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★ Memorial Day Edition ★

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# We Honor Our Veterans



placing veteran flags at Lakeview Cemetery - always in time for Memorial Day.







#### Featured Writer

#### Andrea Magnuson

"INCOMING!" a soldier shouted, and the platoon took cover. The first enemy grenade exploded where one GI was just sitting. The second hit Captain Murphy on his back, rolled off, and exploded nearby, incapacitating the captain, and tearing into Rocky Bleier's right leg and heel. After the Army medic examined the commanding officer, he moved to Bleier and asked where the soldier was hit. Bleier said he had a great deal of pain in his right foot. Medic PFC-3 Jeff Bloomquist carefully removed his boot and protectively dressed the wound to prepare him to be carried through the jungle and helicoptered out to a safe location.

Jamestown hometown hero, Jeff Bloomquist, can lay claim to being the initial member of the medical team who enabled Robert "Rocky" Bleier to rehabilitate and return to professional football, play for the Pittsburgh Steelers, and win four Super Bowls. Recognizing his courage and service to his fellow soldiers, General William Westmoreland decorated PFC Bloomquist in the field. Jeff once told us how touched and honored he felt several years later when he attended a veteran reunion. At some point during the weekend, soldiers who were treated by the medic lined up and saluted him to show their appreciation. Letters written by families of veterans thanking Jeff for saving their sons were

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Follow us on: (f) (iii)

# Charles Watkins: 30-Year Veteran, Heroic Pilot, Jamestown Native

Contributing Editor

#### Katrina Fuller

Today, as the United States prepares to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country and fellow citizens, we may also contemplate the living - those who served or continue to serve this great nation with selflessness, courage, and unending love for the United States.

Col. Charles Watkins of the United States Marine Corps. is a stellar example of United States Military Veterans' dedication, integrity and tenacity.

Watkins was chosen to be the keynote speaker for the Memorial Day Service today at Lakeview Cemetery, held by the NY4 Blue Star Mothers. He comes

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 7** 



Col. Watkins with daughters, Emery, Elora, Britta, keynoting 2019 Gold Star Mother's Service.



JAMESTOWN GAZETTE May 27, 2024

### MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

Featured Writer
Vince Horrigan

As we gather this Memorial weekend across Chautauqua County, let us member that this recount the time to story of true heroes, the story of American patriots, the story of ultimate sacrifice, but most importantly a love story. This weekend we celebrate the love of our Gold Star Mothers, and the love they share for their departed sons and daughters. We celebrate the love my fellow veterans share for their fallen comrades. We celebrate the love that our citizens share for those who fought and died so we can be free. For as John 15:13 says: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends!"

In our country, we do a wonderful job of creating and building physical memorials. The Vietnam Wall, the WWII Memorial, the Iwo Jima memorial, and our Air Force Memorial with its spires reaching to the sky, as well as our beautiful memorial parks in our local communities. All are solid symbols of our desire to physically commemorate our fallen heroes. You only need to visit the Flight 93 memorial in Shanksville PA to see how we honor 40 everyday people who gave their lives by standing face to face with the 911 terrorists who attacked our Nation on that fateful day. At these hallowed places, we can see and even trace with our fingertips the names of those who have given their lives in defense of our country. Often, we see the words: "All gave some, some gave all!"

We remember the aircrews flying their bombers and fighters over the battlefields of Europe. We see the many young men who perished with their ships in Pearl Harbor. We see the faces of Navy nurses who, through many wars and conflicts, provided care amid chaos; and we see the brave faces of those men and women who died in Vietnam and Korea -- whose sacrifices went unrecognized for years because of the unpopularity of the conflicts they found themselves in.

We see the face of F-16 Pilot Major Troy Gilbert who gave his life providing close air support to save



Vince Horrigan, USAF, Ret.

the lives of a downed helicopter platoon of American soldiers under attack from the Taliban just north of Fallujah in Iraq. We see the face of Army Chinook Pilot Maj. Marie Rossi, the first women combat commander who gave her life while rescuing downed aircrews during the first gulf war. We remember the 11 Marines, a Navy Corpsman and an Army soldier who gave their lives at Abby Gate while evacuating those who escaped the Taliban during the evacuation of Afghanistan. This weekend, we mark this special day by celebrating their selfless service while grieving their absence in our lives.

Gathering on this Memorial Day weekend is one way to show our love and gratitude.

But how do we extend the reverence we feel to day through the other days of the year? More importantly, how do we instill and deepen the tradition of this special day for the coming generations of Americans? How do we ensure that Memorial Day continues to be observed with profound reverence regardless of whether we are a nation at war?

First, we must teach our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren about the sacrifices that have been made on our behalf so that we might continue to enjoy the liberties and freedoms granted in our Constitution. We must help future generations understand that poli-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 17** 





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A special thanks to all of our family members who have served this country and to all of our service members in Chautauqua County!

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#### **Editorial** with Lori Cornell

### Celebrate Our Veterans



Owner & Publisher Lori Cornell

I don't remember the first time I met Vietnam Veteran Jeff Bloomquist...sometime around 1999 when I first moved to Jamestown, I'm sure. He was my northside neighbor around the corner, and we ran in some of the same community circles. Such a nice guy, always a smile on his face, despite some challenging medical issues...

But I WILL always remember the first time he touched my heart.

It was the summer of 2004. I was busily preparing for my August wedding and my brother, Ryan Mrowka, was serving in Iraq. During these early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, service members were given a two-week "Rest & Recuperation (R&R)" to return briefly for a visit to the states. My brother, of course, requested to utilize his R&R for my wedding, but was no sooner told that Congress had opted to temporarily discontinue this reprieve.

a former Congressional staffer, I felt I knew a thing or two about advocacy and would hear none of that. So I drew up some petitions and Jeff, who my nearly grown sons will forever call

"Abraham Lincoln," proceeded to circulate and collect thousands of signatures urging Congress to reinstate R&R. I'll always credit Jeff for my brother's attendance at my wedding.

Now, more than twenty years later, my brother has long finished his four-year ROTC "payback" service, but I'll run into Jeff and he still recalls and still cares. And, invariably he still asks, "How's your brother doing?"

The thing about Jeff is that my experience is not special. It's not unique. Jeff is impassioned and so wholly caring about all those who are blessed enough to come into his life that his emphatic actions just come naturally. It's like the Bleier story our frontpage author, Andrea Magnuson, tells so beautifully. Jeff served us proudly as an Army medic and now continues to proudly serve our Greater Jamestown community. Once a medic, always a medic. All of us are the better because of Jeff's care.

