

Iron County REPORTER

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A Salute to Those Serving Our Country

A Life Defined by Resilience and Tenacity



ADC AW/SW Wolf being awarded a medal in 1992 from Admiral Stubbs on USS Guam with the aircraft division personnel in the background.

BY MEGAN STROM

Exploring the extraordinary life and service of Navy veteran Don Wolf uncovers a story of valor, commitment and perseverance. The story behind the remarkable life and time in service he experienced stands testament to the indomitable spirit of those who serve. From enlisting at a young age to serving in various locations around the world, Wolf's journey is one of bravery, dedication and resilience.

Born and raised in Southern Wisconsin, Wolf started his military journey at the age of 17, enlisting as a high school senior in 1975. He began his service in the Navy Reserves, but after graduation, he transitioned to active duty. This marked the beginning of a 20-year career that would see him rise through the ranks to retire as a Chief Aviation Machinist Mate.

Throughout his time in the Navy, Wolf had the honor and privilege to serve in various locations and on many missions. In the late 70's he completed MAAG Missions. He was also part of a patrol squadron, served in federal corrections courtesy of Jimmy Carter, and was a member of an A6 attack squadron. His experiences also took him to the USS Independence, USS Forrestal, AIMD Oceana, USS Guam helicopter carrier and finished his time of service on the NAS Norfolk.

Wolf's time in service was not without its challenges. He experienced the loss of 23 shipmates before he was even 19 years old, not to mention others throughout his career. "You just carry on" he said solemnly. Don recalled his time in Lebanon as one of the worst experiences he faced. Many lives were lost during that time. Despite the hardships and the dangers he faced in locations like Lebanon, Grenada, Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Somalia, Wolf remained steadfast in his commitment to serving his country. Sharing these sto-

ries, he states "I've had the misfortune of sometimes being in the wrong place at the wrong time, but you just make the best of it."

After retiring from the Navy in 1995, Wolf decided to settle down in Iron River. He purchased a property in the early 80's that would eventually become his hobby farm, a place where he could channel his energy and passion for the land. Today, he lives west of Iron River, surrounded by the fruits of his labor and the memories of his travels.

Wolf's time in the Navy took him all over the world, from the desert to the jungle, mountains and even the Arctic Circle. He also spent 150 days straight at sea on the Indian Ocean. Despite the challenges he faced, he developed a love for travel and exploration. Some of his favorite places include Finland and Alaska holding a special place in his heart.

Wolf's story is one of resilience, tenacity and unwavering dedication. Despite facing some of the worst situations a soldier can encounter, he remained steadfast in his commitment to serving his country. His ability to adapt to changing circumstances and make the best of every situation is a testament to his strength of character. Wolf's life and time in service as a Navy veteran is a testament to the sacrifices and hardships faced by those who serve in the military. "I know what it's like to wear a steel pot, wear a flak jacket and carry an M14" Don spoke with pride. His story serves as an inspiration to all who hear it, a reminder of the courage and dedication required to protect and defend our country. Wolf's journey is a reminder that even in the face of adversity, we can find strength and resilience to overcome challenges and achieve greatness. His life is a testament to the power of human spirit and the enduring legacy of those who serve with honor and dignity.

The Journey of Master Sergeant Jerry Williams A Legacy of Service and Dedication

BY KALEE HERNANDEZ

Master Sergeant Jerry Williams, a lifelong resident of Michigan, has built a remarkable legacy of service and dedication to his country and community. Raised in Iron River, Jerry graduated from West Iron County High School in 1982, embarking on a journey that would take him across the globe and eventually bring him back home. His journey into the military began at a young age when, between his junior and senior years, he along with five classmates decided to speak with a recruiter from Iron Mountain. At just 17 years old, Jerry embarked on Basic Combat Training, driven by an impulse of youthful enthusiasm: "You're going to let me play with guns and explosives? Yay!"

Jerry served for four years as a Combat Engineer in the Michigan Army National Guard at the Iron River Armory. During this time, he honed skills that would serve him well throughout his military career. However, after completing his college education, Jerry found the civilian job market less thrilling. Having tried his hand at various jobs, including a ski instructor, roofing construction and assembly line work at Coleman Products, he realized, "Assembly line life is just not for me. I wanted to be out there doing things every day...fun stuff."

His quest for a fulfilling career led him back to the recruiter's office in Iron Mountain, originally seeking to join the Army. Fate had other plans when the Army recruiter was unavailable, and Jerry encountered the Air Force recruiter instead. The enticing question, "Are you smart enough to join the Air Force?" motivated Jerry to take the entrance test, leading to his acceptance. In 1985, Jerry headed to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, where he completed the Proficiency Advance Program, advancing through mandatory classes and tests.

Jerry's Air Force career was distinguished by his roles as a Combat Arms Training and Maintenance Instructor and Security Forces Craftsman. During his first 17 months in his career at Lackland, he taught and trained hundreds of students, from no stripe airmen to generals, imparting crucial skills in both classroom and field settings.

A permissive permanent change of station brought Jerry to Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, Michigan, where he served as a Weapons Instructor. Embracing his roots, he confidently tackled the role, quipping, "They asked me, are you afraid of guns? I thought, 'I'm from the U.P.—no!'" His career then took him to various bases around the world, including Royal Air Force (RAF) Lakenheath and RAF Feltwell in England, Rhein Main Air Base in Germany, and to Camp Doha and Camp




Master Sergeant Jerry Williams
Submitted photo

Carolina Crossroads in Kuwait.

