2017 Mr. Colosky was selected as an Engineering Equipment Operator at Dayton National Cemetery. Mr. Colosky also served as an Engineering Equipment Operator Work Leader in 2018 at Dayton National Cemetery.

Mr. Colosky served for 10 years as a supervisor for two different private landscaping companies and has 15 years serving in the private sector as an Engineering Equipment Operator for various types of construction and operations projects.

Mr. Colosky is a veteran of the United States Army, where he completed four years of active service at the rank of Sergeant and served most of this time as squad leader for the caisson platoon that performed full honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

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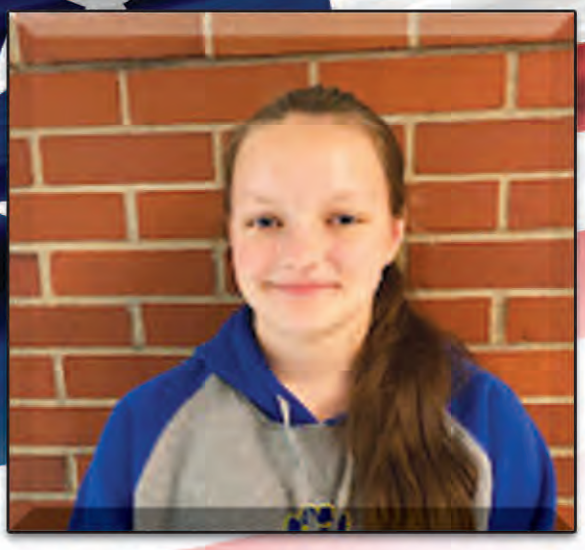
Anna Poling
8th Grade Taylor County Middle School

Our Heroes of America

Memorial Day is a day for us to remember all of those men and women who have served for our country. If it was not for those brave people, we would not be who we are today. Our country would not be free or have rights. We would be under strict rules. On Memorial Day, many citizens think it is a fun day to celebrate sports teams, have fun, and spend time with family and friends. All of those things are important, but they forgot one major detail. They forgot that Memorial Day is a time to remember all of those people who have lost a loved one, a best friend, that have served and are wounded, or are still serving. Many people have given up their lives so we can be free and safe. Those people deserve so much more than what they get.

West Virginia has two National Cemeteries. One of the cemeteries is in Grafton. Roughly 2,162 people are buried in Grafton. Of those people, 1441 people buried there are from the Civil War. The other 721 are unknown. All of those people who died, were willing to give their lives to help us and others. We, as a united nation, need to teach those coming up that we need be respectful to everyone and everything. That means, we need to teach our kids and grandkids that these people are willing to give their lives for us. We need to show respect to the families of those they lost, the families who have someone out there fighting and helping our country, and those who have a kid getting ready to go into the force.

To conclude, Memorial Day has a very important meaning to many. We need to show respect to soldiers, their families, and the families of all those who have lost someone very special. Would you be devastated if your son or daughter, mom or dad, husband or fiancé died because they were willing to save someone that they had no clue who they were? These men and women are very brave and courageous. They have done many things that most people would not be willing to do. As we conclude let me leave you with this; Would you be willing to give up your life for someone you know, or leave behind all of your family?



Chloe Saltis
11th Grade - Grafton High School

On Memorial Day we come together as a community and nation so that we may honor those who have been lost fighting for our country. We shall take this time upon us as an honor to all those who have and will fight for our nation. We raise the red, white, and blue flag that has been gifted to us in freedom and hold close the importance of the moments in history that we struggled the most. We would not be here, gathering, if it were not for those brave Americans who fought in our stead. The first war that we would fight in to gain our independence in 1775 would mark the loss of an estimated 6,800 Americans. This same war would also signify the signing of our Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, when we could finally call the United States of America our home. We would continue to fight for a little over seven years until the establishment of the Treaty of Paris, which would end this conflict. That was 225 years ago, which shows this is only a fraction of the lives we have lost since then.

Many years later, in 1867, Maj. R. C. Bates would receive the order to find a permanent burial ground for the Union Soldiers who died in West Virginia. This cemetery would become the Grafton National Cemetery. By the 1960's it would become known that they were running out of room for the deceased. In response, the West Virginia veterans organizations began their work toward the creation of a new national cemetery. After thorough research on whether they could expand the cemetery, they came to the conclusion that a new cemetery was necessary. Later, after negotiations, it was decided that a 58-acre tract that was one land of the West Virginia School for Boys would become the new cemetery. The Prunytown National Cemetery was dedicated on September 27, 1987, and available to the departed. We gather at these two cemeteries every Memorial Day weekend to take time to honor those veterans.

It is important that we come together to remember those we have lost. But, we must also remember those who will come to fight for the country in future years to come. It is our duty to share and remember our history so that we can pass on that honor to future generations.

To keep that honor this year in Grafton, we gather to hold the 155th year of the Memorial Day Parade. Despite all the difficulties in the past few years, we continue to honor our traditions and our lost veterans. We gather at our National Cemeteries so that we may witness the wreath ceremony and the playing of Taps, so that before we go home as individuals, we remember those who will not get that blessing. For it is a true blessing to hold the freedom that we do so close to our hearts.