Likewise, I am so incredibly proud to feature one of my personalfavorite Marines in this issue, Col. Charlie Watkins. On one hand, he is just a down-to-earth Maple Grove parent like me with three beautiful girls, while on the other, he is a larger-than-life superhero having served thirty selfless years for us all.

Please check out Katrina Fuller's article on the front cover, and give Col. Watkins, and all our brave servicemen and women, the honor they deserve this Memorial Day!



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#### **SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

Thursdays at 5:00 pm

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The Jamestown Gazette is a locally owned free weekly, community newspaper that highlights the notable events and remarkable people who make the Greater Jamestown region a unique and vibrant place to live. The Jamestown Gazette is published every Monday and distributed to dealer locations in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties in New York and in Warren County, Pennsylvania.

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# **Cummins JEP Grant Delivers 500 Sleep Sacks to Creche!**



Left to right: Jennifer Lundmark, Cummins JEP Community Relations Coordinator; Dawn Columbare, Chair, Creche Child Health Promotion; Marion Beckerink, Creche Fundraising Comm.; and, Dawn Pickett, Unit Director Maternity Care Center, UPMC Chautauqua).

Article Contributed by

The Creche, Inc.

The Creche, Inc. organization was pleased to show its appreciation for a community grant award from the Cummins Jamestown Engine Plant (JEP). On May 10, 2024, Creche members Dawn Columbare and Marion Beckerink were able to thank Jennifer Lundmark on behalf of Cummins JEP for the company's generous grant award in the amount of \$4,950. The Cummins JEP community grant enabled Creche to cover 70% of the cost to order and purchase 500 new sleep sacks for every infant born at UPMC Chautauqua in Jamestown

The sleep sacks arrived in May to make sure babies stay warm while keeping loose blankets out of the crib to reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome or SIDS. The ongoing donation and delivery of these sleep sacks to UPMC Chautauqua has been one of many ways in which Creche seeks to care for



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infants and children in Southern Chautauqua County. The grant from Cummins, however, allowed Creche to purchase almost one year's supply of sleep sacks.

Creche also used the occasion to present UPMC Chautauqua maternity ward nurses Dawn Pickett and Amanda Hagg with diapers, baby wipes, socks and blankets donated and collected by Creche members during their Spring Tri-Annual meeting on May 9, 2024. Among their many other full-time nursing duties, Dawn and Amanda graciously assure every new mother and baby receive these items whenever there is a need.



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# Support the Blue Star Mothers



#### *Article Contributed by*

#### National Blue Star Mothers

Since its inception during WWII, the National Blue Star Mothers organization has existed to provide support for active-duty service personnel, to promote patriotism, and to assist veterans' organizations in our communities. Membership in the Blue Star Mothers is comprised of those who now have or have had children honorably serving in the US Military. Chautauqua County's local chapter (NY Chapter 4) has been actively pursuing opportunities to provide tangible and emotional support to military personnel and their families since 2007.

#### **Annual Memorial Day Service** Mon, May 27, 10:45am Lakeview Cemetery

This annual service takes place following the 10am Jamestown Parade. Keynote speaker will be Jamestown area resident Col. Charles Watkins USMCR. Col. Watkins was commissioned a 2nd Lt in the United States Marine Corps in 1992 following his graduation from Clarion University of PA. After receiving his helicopter flight training, Watkins was designated a Naval Aviator in 1995. He served over 30 years of combined active and reserve service before retiring as a Colonel in 2022.

During his years of service, Col. Watkins conducted six overseas deployments to the Middle East, Asia and Africa. During his most recent deployments he was assigned as the Senior Marine Liaison Officer to the Combined Forces Air Component Commander within the Combined Air Operations Center, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Significant events while serving in this capacity include the campaign against ISIS in 2017 and the evacuation of Afghanistan in 2021.

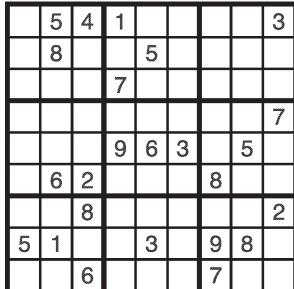
Watkins is currently employed as a medical helicopter pilot with STAT Medevac at UPMC Chautauqua. He lives in Jamestown and is married to his wife Leah and has three beautiful daughters.

Master of Ceremonies for this service will be Chautauqua County Sheriff and Blue Star Dad, James Quattrone. Also participating will be the Jamestown Municipal Band, conducted by Blue Star Dad Rick Lundquist. Guest clergy will be Reverend Sam Shreffler, USAFSS, 1970-1974, and retired senior chaplain for Heritage Ministries.

For those interested in participating in the Jamestown Memorial Day Parade, register at: https://form. jotform.com/240807490194055

For those interested in knowing more about the mission of the Blue Star Mothers, please email: bluestamothersny4@yahoo.com.

# **SUDOKU**

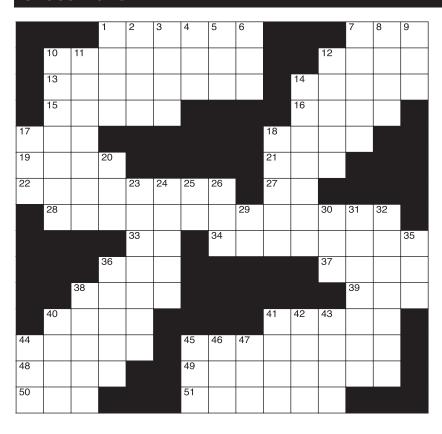


#### **Here's How It Works:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Level: Intermediate

#### **CROSSWORD**



#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Lunatic
- 7. Doctor of Education
- 10. Able to make amends
- 12. Tight-knit group
- 13. Gland
- 14. Intestinal pouches
- 15. Fungal spores
- 16. Erstwhile
- 17. Engine additive
- 18. Nasal mucus 19. Fit a horse with footwear
- 21. Consumed
- 22. Settle
- 27. Larry and Curly's pal
- 28. Basketball's GOAT

- 33. Exclamation of surprise
- 34. Made tight
- 36. Before
- 37. Actor Nicolas
- 38. Not hot
- 39. Talk
- 40. Pledge 41. Abandon a mission
- 44. Trims by cutting
- 45. Aspects of one's character
- 48. Boxing GOAT's former surname 49. Holy places
- 50. Body art (slang)
- 51. Attributes