After retiring from the Air Force in 2007, Jerry ran a small pub in Norfolk, England, before selling the business and returning to his roots in Iron County where he became deeply involved in veteran organizations. Jerry holds a Gold Legacy Life Membership in multiple posts, including VFW Ottawa Post 3134 and American Legion Reino Post 21. His roles extend to Post Service Officer in three veterans' organizations and District Service Officer for both the American Legion's 12th District and VFW's 15th District. He also serves as the Chaplain for the Iron County West Side Veterans Honor Guard. In July 2015, Jerry furthered his commitment by joining the Iron County Veterans Service Office as a nationally accredited service officer. His expertise and leadership have made a significant impact on the veteran community in Iron River.

Jerry's military legacy is deeply rooted in family tradition, with both his father and grandfather serving in the World Wars. His expertise with firearms is unmatched, being proficient in nearly every gun, from handguns to sniper rifles, as he humbly admits, "I lost count of how much ammo I have used. It is probably in the millions." His dedication to excellence is further evidenced by his participation in Air Force-level competitions, earning an award in Excellence in Competition for rifle and pistol shooting—an accolade given only to the top 10 out of 100 shooters.

Master Sergeant Jerry Williams's story is one of unwavering dedication to service to both the military and his community. His lifelong journey from a young recruit to a respected veteran advocate serves as an inspiration to all who know him.




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Douglas MacArthur





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Memorial Day Service

Stambaugh Cemetery
~ Photos by Kevin Zini ~



Memorial Day Service
at Rosehill Cemetery,
Beechwood
~ Photos by Kevin Zini ~



A Salute to Those Serving Our Country

U.P. Veterans Connection

PAM BASAL
TRANSITION ASSISTANT ADVISOR

It's a new year and with 2025 new things are happening at the VA. Beginning Jan. 10, the PACT Act recognized new service-related presumptive conditions. They are Acute and chronic leukemias, Multiple Myeloma, Myelodysplastic Syndromes and Myelofibrosis. If you have any of these conditions, please be sure to reach out to your Veteran Service Officer to file a claim.

There is also a new 2025 Veterans Benefits guide. This can be found on the VA.gov website.

I would also like to tell you about a new program called Early Alert. If you live in the VA Iron Mountain service area you are eligible. This Early Alert checks with veterans once a week through text messages and provide personal suggestions for support resources for a veteran facing challenges. If the veteran enrolls, they receive a \$20 gift card. To enroll or find out more information, please contact 1-833-634-0770.

There are always new benefits coming out for veterans. If you wonder if there is one for you, please reach out to me at 906-360-3890 or email at Pbasal-c@gapsi.com.

Black Cow Event

IRON MOUNTAIN - The Iron River Knights of Columbus, Council 2300 recently held their first quarterly Black Cow event of the year, at the Iron Mountain Veterans Administrative Hospital.

Root beer floats (black cows), sundaes and treats were served to veterans, their family members and staff personal. In all 34 were served.

Being that all three members, are 4th Degree Knights, the Patriotic Degree of the Knights of Columbus, it's always a very special pleasure serving our veterans.



Pictured are, Grand Knight Mark Stauber, Louis Willis and Deacon Terry Verville. Submitted photo

American Legion Menu

IRON RIVER — The American Legion Reino Post 21 is located at 212 Washington Ave., Iron River. Doors open at 3 p.m. and is open to the public. Following is the monthly menu:

- Every Tuesday – Taco Tuesday (serving; 4 – 7 p.m.)
- First and third Friday – Friday Fish Fry (serving; 5 – 7 p.m.)
- Second Saturday – Ribs (serving; 5 – 7 p.m.)

To order or for more information call 906-214-7853.

Sons of American Legion Menu

IRON RIVER — The Sons of American Legion hosts the Sons Breakfast; it is held the first Sunday of the month from 8 - 11 a.m. It is open to the public and located at the American Legion at 212 Washington Ave., Iron River.

VFW Menu

IRON RIVER — The VFW Post No. 3134 is open to the public

First and third Thursday of the Month – Smash Burgers, serving 4:30 – 7 p.m.

Second and fourth Friday of the Month - Fish Fry, serving 4 - 7 p.m.

March 22 - Philly Night 4:30 - 7 p.m.
Serving Happy Hour: 3 – 5 p.m. Wed. - Mon. / Tues. 3 - 10 p.m. (excludes event nights)

For more information call 906-265-9412. The VFW Post No. 3134 is located at 94 East Genesee St., Iron River

9th Annual American Legion Riders March Madness Chili Feed

Join us at the American Legion, 212 Washington Ave., Iron River for a fun day with good food on Saturday, March 29 from 1 – 3 p.m.

The Riders will be in the kitchen preparing their best pots of chili. If you would like to participate in making chili please contact one of the ALR Officers.

A small fee of \$8 per person will be charged. Raffles and 50/50's will also be available. Proceeds will go to the ALR's special projects and scholarship program.

This event is open to the public.



In Memory

Daniel Blomquist
Gordon Bialik
Robert Slivensky
John Martinson
Wayne Omillian
Baynard Anderson Sr.
Horrace Cain
Robert Vassar Sr.
Louis Feak Jr.
Edward Jones
James Harris
Clarence Wagner
William Palmer
David Uren
Paul Nelson
Jack Schultz
William Rucinski
Patrick Ross
Lyle Wiencek
John Heikkila
Ernest Pintarelli
Ronald Peretto Sr.
Donald Choquette
James Paramski
Volney Ponchaud
Silvio Parochelli Jr.
James Newhouse
Franklin Dalpra
Dale Bemis
Larry Isaacs
Ronald Dove
Frank Hartman

David Thoney
Howard Miller
Ronald Rosera
Bruno Peloso
Rex Dye
Allen Ponchaud
Bruce Nichols
Barton Sunn
Rudolph Dalpra
Melvin Nelson
John Hoinowski
Paul Schultz
Carl Kallio
Mark Johnson
Bruno Scarite
Roland Kennedy
David Anderson
Rick Busakowski
Norbert Dishaw
Charles Aliprandini
Willard Carne Sr.