West Virginia National Cemetery Program

Location: West Virginia National Cemetery, Pruntytown, WV

Thirty-fifth Annual Memorial Day Weekend Program

Sunday, May 29, 2022 - 2:00 PM

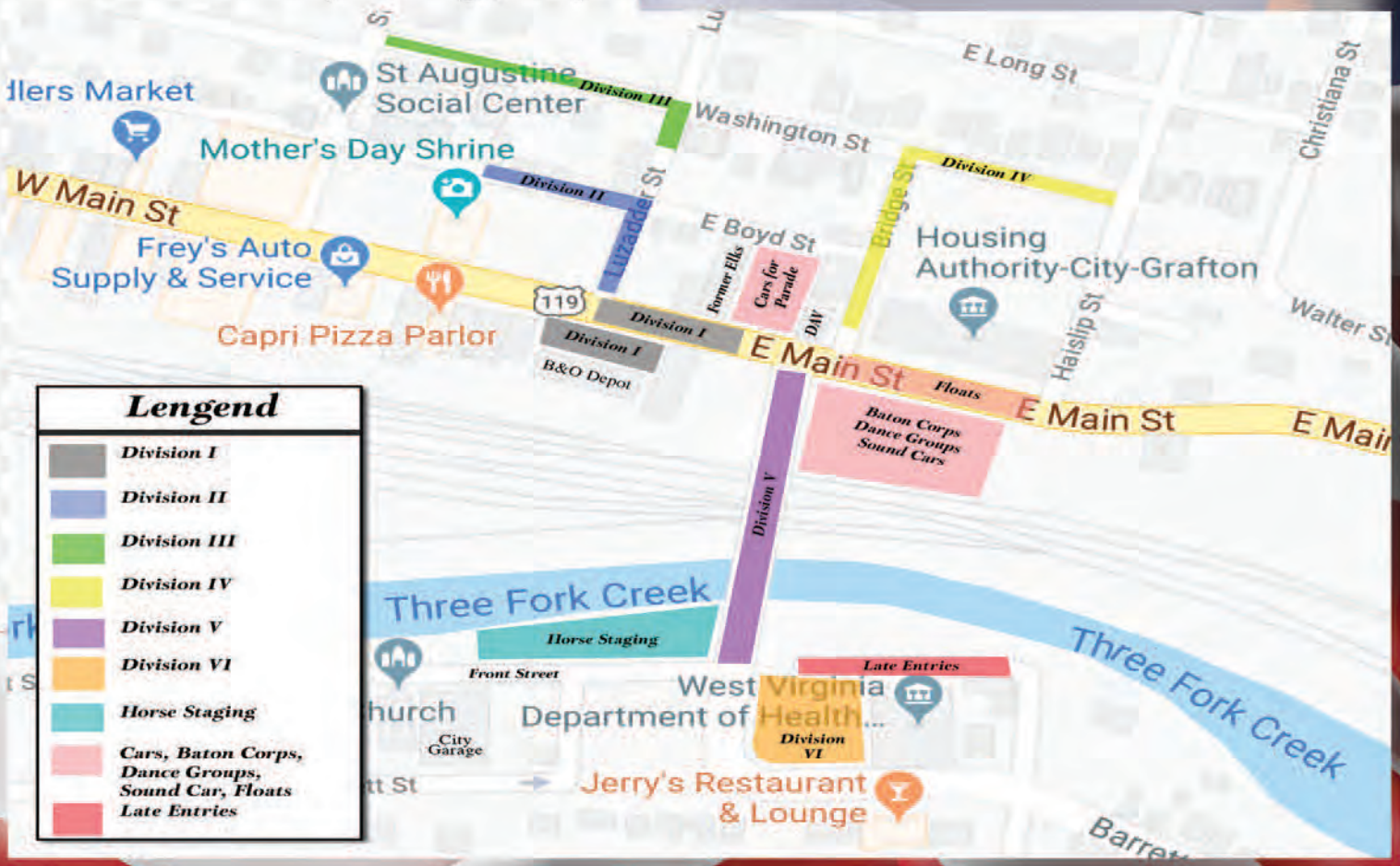
Invocation: Randy Jennings, Chaplain, VFW Post 3081
National Anthem: Taylor County Middle School Band
Welcome: Scott Bitner Commander, VFW Post 3081
Musical Selection: Taylor County Middle School Band
National Cemetery Essay Contest Reading: Anna Poling, TCMS, First place
Introduction of Speaker: Scott Bitner
Memorial Address: Master Chief Jeff Elkins, VFW Department of WV State Commander
Musical Selection: Taylor County Middle School Band
Introduction of Speaker: Scott Bitner
Memorial Address: Assistant Secretary for Enterprise Integration
The Honorable Guy T. Kiyokawa
Presentation of Memorial Wreaths: Master Chief Jeff Elkins, The Honrable Guy T. Kiyokawa and Anna Poling
Memorial Salute: Taylor County Honor Guard
Taps and Echo: Taylor County Middle School Band
Benediction: Randy Jennings, Chaplain, VFW Post 3081



155th Annual Memorial Day Observance
Grafton National Cemetery
Monday, May 30th, 2022

(The program will start following the end of the Memorial Day Parade. Parents are asked to pick up their children outside the cemetery gates.)