#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. How one feels
- 2. American Nat'l Standards Institute
- 3. Information 4. Licensed for Wall Street
- 5. Keyboard key
- 6. Born of
- 7. Choose to represent 8. Small European freshwater fish
- 9. Everyone has their own 10. Line from the center of a polygon
- 11. Lebanese city
- 12. Type of watercraft
- 14. A way to twist
- 17. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 18. Greek island

- 20. Medical practitioner

- 25. Atomic #52 26. Santa's helper
- 29. Rapper \_\_\_ Rule
- 30. Month
- 31. Word formed by rearranging letters
- 32. Nullifies
- 35. Young woman ready to enter society
- 36. Unemployment
- 38. Weight unit
- 40. Formal party
- 41. Computer language
- 42. Residue formula in math 43. Duty or responsibility
- 44. Part of (abbr.)
- 45. Time zone
- 46. Body part
- 23. \_\_ DeGaulle, French President 47. Nucleic acid
- 24. Partner to "oohed"



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# A Civil War Memorial in Need of Help

Featured Writer

Mark H. Dunkelman

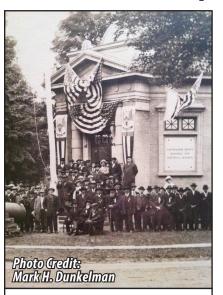
s the Civil War entered its second year in the summer of 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued a call for 300,000 volunteers to serve in the Union army. In response, Camp James M. Brown was established in Jamestown as a military depot for Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties. The county fairgrounds were chosen as the camp's location. Today a monument near the corner of Brown and Prospect streets commemorates Camp Brown.

Two full regiments of infantry were organized at Camp Brown. The 112th New York was raised entirely in Chautauqua County. Two companies from Chautauqua and eight from Cattaraugus formed the 154th New York. The two regiments left Jamestown in September 1862 and went on to serve in some of the most notable battles of the war: the 112th at Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and Fort Fisher; the 154th at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Chattanooga, the Atlanta campaign, and Gen. William T. Sherman's marches through Georgia and the Carolinas.

Men from the two counties also served in other units, among them the 37th, 64th, and 72nd Infantry; the 9th New York Cavalry; and the 13th and 14th Heavy Artillery. In all, approximately 2,300 men from Chautauqua and 3,500 from Cattaraugus served in the Civil War.

In the postwar years, veterans engaged in activities to commemorate their service. They joined the Grand Army of the Republic and other service-related fraternal organizations. They held reunions of their companies and regiments. They traveled south to their old battlefields and brought home relics. They recorded their wartime experiences in newspaper and self-published memoirs. And they arranged for the publication of regimental histories, including a history of the 112th New York by the regiment's chaplain, William L. Hyde.

As the veterans aged, their communities erected monuments



Civil War veterans at the dedication of the Cattaraugus County Memorial and Historical Building, Little Valley, September 7, 1914.

in their honor. A fine example is the monument on the village green in Sherman, dedicated in 1913. In Cattaraugus County, towns erected eight Civil War monuments in cemeteries between 1883 and 1911. In 1914 the Cattaraugus County Memorial and Historical Building was dedicated in Little Valley to the county's Civil War soldiers and sailors. More than two hundred veterans attended the dedication ceremony. It is the only known Civil War memorial building erected by a county in New York State.

For ninety years, the Memorial and Historical Building served its intended purpose as Cattaraugus County's historical museum. But in 2004 the museum was moved to Machias. The building sat vacant and deteriorating until 2013, when the county legislature voted to demolish it. A year later, Citizens Advocating Memorial Preservation (CAMP) was formed to oppose the demolition plans. After back and forth with the county, CAMP purchased the Memorial in 2017. Today, the grassroots historic preservation group is working devotedly to rehabilitate Cattaraugus County's most significant Civil War monument. This Memorial Day, CAMP seeks your support as a volunteer or donor. For information about the group, visit its website at www. cattcomemorial.org.

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### ZETTE

#### **Charles Watkins**

#### **CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE**



Col. Watkins, Veterans Day 2014 at Bemus Point Elementary.

Col. Watkins with wife, Leah Watkins, at 2014 National Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

by the position honestly - he served his nation in various capacities in The United States Marine Corps for more than 30 years, retiring in 2022 as a Colonel.

Watkins moved to Jamestown as a freshman in high school and has always thought of the area as his hometown. He attended Clarion University in Pennsylvania, accepted a commission in the Marine Corps as an officer and became a helicopter pilot, specifically flying a HUEY.

"That was my main what we call MOS
- military occupational specialty," he said

He served eight years of active duty and retired from service as a Captain just before 9/11. He moved to Massachusetts, and began working for a civilian company there - but was shortly thereafter notified that he would be mobilized in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Watkins was mobilized in early 2002.

"When I was mobilized, I ended up back out in California, serving on the staff of the Third Marine Aircraft Wing," he said. "It was at that time I was promoted to Major. Then, of course, Iraq started and I was over with an advance party to go over and prepare for that."

Throughout the years of his service, Watkins did a total of six overseas deployments to Asia, the Middle East and Africa, three of which were aboard amphibious ships, including one with the Dutch Marines. He also somehow found time to get married while mobilized.

"My wife and I were dating at the time," he said. "She coincidentally lived in California and I lived in Massachusetts, so we were doing a long-distance thing. I mobilized and went out there, and the rest is history, as they say."

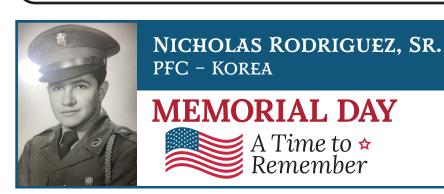
Watkins was mobilized for the fight against ISIS in the Middle East, serving as the Senior Marine Liaison Officer to the Combined Forces Air Component Commander with the Combined Air Operations Center at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. He also served in this capacity in 2021 for the evacuation of Afghanistan.

"It was a very busy time," Watkins said of the evacuation of Afghanistan. "From what we were given, I believe strongly and I think there's a lot of consensus with this that we - the military - did as good, honestly, of a job as we possibly could have with what we were handling."

Watkins retired from the Marines in 2022 as a Colonel and came home to Chautauqua County. However, the intrepid pilot couldn't stay away from helping others and flying helicopters. He returned to his job with UPMC flying STAT MedEvac emergency flights.

Watkins said there are many reasons to remember and hold the tradition of Memorial Day, but a few are most prominent in his mind on this particular Memorial Day.