From the Reporter's obituary pages of 2024
A flag was placed before their names to let the world know, they were the proud and brave who served before eternal rest at home.



SrA Alexander Lee Wickstrom



SrA Alexander Lee Wickstrom, son of Al and Lisa Wickstrom of Iron River. Alex continues his military career in Security Forces and is stationed at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Ryan Dood



Ryan graduated from WIC 2023. He signed with the Navy on May 10, 2023, and went to MEPS. He graduated from Boot Camp on October 26, 2023. Ryan is currently at Joint Base Charleston in Goose Creek, South Carolina. He has graduated A-School and Power School. Currently in Prototype.

All family members attended Great Lakes Naval Station of Chicago.



Dad
Rodney Dood
1992 - 1996
Aviation Electrician



Grandpa
Keith Brown
1956 - 1959
Aviation Electrician



Great-Grandpa
Claude Dood
1945 - 1946
World War II



Great Uncle
Mitchell McGarry
1956 - 1959

Great Uncle
Steven Brown
1970 - 1974
(Not pictured)

Airman Payton Woollard



Airman Payton Woollard is the son of Bobby and Kara Woollard of Crystal Falls. Payton works with Avionics on the KC-135 StratoTanker. He is stationed at RAF Mildenhall, UK and is working with the 100th Air Refueling Wing.



Congratulations to F.E. Warren's newest Airman Leadership School graduates! These Airmen are ready to lead and inspire as the next generation of Air Force frontline supervisors!

Submitted photo

Iron River War Memorial

~ Photos by Kevin Zini~



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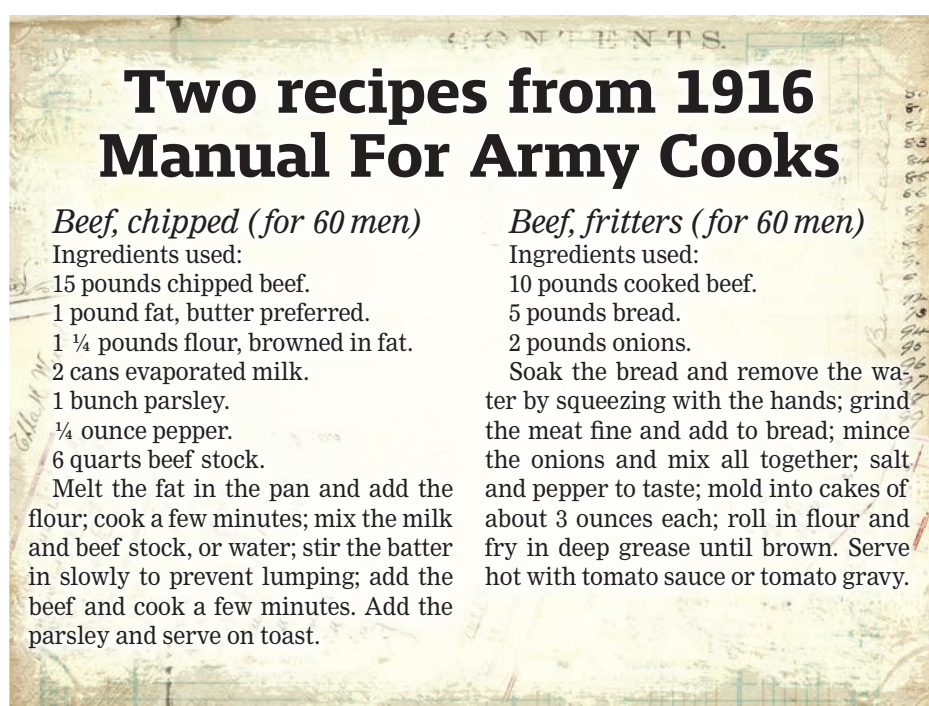
We thank our service members and their families for sacrificing so much.

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Two recipes from 1916 Manual For Army Cooks

Beef, chipped (for 60 men)

Ingredients used:

- 15 pounds chipped beef.
- 1 pound fat, butter preferred.
- 1 ¼ pounds flour, browned in fat.
- 2 cans evaporated milk.
- 1 bunch parsley.
- ¼ ounce pepper.
- 6 quarts beef stock.

Melt the fat in the pan and add the flour; bake a few minutes; mix the milk and beef stock, or water; stir the batter in slowly to prevent lumping; add the beef and cook a few minutes. Add the parsley and serve on toast.

Beef, fritters (for 60 men)

Ingredients used:

- 10 pounds cooked beef.
- 5 pounds bread.
- 2 pounds onions.

Soak the bread and remove the water by squeezing with the hands; grind the meat fine and add to bread; mince the onions and mix all together; salt and pepper to taste; mold into cakes of about 3 ounces each; roll in flour and fry in deep grease until brown. Serve hot with tomato sauce or tomato gravy.

A Salute to Those Serving Our Country

Old Military Road

From Fort Wilkins, near Copper Harbor, Michigan to Fort Howard in Green Bay, Wisconsin runs the Old Military Road. This road was built to connect the two forts during the Civil War for rapid reinforcements. Although used to connect the two forts, a trail used to reside in the same spot used for Indians and fur traders. This road also had many other uses such as connecting the northern timber resources with the rest of the world. This road played a large role in connecting the Upper Peninsula with the rest of the country at the time which later will play a major role in industrializing the mining operations in the Upper Peninsula.

In 1863 the United States made a land grant to the states of Michigan and Wisconsin to build a military wagon road from fort to fort so that supplies, ammunition and mail could be transported from Green Bay to Lake Superior in case the passage around was cut off by an enemy in a future war [4]. Around this time the United States was expanding and placing forts in key areas such as Fort Wilkins and Fort Howard. Some may question how this road was paid for at that time. The road was actually paid for in timber lands from the government, three sections for every mile of road [5].