Invocation: Randy Jennings, Chaplin, VFW Post 3081
National Anthem: Grafton High School Band
Welcome: Scott Bitner, Commander, VFW Post 3081
Reading of First Place Patriotic Essay: Chloe Saltis, Junior Grafton High School
Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Scott Bitner, Commander, VFW Post 3081
Memorial Day Address: Colonel Retired Douglas L Flohr
Presentation of Memorial Wreaths: Colonel Retired Douglas L Flohr and Chloe Saltis
Taps and Echo: Grafton High School Band
Benediction: Randy Jennings, Chaplin, VFW Post 3081



West Virginia Memorial Day Committee, Inc.
2022 Officers and Committees

General Chairman Doug Robinson, Service Officer, American Legion Post #12
1st Vice-Chairman Scott Bitner, Commander, VFW Memorial City Post 3081
2nd Vice-Chairman David L. "Robbie" Robinson, Commander, American Legion Taylor County Post #12
Treasurer Crystal Eifert
General Secretary Marsha Maier/Emily Brown
Cemetery WVNC-GNC Director – Richard Colosky, Brandy Mayle, Chad Mayle and WV National Cemetery/Grafton National Cemetery Staff
Essay Contests Christy Miller, Taylor County Superintendent of Schools
Band Committee Debbie Reed, Charlotte Olivo and Chad Royce
Parade Committee Scott Willis – Chairman, Chad Royce – Chairman, Mary Wagner, Dave Hoag, David Robinson, Brooke Russell, Doug Robinson, Lisa Sapp, Jeff Sapp, Debbie Reed, Charlotte Olivo, William Keith Barker, Corey Robinson, Beth Hall, Scott Bitner, Theressa Nichols, Andrea Chambers, Vonda Reneman, Emily Brown, Chad N. Proudfoot, 304 Jeep Club – Josh Webb, Ashlie Clark, WV Memorial Day Committee and many others!
Equestrian Committee Lisa Sapp, Jeff Sapp and Sam Poling
Committee Float Scott Elsey and Shelly Elsey
Publicity Staff of the Mountain Statesman, Monica Brown Robinson, Chad Royce and Mary Wagner
Programs Meredith Stach – Program Designer, Monica Brown Robinson, Doug Robinson, Debbie Reed, Charlotte Olivo, Chad Royce, Brooke Russell, Dave Hoag, David Robinson, Julie Gaines Royce and Scott Bitner
Ad CommitteeMonica Brown Robinson – Chairman, Meredith Stach and WV Memorial Day Committee
Equipment William Keith Barker and Chad Royce
Church Services Pastor Garry Whitescarver, Flemington Baptist Church
Taylor County Board of Education Representative Christy Miller, Superintendent
Baton Corp/Dance Unit/Twirlers Judges Kelly Duckworth and Caitlin Duckworth
Floats Ann Moats and Gary Moats
Float Judges Gary Moats, Kenzie Kyle, Kelsey Kyle and Karley Kyle
Aerial Video Footage Brandon Bartlett

The West Virginia Memorial Day Committee would like to thank all businesses and individuals placing ads in the program, and contributing their time and services to ensure the continued remembrance of this sacred day.

2022 SPIRIT OF GRAFTON CELEBRATION
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 27th

5:00-8:00 pm – Pool Party at Grafton City Pool

6:00-10:00 pm – Cartoon Headquarters Bounce Houses, Obstacle Course, Games

8:00-9:30 pm – Country Superstars Little Texas on Main Stage

Saturday, May 28th

1:00-10:00 pm – Cartoon Headquarters Bounce House, Obstacle Course, Games and More

2:00 pm BMX Bike Stunt Team

3:00 pm – Wild World of Animals on Main Stage

3:00 -5:00 pm – Barnyard Petting Zoo on grounds of Mother's Day Shrine

3:30 pm BMX Bike Stunt Team

6:00 pm BMX Bike Stunt Team

8:00 pm Country Superstar Darryl Worley on Main Stage

Fireworks will follow the concert – Sponsored by Bartlett Funeral Home

Monday, May 30th

10:00 am – 155th Annual Memorial Day Parade

12:00 pm – 155th Annual Grafton National Cemetery Observance

Schedule subject to change

No alcohol, pets, skateboards, or bicycles permitted

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secretary@wvfairsandfestivals.org



Proud Sponsor of the 155th Annual Memorial Day Parade

155th Annual
West Virginia Memorial Day Parade
Monday May 30, 2022

Line Up Begins at 9:00 a.m. - Parade Begins 10:00 a.m.

(Vehicular traffic closed to parade route at 8:30 a.m.)