"Memorial Day is specifically set aside for those that died in uniform whether it was in combat or training or whatnot, they never left the service," he said. "Veterans Day, of course, is more dedicated toward anyone that served whether they're serving now or had served prior in their life. So, obviously, there is the remembering - but I think for each of us that wore the uniform, there's the specific remembering of our immediate friends that we knew and who had passed away in service. But, in a more broad sense, it's remembering all of those that died for us from the beginning of our country until today - and then, remember what it was that they died for."





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#### **May 13**

Cynthia Whitmore, 66 Jamestown Riccardi's Funeral Home

#### **May 15**

Roger A. Himes, 67 Kennedy Peterson Funeral Home

#### **May 18**

Roland E. "Bud" King, 87 Ellicottville Lind Funeral Home

James V. Beightol, 82 Kennedy Falconer Funeral Home

#### **May 19**

Michael W. Gregory, Sr., 89
Bemus Point
Lind Funeral Home

#### May 21

Sam Vullo, 86 Jamestown Peterson Funeral Home

#### **May 23**

Charles S. Centi, 82 Jamestown Lind Funeral Home

David M. Lloyd, 79 Ashville Lind Funeral Home

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# Memorial Day



OBITUARIES ★

Contributing Writer

Rev. Luke F. Fodor

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

We don't need scientists to tell us, because we already know that memory is a fickle thing—shifting and unreliable. Since the beginning of time, humans have created external tools to help us remember. And I am not thinking about the cliched practice of tying a string around one's finger to remember. Before the invention of the written word, ancient peoples would create elaborate songs and stories to memorialize important information. Or sometimes they'd paint pictures on cave walls with handprints to remember their loved ones or erect standing stones to communicate a place of importance.

Recent scientific studies tell us that each time we access a memory we are in fact altering it—recreating it and making them stronger by integrating fresh sensory data. Just like the stories and songs that the ancients shared, each time we bring something to mind we add a further articulation. While this practice rarely comes to the front of our mind, it is most clear on these bright sunny days at the end of May when we celebrate Memorial Day. With parades, speeches, visits to family plots at Sunset or Lake View Cemeteries or merely gathering to BBQ with family and friends, we fashion many rituals to remember those who are important to us, but no longer with us.

Our faith, too, plays a role in remembering and honoring the legacies of those we love. With memorial acts, like a Seder or Eucharistic meal, we gather in community to literally re-member the significant events or acts of our spiritual ancestors—keeping the faith alive each time we celebrate. Singing songs also strengthens our memories.

One of the most famous Christian "Come Thou contains one of the most obscure lyrics—so incomprehensible that it has been removed in most modern versions. What is the offending line? "Here I Raise My Ebenezer," which is a reference to God's saving help during the period of the Judges when the Prophet Samuel called upon God and fashioned a stone memorial to commemorate God's intervention. In Hebrew, Ebenezer means "stone of help" (eben = stone; ezer = help). This is just one of many stories in the Hebrew Bible of stone-stacking to help the people memorialize God's deliverance. To this day, it is a Jewish practice to place a stone upon a grave of loved one when making a visit. Words and stones carry great power.

As the warmer weather draws you outside to make new memories with your friends and families—stacking stones in a circle to make a campfire or skipping them across the water with the children in your life—pay attention to the legacy that you are fashioning in the world. May you pause to raise your own ebenezer and give thanks to God for all those who have gone before. Memorial Day is for remembering and making new memories.

The Jamestown Gazette is proud to feature different faith leaders from throughout the Greater Jamestown area each week, in an effort to connect andinspire. We endeavor to provide a variety of religious and faith perspectives well-aligned with our diverse community and values. If you are a faith leaderand wish to contribute, please contact publisher Lori Cornell at LCornell@jamestowngazette.com.

# 9

# STEM WARS 2024 Building Our Future Workforce



First Place Competition Winners, Teachers and Organizers

Contributed by

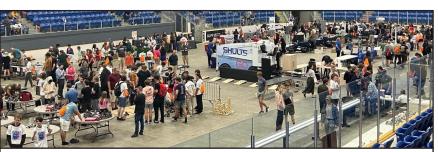
Todd J. Tranum

Executive Director, Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier; President/CEO, Dream It Do It Western New York

An expanded program over two days drew 1,000 students, teachers, representatives from manufacturing and community members to the Northwest Arena for STEM Wars 2024. STEM Wars 2024 brought together manufacturers, students, educators and technology. It featured students competing from all 18 school districts in Chautauqua County with a variety of Science Technology Engineering and Math projects and meeting with local manufacturers to explore careers and learn about emerging technology.

STEM Wars 2024 is a produced by Dream It Do It Western New York, technology teachers from the region and members of the Chautauqua Chapter of the New York State Technology and Engineering Educators Association

The event was sponsored by Blackstone Advanced Technologies, Chautauqua Partnership for Economic Growth, Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, Cummins, Dream It Do It Western New York, the Gebbie Foundation, the Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier, the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation and Weber Knapp.



Picture from track: taken during competition.

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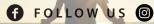
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#### We Honor Our Veterans

**CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE** 

May 27, 2024

read out loud. Most recently, two representatives traveled to Jamestown to present an autographed football to Jeff on behalf of Rocky Bleier.

Those who do not know of Jeff's Vietnam experience may recognize him as the man who dresses as Abraham Lincoln and marches in various parades, including our Memorial Day parade. He has idolized Lincoln since he was a little boy and has read—and currently owns—hundreds of books on the 16th President of the United States, developing an impressive knowledge of Lincoln's life and times. According to a memoir written by his brother, Henry, Jeff has marched in nearly 400 parades and has given programs in approximately 125 classrooms. In 2013, Niagara County Community College invited Jeff to present the Gettysburg Address on its 150th anniversary.

Still others may know Jeff from his work with the American Cancer Society for which he personally has raised over \$100,000. He himself is a cancer survivor, having been a victim of Agent Orange exposure. He has traveled to the VA Hospital in Erie, Pennsylvania for numerous treatments and surgeries over the years without complaint. Jeff's dear friend, Bob Williams, makes sure he gets back and forth to all his appointments.

A life-long resident of Jamestown, his father owned Shea's Deluxe Cleaners. In Jeff's early days he was a pitcher for various local baseball teams. He worked for many years at J.S. Auto Supply, Goodell and Dibert Homes, and at several businesses and homes performing a variety of repair and maintenance responsibilities. His work ethic is another one of his

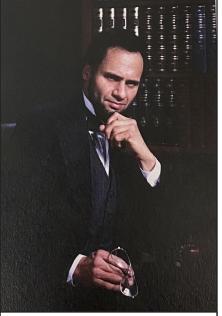


Bloomquist serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

finest attributes, probably due to his upbringing; raised to do chores and do them right.