The road was completed in 1872 but wasn't used as a highway for very long because two railroads, the Chicago and Northwestern and the Wisconsin Central were built in 1878 and reached Ashland, Wisconsin [5]. The main concern at the time of construction was that it was necessary for the military in case of a war with another great power such as Great Britain and also to protect the Portage Lake, which was the center of the copper district at that time [1]. The United States, at the time, was largely concerned about the copper mining in the area and the easy access of invasion of other countries from Lake Superior.

Although the main mission was to build a road from Fort Howard to Fort Wilkins, the road was also important for resources such as iron and copper in the area. As reported in the Chicago Tribune in 1862, "Marquette is the centre of one of the most extensive iron regions in the world" [1]. The resources in the area were obviously vital to the growth of the United States and industries in the upper Midwest. The military road connecting these two forts weren't the first in the state. In fact, military roads in Michigan began in 1813 when General Lewis Cass sought to enlist the support of Congress to begin building roads for military defenses in Detroit [7]. The importance of the military and its resources back then were quite imminent as the country was growing into a large mili-



Nicolet National Forest, Old Military Road Sign located just off Hwy. 70 East on Military Road (2178), Wisconsin. Photo by Wendy Graham

tary power. In order to become one of the top military powers in the world, the country would have to expand, which can be seen in the construction of these military roads. The military road from Fort Howard to Fort Wilkins was significant to the area for travel and also proved that there were valuable resources in Northern Michigan that were important for the expansion of the country and its military.

The Civil War

The Civil War broke out between the North and the South in April of 1861 and ended in May of 1865. The Civil War erupted because of many reasons but the most agreed upon reason would be because of the southern states wanting to keep slavery. Abraham Lincoln was the commanding general for the Union Army for the Civil War and he was also the one to approve of the Military Road to be built between Fort Howard near Green Bay, Wisconsin and Fort Wilkins in Copper Harbor, Michigan. Abraham Lincoln had signed an Act of Congress in March of 1863 which was the same year he had given the famous Gettysburg Address. The Union was clearly beating the Confederates midway throughout the war and had put an exclamation on it after defeating the Confederates at Gettysburg. The Union had a clear advantage at this point in the war with better access to resources and industry over the Confederates. This was the main reason for Lincoln to approve of this military road to be built from Fort Howard to Fort Wilkins. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin talks about the Old Military Road approved by Lincoln in 1863. It states that "In March 1863 affixed his signature to an act of Congress which enables the state of Wisconsin-Michigan to begin construction of the road", which was to be placed from Fort Howard near Green Bay and Fort Wilkins near Marquette [2]. Although it is not thought to be near Marquette today, this was to secure the copper and iron that was in abundance in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for Union troop supplies.

The Military road wasn't actually finished until 1872

which was long after the Civil War had ended thus making it quite obsolete for Union supplies for the war effort [5]. Since the Union Army had a larger number of soldiers, they needed more supplies to win the war and crush slavery. These supplies came from all over the Northern colonies at the time and also from mineral-rich hot spots at the time, including the Midwest. Part of this movement was to get supplies fast, and this came about with the help of the Military Road. The road was built in 1864 to 1871 by James A. Winslow, Squire Taylor and Jackson Hadley [2]. In the early days, the road was used for transporting troops and supplies. This was the means of travel for settlers, trappers, hunters, explorers and later on by loggers [2]. As it is seen, this road was not only important for the Civil War era, but also for years to come by others. It may even be argued that it was more useful for the settlers, trappers, hunters, explorers and loggers because it supplied for a mean of transportation. Without this road being built, the Upper Peninsula and Northern Wisconsin may not have been useful for its' timber resources and valuable minerals.

The Resources of the Midwest

Without the placement of the resources in the Midwest, there may have been no use to venture into the Midwest in the first place during the Civil War. Several decades prior to the Civil War, the North was forced to delay and compromise several of its national economic political objectives [8]. This was due to Southern opposition and the strong disagreement they held in the Senate. When the Southern states seceded, Congress began enacting this delayed agenda, which was reaching the Midwest for resources. "The Morrill Tariff of 1861, on average, raised rates to 20 percent which ended more than 30 years of declining tariffs"[8]. This would allow the North to be dominant in many areas of production for Union troops and basic supplies. This is why the Military Road was built in the first place, for supplies to be ran from fort to fort and so that the North could gather more resources from

places like the Upper Peninsula which was virtually untouched. The Upper Peninsula was full of raw materials such as timber and valuable metals, and was just being asked to be harvested.

The effect the mining has had on the entire area of the Upper Peninsula is tremendous. When driving through the Peninsula, the effects can still be seen, the land is dotted with old mining facilities. There are even names everywhere that indicates an old mining theme such as Iron Mountain, Iron River, Ironwood and street names such as Hematite. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Marquette County and the rest of the U.P. (Upper Peninsula) sent troops, but they also sent something else important for the war effort- iron ore. Iron ore from the region was used for ammunition and to help build canons [9]. Without this vital source of iron, who knows where we would be now. Iron Ore was originally discovered in the region in 1844 by a team of surveyors who was led by William A. Burt, a United States deputy surveyor [9]. He actually discovered the ore because their compasses were being thrown off from the magnetic properties in the metals in the area. When the Civil War broke out, this caused a huge demand in iron ore. This is what actually created financially successful mining operations for the area because of the large demand needed for the war effort. "In 1861, the war began, with a curious result. The total of iron ore shipments from the region dropped to 49,909 tons for all the mines. This was down from a previous 114,401 tons of iron ore shipped in 1860 [9]. This is interesting because of the demand increase. Many think that the drop of iron shipments was a direct result of men leaving the area to aid the Union in

the war effort. "By 1865, which was the end of the Civil War, there were eight mines that remained in operation. The total shipments of iron ore totaled to 193,758 tons" [9]. There is no doubt that the large success of the mining operations in the area were positively affected by the Civil War.