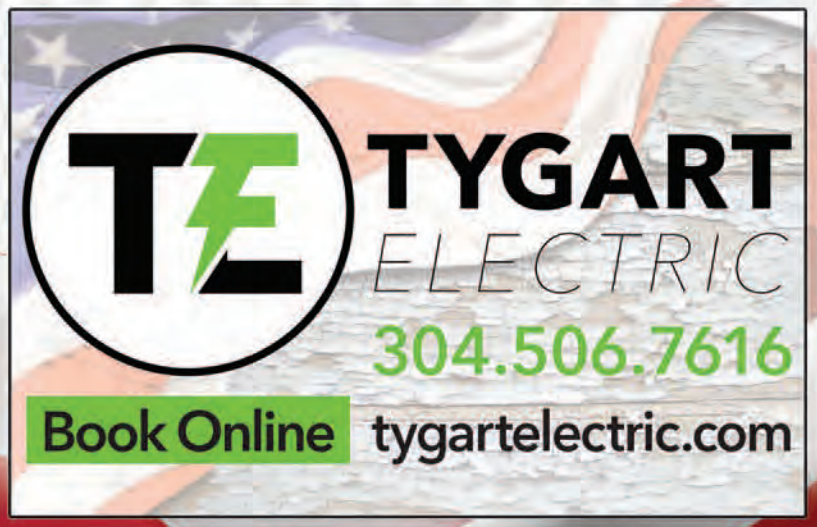
Flag raising at the International Mother's Day Shrine - 9:00 a.m.

Performed by the Taylor County Honor Guard accompanied

By the 249th Army National Guard Band

Parade Co-Chairman: Scott Willis Parade Co-Chairman: Chad Royce

Grafton City Police – Robert W. Beltner, Chief
Taylor County Sheriff's Department – Terry A. Austin, Sheriff
West Virginia State Police –Sergeant M.S. Horne
FBI Police
Morgantown Police Department – Rob Miranov
Stonewood City Police Department
The Taylor County Honor Guard
VFW Post 3081 Float
Band – 249th Army National Guard Band – Morgantown
Grafton Fire Department
Grafton Volunteer Fire Department
Taylor County Emergency Squad
West Virginia Memorial Day Banner
Division I
Division I Banner
Military Order of the Purple Heart – Chapter 724 – Bob Carr, Commander
Riderless Horse – Lanie Rush
Muffled Drum
Caisson and Escort – WV Memorial Day Committee, Inc
Car - Parade Marshal – Thomas Bartlett
Car - Honorary Parade Marshal – Milton Edward Moore, Jr.
363rd Military Police Co.
Float – Commanders, Presidents, Officers, WV Memorial Day Committee
Float - Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 306, Morgantown, WV
Float – American Legion Taylor County Post #12
American Legion Riders
Float - American Legion Mountaineer Boys State
VFW 2020-2021 Poppy King and Queen – Benjamin Hoffman and Brilynn Roy
VFW Loyalty Day Queen – Autumn Knotts
Bus - Louis A. Johnson Medical Center, Clarksburg, WV – Hospitalized Veterans – Wesley Walls
Band – West Virginia Highlanders of Davis and Elkins College – Bruce Dillon



Car - Speaker – Grafton National Cemetery Program – Doug Flohr, Colonel U.S. Army retired
Tucker County Veterans Association – G.I. Joe/1945 WW II Military Jeep
Car - Disabled American Veterans
Float - Warriors in the Field LTD
Float – GFWC Woman's Club of Grafton
Truck - Tygart Lake State Park Foundation
Float – US Army Corps of Engineers, Tygart Lake

Division II
Division II Banner

Boy Scout Troop 6 – Daniel Young, Purple Heart Recipient
WV Secretary of State – Mac Warner
Car – 155th Annual WV Memorial Day Parade Theme Winner – Emaleigh Watson
Band – Grafton High School – Christopher Rucker, Director
Float – Rotary Club of Grafton – 2022 Grafton High School Honor Students
2022 Graduating Class of Grafton High School – Lori Shumaker, Principal
Car - Grafton National Cemetery Essay Contest Winner – High School Division Chloe Saltis, 11th Grade Grafton High School
Grafton High School Class of 1967
Truck – Grafton High School Class of 1970
Truck – Grafton High School Class of 1977
Float – Grafton High School Class of 1982
Float – Grafton High School Class of 1992
Anna Jarvis Elementary School – Heather Sinclair, Principal Shelly Stead, Assistant Principal
West Taylor Elementary School – Jamison Fisher, Principal
Flemington Elementary School – Melissa Lampinen, Principal
Float – Little Feet Programs
Truck - Little Shepherds Preschool
Taylor County Little League
Base Invaders Softball
Heroes 4 Higher – Batman & Batmobile
304 Jeep Club

Division III

Division III Banner

Taylor County Middle School Marching Band – Josh Chiado, Director
Taylor County Middle School Students