The Magnusons cannot remember a time when we did not know Jeff Bloomquist. He attended Jamestown Public Schools with my husband, Tim, albeit a few years older. My earliest memory is working with him to stuff envelopes for political campaigns and walking door-to-door to make "lit drops". He even ran for Mayor of Jamestown one year, as evidenced by the "Vote for Bloomquist" bumper stickers we still have around our house.

Jeff is the definition of a good American citizen: responsible, keeps up to date on current events, and contributes to the community. Every year he places flags on the graves of veterans. He has a scholarship fund that he regularly contributes to at the Chautauqua



Bloomquist in tribute to President Abraham Lincoln.

Region Community Foundation: the C. Jeffrey Bloomquist History Scholarship Fund.

He loves his country, his family, his friends, and his city. And if you know Jeff, you know he loves Christmas. Every year he beautifully decorates his tree and nearly every empty space in his house. His dining room table becomes full of cards and treats he receives during Advent. He sends out or personally delivers hundreds of Christmas cards that include a wonderful message inside. Within his latest card he wrote "To God: 'I love Christmastime'". He closed the message by saying: "This time each year I recall December 1969 in Vietnam, Southeast Asia. I was in a wartorn country, homesick and deeply missing my family and our traditional Christmas. Could this be why I overdo it at Christmastime?"



Andrea Magnuson, one of the many community members whose lives Bloomquist has touched.

In preparation for this article, I listened to Robert "Rocky" Bleier's video narrative that was recorded for the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration found at https://www.loc.gov/item/ afc2001001.115964/. The Vietnam War was not a popular war and returning soldiers did not come home to parades and other fanfare. Bleier described how they were disrespected and sometimes spat upon.

He said some were never thanked for their service.

Thank you to all the Vietnam War veterans. Thank you to all who have served and are serving our country. Thank you, Jeff.





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# **Chamber Corner**

Article Contributed by

**Daniel J. Heitzenrater**President and CEO of the Chautauqua County
Chamber of Commerce

#### **Summer Starts Now**

The summer season is upon us and there's no shortage of things to do, places to go, and people to see in Chautauqua County. Summertime here is not just for tourists, there's plenty for residents as well.

The Chamber's First Friday series in Westfield kicks off Friday, June 7 on Main Street in that village. First Friday highlights local restaurants and retailers as well as bringing in a variety of street vendors, food trucks, art, and live music. There is no charge to attend First Friday, just come and enjoy from 5-8pm and support our local businesses in Westfield. First Friday on June 7 is sponsored by AHN Westfield Memorial Hospital, Brooks-TLC Hospital System, Westfield Boatworks, and Community Bank. The First Friday series continues through the summer with additional dates as follows: July 12 (Reunion Weekend in Westfield), August 2, and September 6.

With a focus on highlighting local businesses, the Chamber's committee in Hanover is planning a Beach Bash Showcase on Thursday, June 13. This event from 6-8pm will be held at Sunset Bay Beach Club in Irving. Local businesses will set up vendor tables to show off their products and services, there will be food, acoustic music, a basket raffle, and a cash bar. Tickets are \$12 for Chamber members or \$15 for nonmembers and are available through the Chamber's web calendar at www. chautauquachamber.org. Beach Bash Showcase is sponsored by Farrell Roofing, Financial Trust Federal Credit Union, M&T Bank, ADD Lumber True Value, and Brooks-TLC Hospital System.

In Mayville the annual Summer Concert Series begins June 27 at the gazebo at Lakeside Park. Concerts are from 6-8pm, are free to attend and family-friendly, and are all sponsored by the Town of Chautauqua. There will be food trucks available. The lineup for the season is: June 27th - Bill Ward & John Cross; July 11th - Daniel Cecil; July 18th - Patsy Cline Performed by Pat Cook; July 25th - Water Horse with Sue Tillotson & Jim Cunningham; August 1st - PJ Jammin' with Pat Cook and John Savage; August 8th – Adam McKillip; August 15th – Daniel Cecil; and August 22nd – 23 Skiddoo.

Dunkirk's Music on the Pier summer concert series begins June 6 with an opening act each Thursday at 5:25 and a headliner to take the stage at 6:45pm. Music on the Pier continues through August 22.

In downtown Jamestown, Third Thursdays hosted by the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation kicked off in May with a Shakespeare company at Wintergarden Plaza. Additional live acts are set for Third Thursdays June 20, July 18, and August 15.

The Chamber's committee in Jamestown brings the always popular Jamestown Cruise-In to downtown Jamestown August 11, featuring custom, classic, and souped-up cars, live music, and more.

Festivals Fredonia will hold its annual Fredonia Italian Festival June 22 at the Fredonia Beaver Club. The event will include children's activities, craft vendors, food and wine vendors, live music, a meatball contest, and more. For details visit festivalsfredoniany.org.

The Great Blue Heron Music Festival is set for July 5-7 at the Heron Farm & Event Center in Sherman. The full lineup of performers is available online at greatblueheron.com.

Chautauqua Institution celebrates its 150th summer season this year with a full schedule of performances, lectures, classes, and services running June 22 – August 25. Learn more and find tickets at chq.org.

The summer season at Lily Dale Assembly gets underway June 23 with events and activities that continue through August 30. That schedule is also available online at www.lilydaleassembly.org.

The National Comedy Center has announced two of the headliners for its annual Lucille Ball Comedy Festival the first weekend in August. Nicole Byer is set for August 1, with Jeff Ross on August 2. A third confirmed artist will be announced mid-June for August 3.

This is just a quick overview of some events and festivals coming up this summer. To find even more, visit the online calendar at www.tourchautauqua.com.



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# **MEMORIAL**



- 1. What was Memorial Day formerly known as?
- 2. Why was Memorial Day originally created?
- 3. When did Memorial Day become an official federal holiday?
- 4. At what time does the "National Moment of Remembrance" occur?
- 5. What New York town is recognized as the birthplace of Memorial Day?
- 6. Which President named Waterloo as this holiday's birthplace?
- 7. What flower is associated with Memorial Day?
- 8. Who is considered the founder of Memorial Day?
- 9. When are American flags flown at half-staff on Memorial Day?
- 10. Where is the nayional wreath-laying ceremony held on Memorial Day?