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Alphas' 4th of July

Raising of the flag on Independence Day in Alpha.



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A Salute to Those Serving Our Country

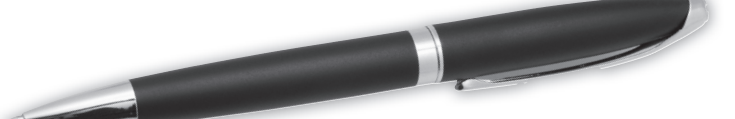


Memorial Day Service

at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, Crystal Falls
~ Photos by Quinn Ill ~



Patriot’s Pen Essays



My Voice in America’s Democracy

BY LUCY FARLEY – IRON RIVER 1ST PLACE

The adults are the main voice of the people, and we, the children, are the ears of the people. The adults in America go out in America and experience the democracy of our vast country. And their children, we listen to what they say, and although most of us pay attention, few may not. It is important to know that we have a voice in our government. We grow up to have a voice, but I want to have a voice now. I want to have my opinions heard, and I want to make an impact with my voice.

I am a citizen; therefore, I have the right to voice my opinions, ideas, and concerns about our government. I want to make a difference in the American government because I am part of the next generation of adults in America. The first step is knowing my rights. I would like to have the basic knowledge of the American government system so that when I go to school board meetings, town meetings, and any other government affiliated meeting, I can have a strong background of the subjects that may be presented. I want to fully comprehend the issues and matters and be involved in the conversations about particulars.

Another way to show my voice in America’s democracy is at student council meetings. This is why I am running for 8th grade representative. I believe that being in the student council is important because I will have a voice in what is going on. And I am running for representative because then I can voice the opinions of my classmates as well. It is important for everyone to have his or her voice represented.

In conclusion, I want to have a real voice in democracy and make a difference. I want to understand my role as a citizen and use my knowledge to help my community. I also want to be involved in our student council so all my peers feel comfortable knowing their voices will be heard as well. My voice in government matters. It allows me to lead, it affords me the ability to stand up for my rights, and it is my duty to make my voice stand out.



My Voice In America’s Democracy

BY KARTER ERICKSON – IRON RIVER 2ND PLACE

“Any government is free to the people under it where the laws rule and the people are party to the laws”-William Penn. There are many ways as an American citizen that I can make my voice heard. I can share these ideas by voting when I’m 18, continue to help Americans maintain equal rights and opportunities, and be a positive enforcer to encourage them to share their voices and opinions. By using my voice, I can share my thoughts, beliefs, feelings, and ideas with the rest of America’s society, shaping the path of America’s Democracy.

I cannot wait until I am 18 so that I can be involved in the voting process. To me, this will allow myself to take a stance on many topics and ideas I believe can be beneficial for our country. Even now, at almost 13 years old, I can actively be involved by watching the news, reading newspapers, doing research, and keeping up-to-date on current issues, challenges, and dilemmas our American Democracy faces.

I also want to continue to help Americans maintain equal rights and opportunities. Just like the Equal Rights amendment states in the constitution: All citizens would be granted equal rights. I strongly feel that regardless of race, sex, or religion, every American should be entitled to the same rights and opportunities. By educating myself, supporting many organizations, being an active listener, and teaching others about fairness, I feel that my voice can be proactive for our country.

Last, I want to be a positive enforcer to encourage others to share their voice and opinions. I cannot stand alone, so having multiple people spread their opinions and be vocal on what they truly believe in is the only way our government will hear us.

Given all these points to ponder, I do believe that my voice can and will be heard in America’s Democracy. By voting when I’m 18, by maintaining equal rights and opportunities, and by encouraging others to use their voice and share their opinions, I feel that my future beliefs, feelings, and ideas will empower others.

My Voice in Democracy

BY DOMINIC MOTTES - IRON RIVER 3RD PLACE

“Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people who have a right...and a desire to know”--John Adams. Even though I’m not of age to vote, I am eager to get there. However, I feel that a vote isn’t needed to make a change in our democracy. Joining campaigns, using social media, and organizing events are ways to express my voice in democracy.

One way I can show my willingness to be an active participant in government is by joining campaigns. This could allow me to highlight my beliefs while being surrounded by people who share them. It would also allow me to discuss my thoughts on democracy in a safe place. I’d be exposed to people who could open a world of new ideas for me. It is evident that campaigning is an effective way to express my voice in democracy.

Another format is through social media. It is a fact that over five billion people use social media. Social media could be an outlet for me to reach the entire country. It’s also a great place to build my following and express my opinions. After all is said and done, it is apparent that social media is an efficient way to express my opinions and feelings to people who want to listen.

Last, I feel that organizing events leaves a good impression on people while at the same time addressing my opinions on our democracy. This impression shows people I really care about what I am doing to get outside and put in the work to set something up for my cause. My impression is important because people will see the work that I am putting in, most likely leading to them wanting to follow my opinions and feelings with more passion. As a result of the reasons given, it is clear that organizing events is a very practical way to express my opinions with people of the community.

In conclusion, it is obvious that expressing my feelings is important, so why not make it happen early on in my life. Because of democracy’s role in our government, it is important to be knowledgeable and mature about the subject. Overall, I feel that it is very important to express my voice in democracy using the ways stated, so when it is my time to have a say in government I will be ready.