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Car - Grafton National Cemetery Essay Contest Winner – Middle School Division
Anna Poling, 8th Grade Taylor County Middle School
Bartlett Funeral Home
Float - 501st Garrison Corellia
Dance Unit – 5th Street Center for Dance
Car – Shawn D. Nines, Circuit Judge
Car - Taylor County Commission
Vehicle – Taylor County Senior Citizens, Inc.
Car – Taylor County Assessor
Car - City of Grafton
Band – Philip Barbour High School Band
Car – Senator Randy Smith
WV House Majority Leader – Amy Summers
Car – Delegate Ben Queen
Float – Preston County Buckwheat Festival
Westbound & Down – Brian Westerman
Car – Miss US Agriculture – Marty Walker-Owen
Truck – Victor Lucas
Car – Tygart Valley United Way
Car – Taylor County Tie Man – Billy Davis
Baton/Dance Group – Rising Starz Studio
Truck – Hebron Baptist Church
Car – Taylor County Fair Calico Queen
Float – Clarksburg Beauty Academy
Float – Morgantown Elks Lodge #411
Band – Zona Hester
Uncle Sam – Josh Rhine
Truck – Octane Environmental – Ernie Rush
West Virginia University Mountaineer Mascot, Mary Roush
Cars – Miss West Virginia Volunteer
304 Jeep Club

Division IV
Division IV Banner

North Marion Husky Band – Matthew Morgan, Director
Van – Taylor Healthcare Center, LLC
Float – Beulah Baptist Church
Truck – Meadow View Farm Supply
Truck – Miss Amazing West Virginia – Brianna King
Dance Unit – Layne Studio 4 Dance
Float – Justice for Perry Setler
Truck – Mid-Ohio Valley Multicultural Festival Regnant – Queen Madalynn Locke
Car – WV Caring – Cindy Woodyard
Pom Team – Layne Dance Performance Team
United Mine Workers of America
Float – Oak Grove Baptist Church
Vehicle – Grafton Police Department – McGruff the Crime Dog
Band – DBI Band
Float – Arch Resources Leer Mine
Truck – Larmatt Construction Services LLC
Truck – Taylor County United Methodist Cooperative
Baton Group – All American Twirlers
Float – Grafton City Hospital
Jeep – Joe Bolton

Vehicle – Parkview Church of the Nazarene
Band – Pittsburgh Steeline
Truck – Grafton Goodwill
Truck – Kelsey Heston
Float – Hampton Road Baptist Church
Band – Stranglehold
304 Jeep Club

Division V
Division V Banner
Baton Group – Elite Rivals Twirling
Vehicle – Rosewood Center/Genesis HelathCare
Car – Miss WV Teen USA – Brylee Knotts
Black Bear Off Road
Dance Unit – Country Beauty Twirlers
ATV – Becky Phillips
Float – First Baptist Church of Grafton
Band – Live Band
Osiris Shrine Tin Lizzie Patrol
Taylor County Shrine Club
Osiris Shrine Desert Caravan
Osiris Shrine Mountaineer Patrol
Osiris Shrine
Dance Unit – Strutters Baton and Dance Team Incorporated
Vehicle – Miss Gore Va – Haylee West
Band - Live Band
304 Jeep Club

Division IV
Division IV Banner
This division also contains late entries/parade day entries

Belgiumfest
Race Car – Kendra Green
Mk Speedway – Flat Karts
Float – Dan Frasier (Bicycle with trailer)
Haddix Farms – Horses
Flemington Volunteer Fire Department
Anmoore Fire Department
Jancare Ambulance Service
Taylor County Emergency Squad
Grafton Fire Department
West Virginia Memorial Day Committee, Inc.

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~George W. Bush~



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Nancy Bartlett



Tim Schoonover
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A Nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers.

~ John F. Kennedy ~

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What: The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State
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In Memory

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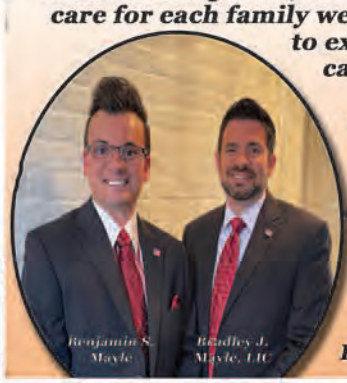
Capt. Troxell Olin Mason Jr., Army

Col. Jacqueline Mason Swanson, Ret. Army

Submitted by
SP5 Brooke Lynn Mason-Russell Army

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Remember Our Heroes – Past, Present and Future

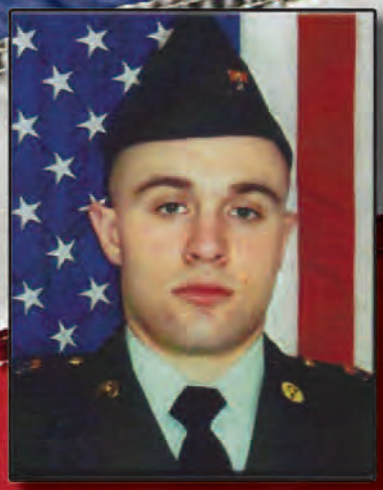
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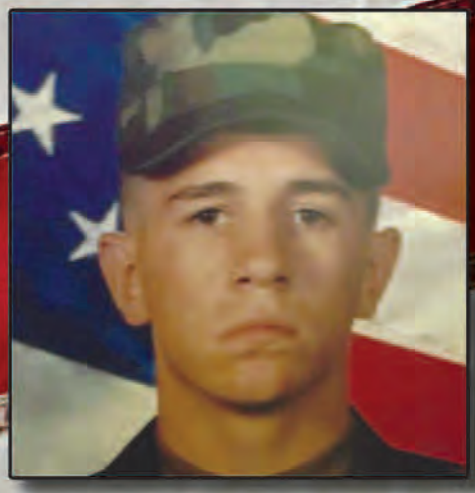
Edward Robinson



James "Sonny" McWilliams



Gerald L Reed



Joshua C. Reed



In Honor of All Veterans Past & Present

I watched the flag pass by one day
it fluttered in the breeze;
A young Marine saluted it and then he
stood at ease.
I thought how many men like him had
fallen through the years;
Of how many died on foreign soil and
how many mother' tears.