9. From sunrise till noon 10. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 5. Waterloo 6. Lyndon B. Johnson 7. The red poppy 8. John A. Logan 1. Decoration Day 2. To honor fallen soldiers of the Civil War 3. 1971 4. 3 PM



# **Interesting Facts Related to Memorial Day**

*Article by* 

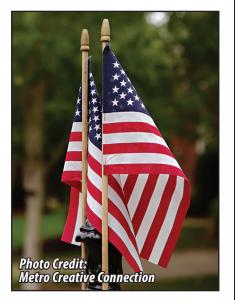
★ MEMORIAL DAY EDITION ★

#### **Metro Creative Connection**

Memorial Day is celebrated annually on the last Monday of May across the United States. The proximity of Memorial Day to the summer solstice has led many to view the weekend preceding the holiday as the unofficial kickoff to summer. However, Memorial Day is about more than backyard barbecues and weekend getaways.

Memorial Day honors service members who died while serving in the United States military. Though Memorial Day traces its origins to the years following the American Civil War in the mid-nineteenth century, it did not become an official federal holiday until 1971. That's one of just many interesting facts about Memorial Day that are worth noting as the United States prepares to commemorate the sacrifices of military personnel who died in service of the country.

- Memorial Day began as something of a grass roots movement. According to History.com, by the late 1860s individuals in towns across the warravaged United States began holding springtime tributes to soldiers who lost their lives during the American
- Among the more notable postwar commemorations was one organized by former slaves in Charleston, South Carolina. That commemoration occurred less than a month after the Confederate forces surrendered in 1865. Despite that, History. com notes that in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the birthplace of Memorial Day.
- Postwar commemorations also were organized by northern veterans of the Civil War. General John A. Logan, who led an organization of Union veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance in May 1868. General Logan referred



to the holiday as Declaration Day and chose May 30 because it was not the anniversary of any specific battle and therefore unlikely to be viewed by some as controversial.

- Early commemorations of Decoration Day, which gradually came to be known as Memorial Day, initially honored only those soldiers who died during the American Civil War. However, that changed over time as American servicemen fought in various wars, including both World Wars, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, and other conflicts.
- The red poppy has become a symbol of Memorial Day. That red poppy can be traced to a poem by Canadian John McCrae, who served as a Lieutenant Colonel in World War I. "In Flanders Field" notes the red poppies that grew in fields where countless soldiers had been buried in modern-day Belgium. The poem was published in 1915, three years before the war ended. Sadly, McCrae himself was a casualty of the war, succumbing to pneumonia in France in 1918 while still in the service.

Memorial Day honors service personnel who lost their lives while serving in the U.S. military. The holiday's inspiration and lengthy history merits consideration as the nation prepares to commemorate countless soldiers' sacrifices once



# **Good Neighbor Bookstore to Feature Local Authors June 8**

Join "Overcoming the Sadness" Authors Wayne R. Carlsson and Jonathan N. Courtis for Meet and Greet, Book Signing

Article Contributed by

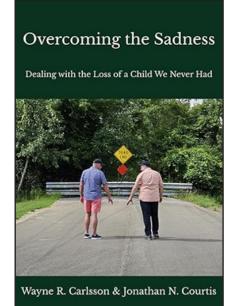
#### Dr. Wayne Carlsson

The Good Neighbor Bookstore is proud to feature local authors Wayne R. Carlsson and Jonathan N. Courtis on June 8, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, for a meet and greet and book signing.

Their book, "Overcoming the Sadness," chronicles their three-year adoption journey, which includes the hardships of going through the adoption process, and why it ultimately did not work out for them. They address the problems with the adoption system and offer solutions on how to help fix it.

Jon and Wayne also talk about the support group they have started on Facebook for people like them who have failed to place with a child in their home. It is called F.A.S.T. Failed Adoption Support Team. They encourage everyone to pass the information along to anyone they know that have found themselves in the same situation.

The book is also helpful for those looking to start the adoption journey.



Wayne and Jon feel that if you follow their advice, you might have better luck in placing with an adoptive child.

Finally, they would like everyone to know that a portion of the proceeds from the book will go towards distributing it to certain members of Congress, in an effort for them and others to go to Washington, D.C. to lobby for change.



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# **Pride Month Opening Ceremony** Saturday, June 1 at the Jackson Center



The Pride Month Opening Ceremony at the Jackson Center this Saturday morning includes the raising of the Progress Pride flag and local speakers instrumental in building greater rights for the LGBTQ community in Jamestown and Chautauqua County.

#### *Article Contributed by* Robert H. Jackson Center

# Everyone is welcome at the Pride

Month Opening Ceremony at the Robert H. Jackson Center, 305 E. 4th St., at 10 a.m. this Saturday.

Along with the raising of Jamestown's Progress Pride flag and local speakers, the rally will include voter registration, refreshments and Jamestown Pride merchandise for sale.

The following Saturday, June 8, is the 2024 Jamestown Pride, with events occurring throughout the day downtown. Activities at the Winter Garden Plaza, 313 North Main St., include a community drum circle, live music, a local variety show, drag performances, and the start of the Rainbow Walk. Apply at tinyurl.com/ JtownPrideVarietyShow by May 28 to audition for the talent show.

The Jamestown Public Market opens 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Evening entertainment includes drag, burlesque and dancing. For the full schedule, visit JamestownPride. org/Events and click on Agenda.

Community members volunteer to assist with set-up, tear-down, and other event needs by signing up at bit.ly/JPrideVol.

The 2024 Jamestown Pride is presented by Evergreen Health and the Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County.

# **Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union Opens New Community Training Center**



Surrounded by board members, staff, local elected officials, Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce staff, friends, and family, John Felton, CEO of the Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union cut the ribbon Monday, May 20 on the new Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union Corporate Offices and Community Training Center. The facility at 110 Mall Blvd, Lakewood, is available for local nonprofits and businesses for trainings and events. Felton noted, "Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union started its service to schools many years ago and continues to do so, and now we are also very focused on ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families in Chautauqua County, as well as financial literacy programs. This facility helps to meet our mission by providing opportunities, especially for nonprofits, to convene in a very affordable and accessible community setting."

# **CCIDA Provides Loan to Assist with Purchase of Dahlstrom Roll Form**

**Board also Approves Loan for Equipment Purchase at Dunkirk Metal Products** 



Brad Renwick (left) and Jeremy Blum are the new owners of Dahlstrom Roll Form in Falconer, NY, thanks in part to a recently approved loan by the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency's board of directors during its April 21, 2024 meeting.