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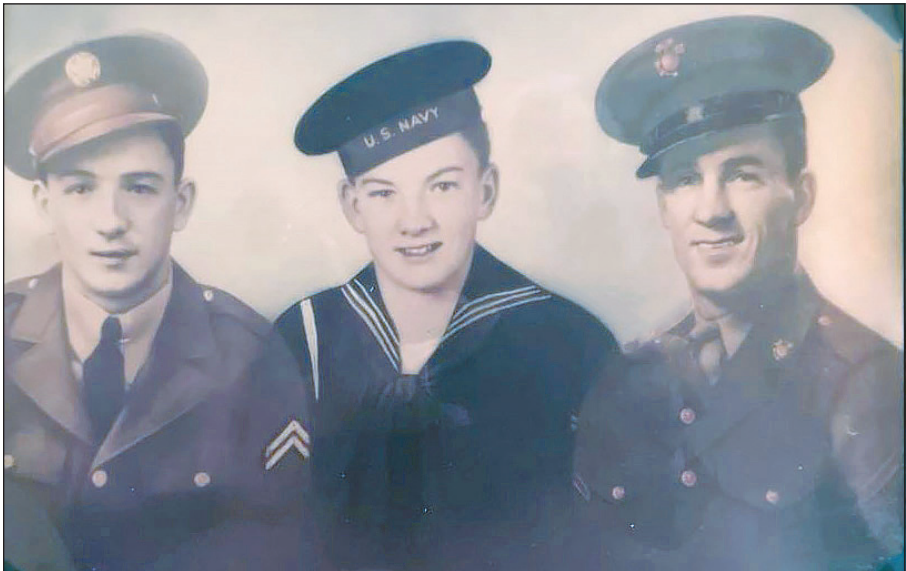
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A Salute to Those Serving Our Country

Rivard Family WWII Veterans



Rivard brothers, from left, Earl, William and Charles. All three were from Caspian and WWII veterans. (Submitted photo)



Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers Deployed

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

LANSING – Soldiers assigned to the Michigan Army National Guard’s (MIARNG) 745th Ordnance Company, based out of Grayling, gathered with their families and invited guests at the Grayling Army Airfield (GAAF) Armory in Grayling as they prepare to depart for their deployment to the Middle East to support Operation Spartan Shield.

“Our military families sacrifice a lot during these long separations and their support is crucial to the success of our Soldiers as they deploy overseas,” said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ravindra Wagh, assistant adjutant general and commander of the MIARNG. “It is our mission to support these families while they support their loved ones serving our nation.”

This will be the fourth deployment since 9/11 for the 745th Ordnance Company. The unit’s last deployment was June 2020 to the CENTCOM Theatre in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve. The Soldiers are anticipated to be deployed for up to a year.

“These Soldiers will be supporting Operation Spartan Shield throughout the Middle East to strengthen defense

relationships and build partner capacity. Their mission will focus on safely identifying, disarming and disposing of hazardous explosive devices and conducting concurrent training with partner nations,” said U.S. Army Maj. Megan Breen, commander of the 507th Engineer Battalion. “The explosive ordnance disposal mission not only ensures the safety of U.S. and partner nation military operations throughout the region but also ensures the safety of the local population.”

The Michigan National Guard Family Programs Office provides support and care for service members and families of the Michigan National Guard while enhancing the readiness and well-being of their military families through information, education, programs and resources. They may be reached at 1-888-MICH-FAM.

About Michigan National Guard

The Michigan National Guard provides trained, combat-capable forces in support of the national security strategy worldwide and defense support of civil authorities in response to federal emergencies within the United States and state emergencies within Michigan. More information can be found at <https://minationalguard.dodlive.mil/>.

Join the Nation in a Tribute to Our Fallen Heroes

Every Memorial Day at 3 p.m. local time, Americans from coast to coast pause to honor those who gave their lives in service to our country. Taps Across America invites musicians of all ages, abilities and instruments to unite in a moving, nationwide performance of Taps—the 24-note melody that has honored fallen service members for over 150 years.

Whether you play the trumpet, bugle, trombone, flute or even wish to sing, your participation ensures that no hero is forgotten. Join thousands in this solemn tribute and be part of a powerful moment of national remembrance.

What is Taps Across America?

Taps Across America is a nationwide tribute dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of our fallen military heroes. Founded in 2020 by retired Air Force bugler Jari Villanueva, Co-Founder of Taps for Veterans, this powerful tradition began as a way to bring Americans together during the pandemic. Instead of parades and public ceremonies, thousands of musicians—professional and amateur alike—took to their front porches and local landmarks to sound Taps in unison.

What started as a moment of remembrance has grown into an annual Memorial Day tradition. Each year at 3:00 PM (local time), musicians from

all backgrounds join in a synchronized, nationwide sounding of Taps, uniting the country in a shared moment of honor, remembrance, and reflection. More than 10,000 musicians participated in the inaugural tribute, and the movement continues to grow, ensuring that no sacrifice is forgotten.

Whether you are a musician, veteran, or simply someone who wishes to pay tribute, Taps Across America welcomes all to take part. Together, we ensure that the echoes of gratitude and remembrance resonate across the nation.

Join us this Memorial Day and help keep this powerful tradition alive.

#TapsAcrossAmerica #HonorRememberReflect #MemorialDayTribute

How You Can Get Involved

- SIGN UP to play Taps on Memorial Day at 3:00 PM.
- CHOOSE a meaningful location—your porch, a park, a veteran’s grave, or a community memorial.
- SPREAD the word—invite friends and family to listen or play alongside you.
- SHARE your tribute on social media using #TapsAcrossAmerica to inspire others.
- SUPPORT the mission – make a donation to Taps for Veterans and help us continue our mission of providing a live sounding of Taps for all veteran memorials.

Whether you’re an experienced musician or just learning, your participation in Taps Across America makes a difference. Stand with thousands across the nation to honor those who gave all.

VFW Ottawa Post 3134 Celebrate 80th Anniversary

October 17, 1945 – October 17, 2025

Look for an announcement to follow in the Iron County Reporter.