I heard the sound of taps one night
when everything was still;
I listened to the bugler play
and felt a sudden chill.
I thought of all the children,
of the mothers and wives;
Of fathers, sons and husbands with
interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard at
the bottom of the sea.
Of unmarked graves at Arlington.
No, freedom isn't free.

REMEMBER OUR HEROES – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

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PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

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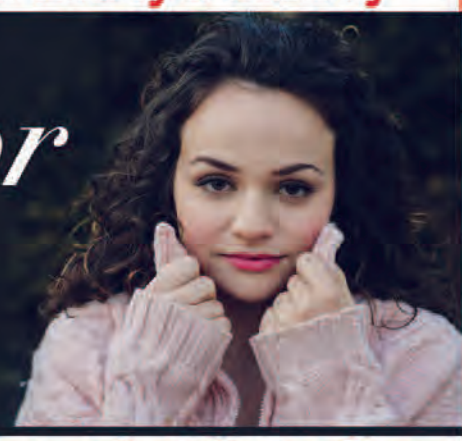
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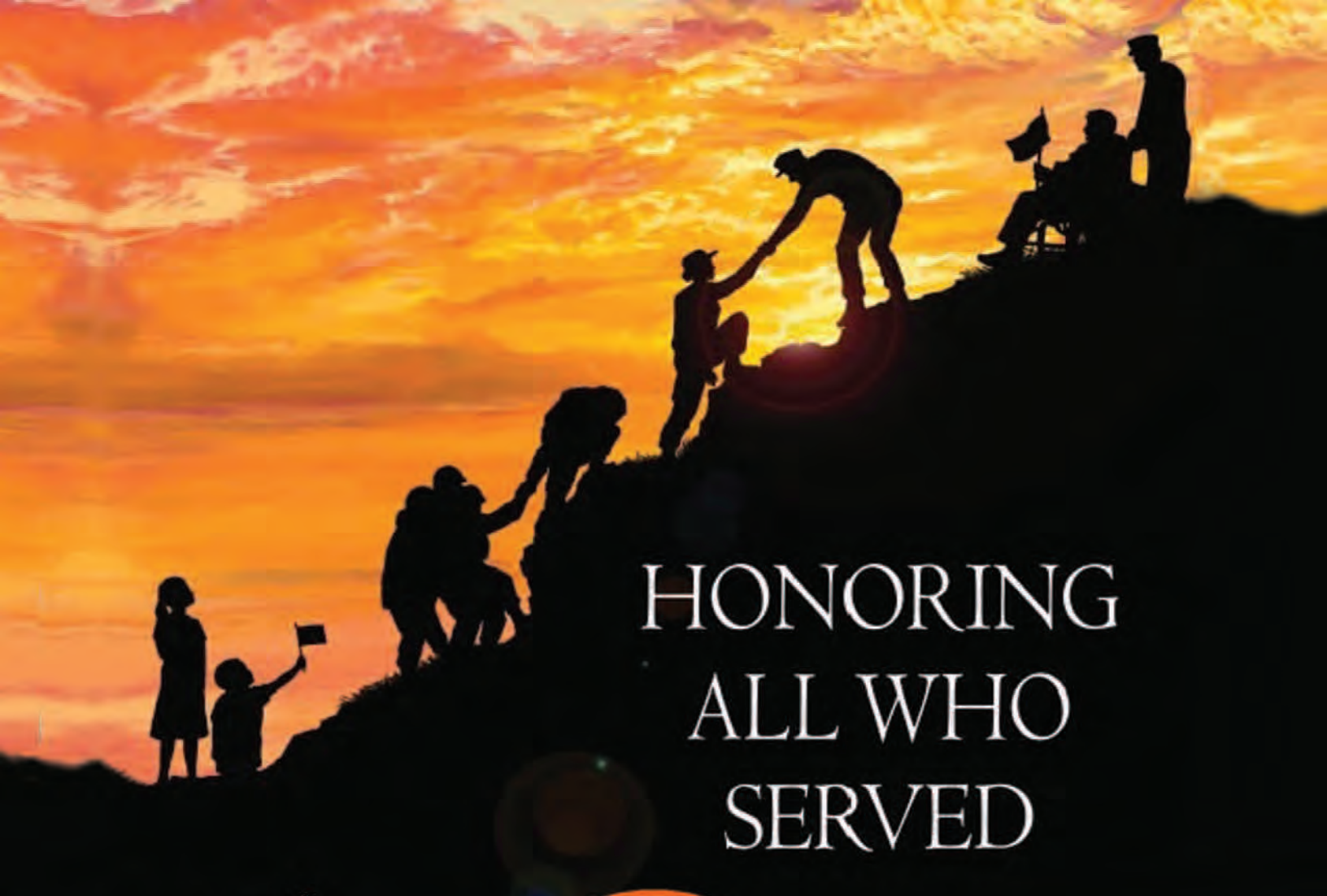