Article Contributed by

#### County of Chautauqua **Industrial Development** Agency (CCIDA)

The County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) Board of Directors recently approved two loans involving local manufacturers in Falconer and Sheridan. One loan will assist with the purchase of Lakeside Capital Corporation, doing business as Dahlstrom Roll Form. The other loan will assist with the purchase of equipment at Dunkirk Metal Products of WNY, LLC (DMP). The loans will not only help to retain 79 jobs between the two manufacturers, but also create four new positions.

The loan for Dahlstrom Roll Form was \$900,000 and will go to Jeremy Blum, current Chief Executive Officer of the company, and Brad Renwick, the current Chief Operations Officer. The two will use the loan to assist with the purchase of the company from Robert White, its current president. Dahlstrom Roll Form has a long and storied history in the greater Jamestown area. It was founded in 1904 by Charles Dahlstrom, a Swedish immigrant, as the Dahlstrom Metallic Door Company and initially made doors for large-scale buildings across the United States, including the construction of the Empire State Building. It eventually expanded its metallic roll form operation to meet other needs.

Changes in ownership have occurred over the years, with White purchasing the operation in 2007. In 2019, Dahlstrom Roll Form purchased DC Roll Form at 221 Lister Ave., in Falconer, with financial assistance from the CCIDA through a mortgage recording tax exemption. In 2022, the company fully moved into the new location. By keeping the company locally owned, the move will help to retain 43 jobs and create two additional positions.

Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development and Chief Executive Officer of the CCIDA, said keeping ownership local will help to ensure the company continues to operate in Chautauqua County for years and decades to come.

★ REMEMBER & HONOR ★ ★

"We are thankful for the support and assistance from the CCIDA in helping us make this purchase," Blum and Renwick said in a joint statement. "We look forward to our continued involvement at Dahlstrom Roll Form as the new owners and will work to continue the strong manufacturing legacy the company has secured in the greater Jamestown area and Chautauqua County."

The loan for DMP (3575 Chadwick Drive) was for \$280,000 and will be used to help with the purchase of a Tube Laser Cutting System. DMP is a metal fabricator and has been in existence in Chautauqua County since 2012, along with its predecessor entities going back to the 1940s. It provides quality parts primarily in Western New York and Northeastern Pennsylvania. The new laser machine is a newer technology with specialized applications for different tube cutting applications (round, square, oval, etc.). The new equipment will help to retain 36 jobs and create two new positions at DMP.

"We've assessed the local marketplace and feel the new equipment will provide an excellent opportunity for cost savings and business growth," said Jean Gaulin, DMP partner and CFO. "Establishing and growing this segment of the business will be a primary focus over the next three years and beyond."

"We're happy to assist DMP with the purchase of this new equipment," Geise said. "Dunkirk Metal Products has proven to be a valuable employer for dozens of workers in the North County and this loan from the IDA will help ensure it remains that way in the coming years."preserve the Dahlstrom legacy with his decision to move to a newer, more modern facility a short time ago. This support by the CCIDA illustrates the important role the agency plays in our local economy."

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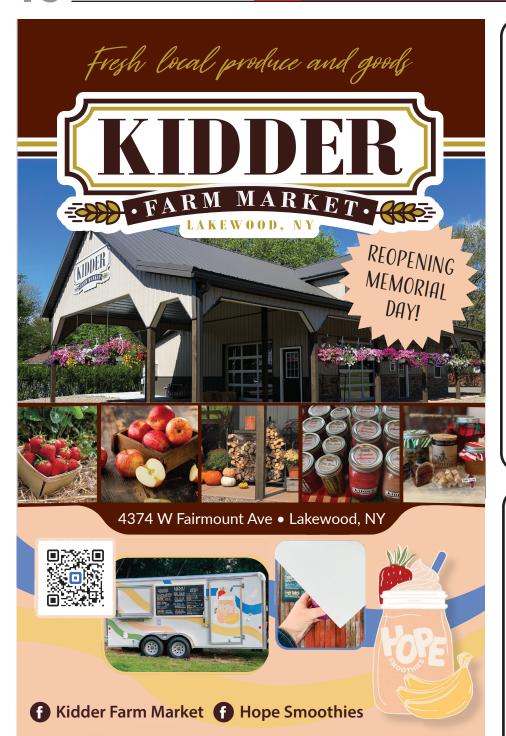
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# **Cub Scout Pack 135 Distribute Flags at Lakeview Cemetery**



Cub Scout Pack 135, from Jamestown's Northside, helps distribute flags at Lakeview Cemetery for Memorial Day.

### "Flower Communion for a Fateful Time" by Rev. Alex Holt at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown on June 2



Russell, PA were lured out of bed to

enjoy the display.

Rev. Alex Holt speaks at the 10:30 a.m. June 2 Sunday service of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown (UUCJ), 1255 Prendergast Avenue. His message, "Flower Communion for a Fateful Time," will describe how Rev. Norbert Capek, later killed in a Nazi concentration camp, started this tradition in a large Unitarian church in Prague in 1923. He will look at how this beautiful ceremony can remind us of that courage as an uncertain year moves into summer. Participants are asked to bring a flower to the service. A retired Unitarian Universalist minister and Oregon resident, Rev. Holt is UUCJ's First Sunday virtual preacher. To join virtually, use the link at UUJamestown.org/calendar.



#### **Memorial Day Tribute**

**CONTINUED FROM Page 2** 

tics aside, the act of committing yourself to your country and being willing to fight for the freedom of others is among the most noble of endeavors.

Second, each of us must find ways to ensure the legacy of our heroes endures. Find a way in your life - at work or home, at church or school, wherever - to keep their memories alive. Honor their sacrifices, tell their stories, and cherish their memories. –Remember!

And finally, continue to gather on this special day each year to pay your respects to

each of them. Make this day an annual reminder of the need to give of yourself in honor of those who have given everything. Treat Memorial Day with reverence and respect and others will follow your lead. Thank you to all the organizers of Memorial Day ceremonies across Chautauqua County and thank you to the publisher of this newspaper so that we can honor the lives and legacies of those we have lost...lost, but never forgotten. May God bless all our fallen heroes and may God Bless the United States of America.