To those who have served, are serving now, and those who have given all..... we thank you!

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Iron County Veterans Service Office

Located in the Iron River City Hall:
106 West Genesee, Suite 101
Iron River, MI 49935-1454

OUR MISSION:

It is our mission to provide assistance and support to veterans and their dependents in obtaining veterans benefits through federal, state and local programs, and to act as an advocate on their behalf or direct them to other agencies or providers as their needs dictate.

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80th Anniversary of VJ Day at the Iron County Museum

CASPIAN – The Iron County Historical & Museum Society is getting ready to honor and celebrate Victory over Japan, or VJ Day, in 2025.


On the fantail of the USS Missouri, the Mighty Mo, representatives from nine allies gathered to witness Japan’s formal surrender Sept. 2, 1945. This effectively ended WWII. Though President Harry S. Truman announced Japan’s surrender Aug. 15, the formal signing of the treaty made it official.

And so, the world began the long, hard journey back to ‘normal’.

For over 100 Iron County men, that process never began as those men never made it home. “Iron County made a huge sacrifice to the Great War,” observes Kathlene (KL) Long, Museum Director. “We want to honor those lives lost and those families who had to carry on without them. We are in the process of gathering information and designing an exhibit to do just that.”

Currently, Long has accumulated a list of 125 Iron County men who perished in WWII. Combing through newspaper articles, yearbooks, history books published by local municipalities and more, Long has painstakingly researched these names. “It is important to know that as of this writing, we are still researching. There may be names on this list that shouldn’t be and there may still be names we have not come across,” states Long. “We have a small, dedicated team helping research each individual man. We are researching correct spellings of names and trying to find details of their military service. We are also looking for something about who they were before they went to war.” Long envisions an exhibit that lists each man individually and helps museum visitors learn something about each one. “We are inspired by the idea of how different our county might be if those 120+ men had not been ripped out of this community. Most of these men died before their lives had really begun; many were mere teenagers. We are acutely aware this story can be told in every corner of this great country. We simply want to tell the story of our county.”

Long is hopeful of a community-wide effort to honor this 80th anniversary. “Here at the museum, we are remembering the men from Iron County who perished in WWII,” Long explains. “Hopefully various parts of our county will find other angles to create activities, displays or exhibits honoring the war effort. For instance, folks could honor the men who did make it back, or the women from our community who joined the work force like “Rosie the Riveter”, the families who held paper and tin drives, those who helped sell war bonds. From sharing photographs, letters, journal entries and scrapbooks about the war to recording the memories of our elders who remember the aftermath; there are so many ways we can tell the story of what that war cost us and conversely what that war brought us. The canvas for these exhibits can be in museums, town halls, libraries, classrooms, storefronts and front yards. Art projects, essay contests and dedications are among the many things our community can do. Anyone can do something. When you



Pfc. Clyde A. Aiken, 32, killed in action in Germany Sept. 16. Husband of Mrs. Bernice Aiken, 1312 W. Lloyd st., and son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Aiken, Iron River, Mich. Also survived by a daughter, Judith Ellen, 6 months; four brothers, Pvt. Earl, Sgt. Roy, Aviation Cadet William, Jr., and Pvt. Robert, and four sisters, Margaret, Ruth, June and Carmen. Employed at Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co. before entering service Sept. 26, 1942.

Aiken, Clyde Adolph




Uren, Russell Bud

start looking at the impact WWII had on Iron County you will see how big it really was and continues to be today.”

When asked what type of event the museum will host Tuesday, Sept. 2, Long pauses. “We don’t know. Because we hope the whole county will do something, we don’t see that necessarily happening here at the museum. Perhaps there will be parades through every town in the county. Maybe there will be some huge celebration at Runkle Park. Maybe we will all gather at the fairgrounds. Maybe there will be something at the cemeteries or the two school districts. We don’t see this is as a Museum event but rather a coming together of the community on a much larger scale. At this point, we challenge everyone in Iron County to dig deep and find some way to commemorate this moment in history. If you can’t do something Sept. 2, but have an event happening this summer, perhaps you can somehow incorporate a nod to the end of WWII in some way.”

The exhibit at the Iron County Museum will be available for visitors to view Sunday, June 1 when the museum opens for the season. It will remain on exhibit through the close of the season and possibly beyond. “We invite the commu-



Baumgartner, Bernard A.

Nephew Killed in Action—
Rev. V. Puotinen has received word that his nephew, Lieut. Eino Jarvi, who was earlier reported missing in action, was killed in action over Germany on Dec. 31. He is survived by his father in Wyoming, one brother, William, with the U. S. army in France, his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Elias Puotinen of Amasa and several uncles and aunts, including the Rev. Puotinen from Mass.

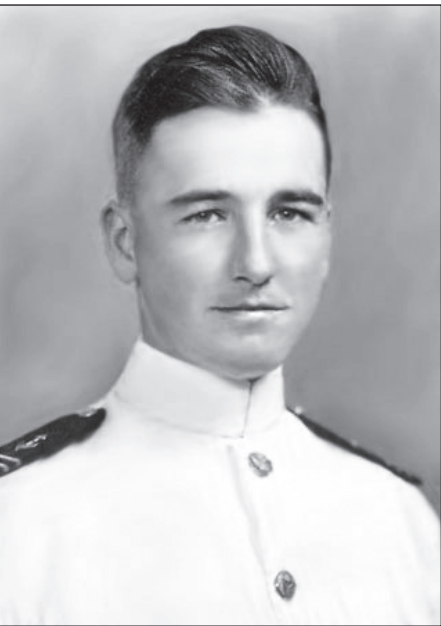
Ironwood Daily Globe, Ironwood, Michigan Friday, March 2, 1945

Jarvi obituary

nity to come see what we put together,” Long encourages. “We will have photos, mementos and information about these men who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve freedom for America and our European allies.”