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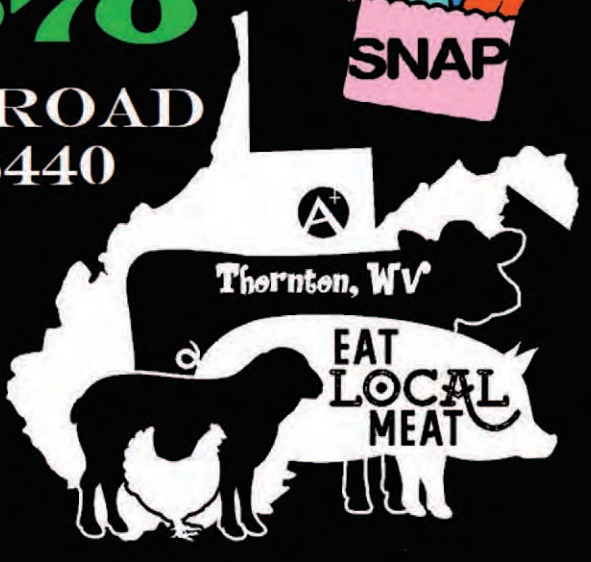
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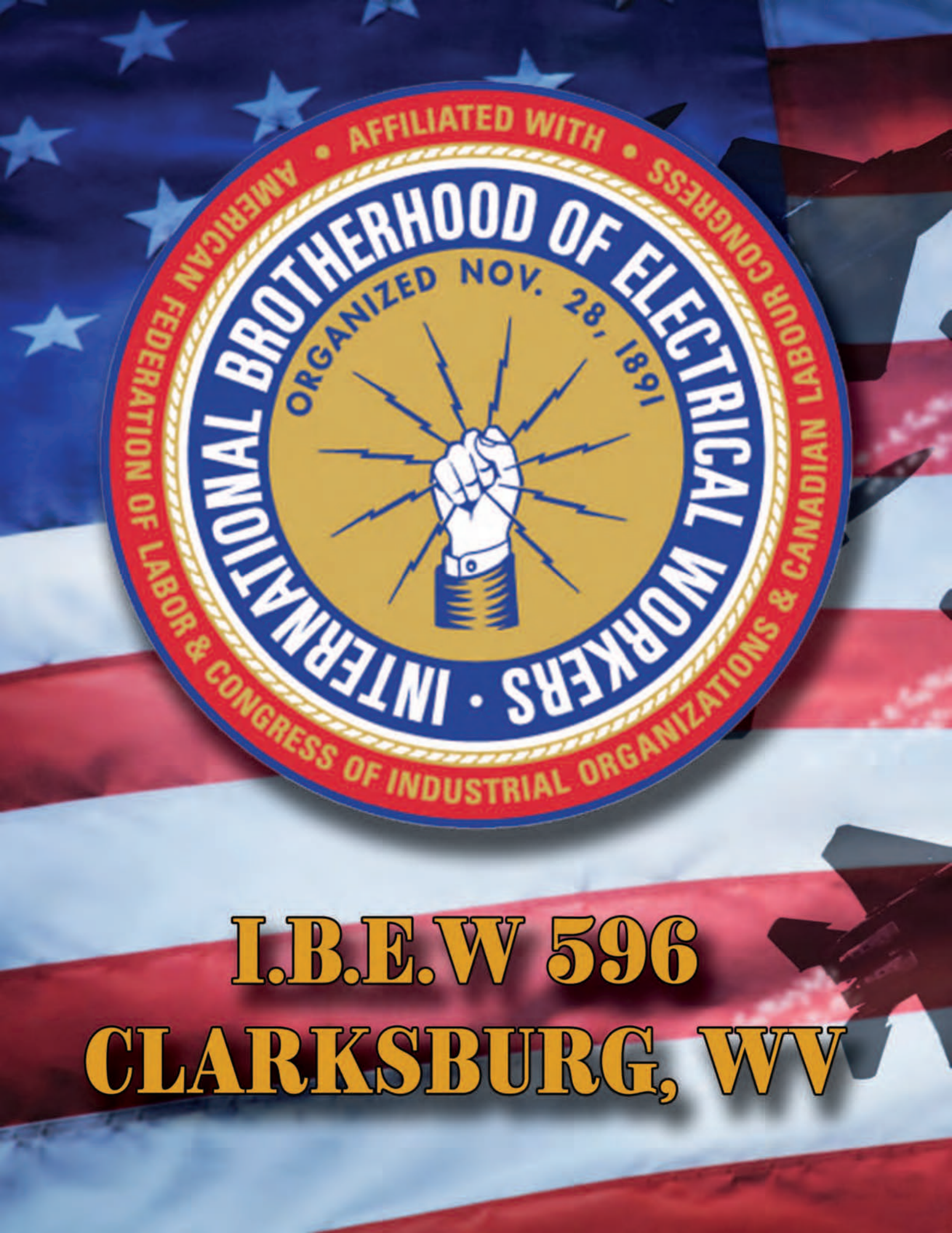
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Pictured are WV Memorial Day Committee General Chairman, Doug Robinson, DAV Commander George P Davis III, and Zoey. Picture by General Secretary Emily Brown

The DAV continues over one hundred years of service and support for America's injured and ill veterans and their families. Founded in 1920 by former Cincinnati Judge Robert S Marx, he recognized that the nation was ill-equipped to provide the medical care and services the injured and ill returning war veterans needed—and had earned.

Today, the DAV continues the fight to make medical care, employment, education, and other earned benefits accessible to America's 4 million disabled veterans. Locally they have contributed to projects such as the shoe program, ICU waiting room and Women's Clinic at the Louis A Johnson VA Medical Center.

This year to show their support DAV Chapter 45 North Central West Virginia Commander George Davis presented the committee with a check for $1000 to help with the annual parade. The committee would like to thank them for their contribution, service, and their continued dedication to serving the veterans in our area.

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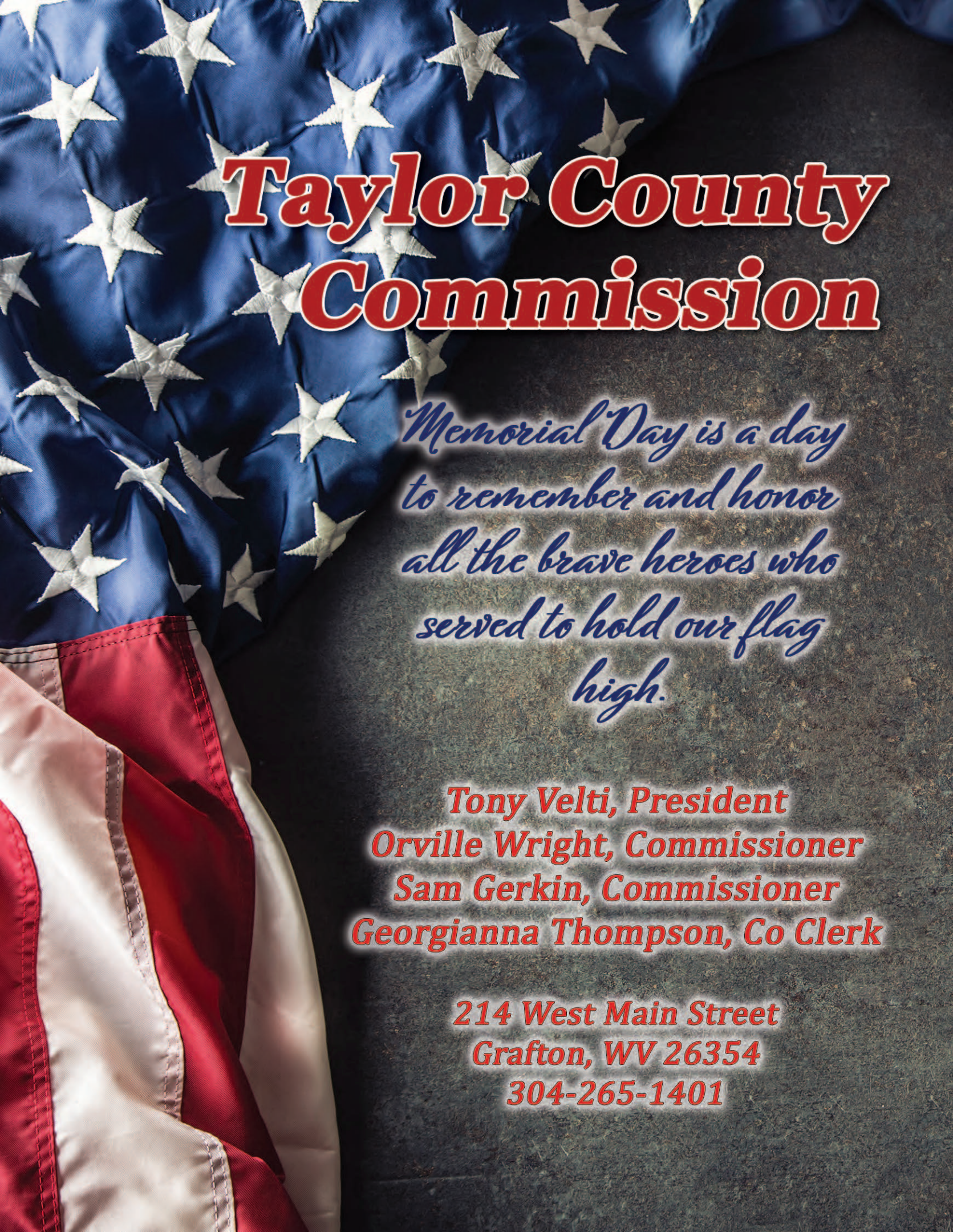


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