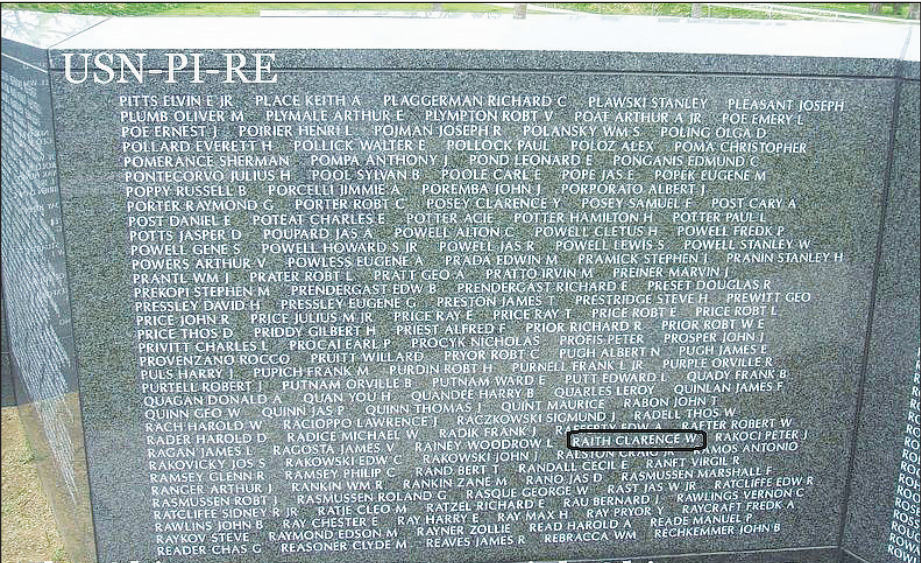
Below is the current list of men from Iron County who perished in WWII that museum volunteers are working from. If you have a photo or other information about any of these men to share, if you see a name that does not belong on this list or do not see a name that does belong, please email KL@IronCountyMuseum.org with that information.

A: Clyde Adolph “Dutch” Aiken, George Peter Apostle, David M Awerdick
B: Bernard A Baumgartner, Walter B Baumgartner, Robert Bridson, Clifford J Brusseau, Thomas Henry Brzoznowski, William Albert Burrridge
C: Oliver A Callovini, Robert George Campbell, George Miller Cannon, Robert McElhinney Carey, Albert Paul Carlotto, Bruno Peter Carlotto, Evo A Carmine, John George Chervo, Lloyd A Contardi, Louis Richard Contardi, Roland Adolore Cossette
D: George Dominic Dalcanale, Steve A Dennis, Clarence Gustave Doenitz, James George Doucette
E: George William Eckola, Jack B Eddy
F: Harold Hamilton Fargher, Milton Earl Farley, Bruno V Franzoi, Clarence E Furaitar
G: Clement Galetto, Stanley Walter Glemboski, Arnold Alden Groop
H: Joseph Ellsworth Hajkowicz, Raymond Clarence Halls, Lloyd William Hansen, Sulo Eugene Hanttula/Hanttala, Raymond Hagglund, Warren Robert Harding, Urho Veikko Harman/




Mason, Wilbur Jerome

Harmanmaa, Thomas Harvey, Waino Hautala, Francis J Hermansen, Arthur George Hessel, Earl Walter Hill, Alvin Virgil Howard
J: Eino Edward Jarvi, Robert Horace Jensen, Robert Huglar Jensen, Clarence Myron Johnson, Donald Victor Johnson, Raymond John Johnson, William R Johnson, Woodrow G Johnson
K: Emil Kangas, David G or C Kenney, Alfred H King, Raymond Kukoski
L: George W Lahde, Emil Lekatz, Ernest D Lampkin, Florek Lehto, Williard L Luba
M: William W Macgray, John Macurak, Henry E Maki, Kauko Kalarno Mannio, Michael R Marinin, Leslie R Marlowe, Wilbur Jerome Mason, Sidney Leon Mattson, Clarence Melchiori, Harry William Mertins, William H Mitchell, Frank Moore
N: Franklin A Nelson, Clayton J Nohlecheck
O: Marshall E O’Berg, William O’Berg, Eugene M Oswald
P: James “Cap” Peryam, Axel R Peterson, Noman R Pidgeon, John C Pintarelli, Robert P Pintarelli, James Tranquill Povolito, Edward Joseph Prokop
Q: Laurence Arthur Quayle
R: Clarence William Raith, William H Rakowski, Tauno M Rambacka, William Lawrence Rice, Lawrence Ross, Francis A Robichaud
S: Bernhart R Salmela, Melvin Rudolph Saxon, Louis G Schiavo, John Scott, Harry J Sherman, Tony Shubat, Joseph Smokevitch, John Peter Stasaski, Frank Stimac, Roger L Stoor
T: Jack Lloyd Taff, Earl Elias Takala, Royal A Thoney, Tony Timpani, Robert Tokoly, Robert Tower, Tony Trepasso
U: Russell George Uren
V: Edward A Valentine, John M Valine, Stanley F Van Troba, Arthur Van Wyk, Lester E Vassar, George R Vernon, Arnold E Vitanen
W: Neil “Red” W Waite, Reino Wierikko, Kenneth L Willis, Edmund Wodzinski
Y: Lloyd R Youngell
Z: Leo H Zaiki
More information about upcoming activities, to buy tickets, make donations or learn about volunteer opportunities, visit www.IronCountyMuseum.org, call 906-265-2617 or email info@IronCountyMuseum.org.



The Okinawa Peace Memorial, Okinawa, Japan

Raith, Clarence Okinawa marker



Uren military marker local.



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