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May 27, 2024

# This Week Around Town



#### **MAY 27**

#### Bemus Point Memorial Day Parade - 9 AM

Bemus Point For Info: visitbemuspoint.com

#### Jamestown Memorial Day Parade - 10 AM

Jamestown/Lakeview Cemetery

#### Memorial Day Weekend at Panama Rocks

Panama Rocks | Panama For Info: 716.703.0021 or panamarocks.com

# Golf with the Pros at Mulligan's

Mulligan's Golf & Fun Center Lakewood For Info: 716.969.0529 or mulligansonfairmount.com

#### **MAY 29**

### Weekly Bird Walks at RTPI

Roger Tory Peterson Institute Jamestown For Info: 716.665.2473 or rtpi.org

#### Movies at The Reg The Long Game - 7 PM

Reg Lenna Civic Center Jamestown For Info: 716.484.7070 or reglenna.com

#### **MAY 30**

### Poor! City Clay House

Pearl City Clay House Jamestown For Info: 716.488.2529 or pearlcityclayhouse.org

#### Jamestown Tarp Skunks Baseball - 6:30 PM

Russell E. Diethrick, Jr. Park Jamestown For Info: 716.705.5600

#### **JUNE 1**

#### Fredonia Farmer's Market 9 AM-1 PM

Church St. | Fredonia For Info: 716.672.4818 or fredoniafarmersmarket.org

#### Yoga with the Birds at RTPI 9 AM-1 PM

Roger Tory Peterson Institute Jamestown For Info: 716.665.2473 rtpi.org

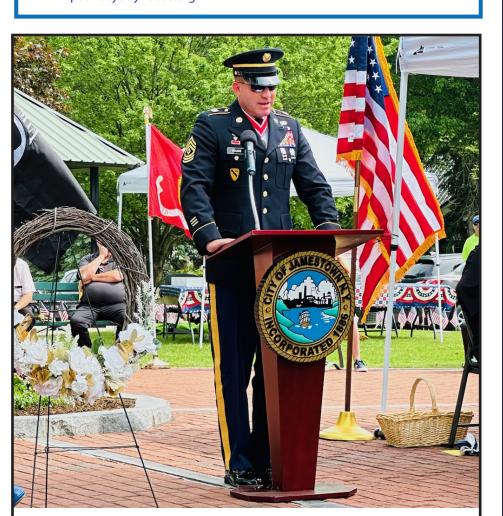
#### Fenton History Center Historic Tours 10:30 AM-12 PM

Fenton History Center Jamestown For Info: 716.664.6256 or fentonhistorycenter.org

#### First Sunday Storytime 12:30 PM-1 PM

Audobon Community Nature Society | Jamestown For Info: audoboncnc.org





1st Sgt. Jeremy Young Keynotes Tribute to the 22 Local Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice at Gold Star Mother's Memorial Service on Memorial Day weekend. (if you didn't already use these words)



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# **A Day of Rememberance**



Featured Writer Shannon Nixon

Memorial Day, as we understand it, is a day of remembrance for fallen soldiers dating back to the Civil War. It is recognized as the unofficial start to summer or the prelude to another patriotic holiday: the 4th of July. But there is, of course, a greater depth to this holiday that we couldn't possibly understand in its totality unless we were veterans of war or their loved

For many of us, Memorial Day is a three-day weekend. A time to fire up the grill, put the boat on the water, and catch the fireworks. That is the privilege of being an American. We are so fortunate that we don't even have to consider the significance of the holiday.

I am one such person. And here I am, tasked to reflect on what Memorial Day meant at its inception and what it means today.

From the United States' origin until now, there have been countless, unimaginable sacrifices made on the part of our military members. And that's really all I can say about that. I can't tell you what it means to be on the front lines of war. I can't describe in vivid detail what it means to lose someone to war.

I don't wish to steal the spotlight from those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. I'm simply saying I cannot describe what it means to be these men and women because I have never been in the position to experience it.

Still, there is an important message to be delivered. Our country, with all its foibles, is a unique experiment in democracy incomparable to anything before its founding.

Liberty. Freedom. Independence.

We have heard these words so many times---from our school desks as young children to our news programs as adults---that I fear they have lost their meaning. We have, a long time ago, reached such a state of splendor that we can't comprehend what fighting for sovereignty would require of us. But those who have seen war, or who have been victims of war, do know.

★ REMEMBER & HONOR ★ ★

I'll lay it all out plainly. I am saddened to witness the malaise that seems to have overtaken my countrymen and myself. The dissolution of the American ethos has been evident throughout the last several years. We have become spectators and participants of infighting, othering, and palpable disdain for fellow Americans simply because they think differently than us or sit on the opposite side of the political aisle.

"With great freedom comes great responsibility."

Whether this quote is attributable to former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt or Spiderman's Uncle Ben, it can be brushed away as just another platitude. But there is a reason why such sayings become colloquial fixtures and that is because they are often infallible

We can thank our brothers and sisters in arms for doing as much as they have thus far... but if we want a free and prosperous country as we say we do, it is our responsibility on an individual and community level to maintain it.

This Memorial Day, or any day throughout the year, we have the opportunity to lay down our metaphorical arms and sit down together, have a hotdog, and talk about what it means to be an American and what it means to preserve the great American experiment. It should not take another Civil War for citizens of this country to remember we are meant to be a united people. We are all Americans and people before us gave their lives to give us the right to call ourselves Americans.

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Father's Day Weekend

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**JUNE 27TH** 

**JULY 11TH** 

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### **Fenton History Center Dedicates Blue Star Memorial Garden**



Contributing Writer Janet Wahlberg

n a glorious sunny Saturday afternoon, the Fenton History Center hosted the dedication of their Blue Star Memorial Garden. The program was the culmination of the Fenton being designated as a Blue Star Mother's Museum and a year and a half of planning and hard work. Jane Babinsky, the director at the Fenton History Center shared the vision and work that brought this project to reality.

The Blue Star Marker and Garden project began with an idea from playing my pipes at a dedication ceremony many years ago for a garden in Ohio. I thought that a Blue Star Memorial Garden would be fitting for the Fenton History Center because Governor Reuben E. Fenton was known as "The Soldier's Friend" during the Civil War and after the City of Jamestown purchased the property in 1919 it became the "Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park." The building became a place where various veteran groups could hold their meetings and during WWII it housed the draft board.

A plan for the garden was created by Master Gardener, Pat Martonis. A grant was received from CRCF and funding from the Blue Star Mothers NY4. The Southern Tier USMC Association gave us funding for maintenance of the garden. We collected plastic to recycle to receive the bench from the Trex Company. National Chairperson, Wells helped with the paperwork and walked me through the steps necessary to receive the official Marker.

Without the sponsorship of the Jamestown Garden Club, help from the City Parks Department under the direction of Dan Stone, the Blue Star Mothers who helped with planting, Master Gardener Pat Martonis, the staff and volunteers of the Fenton History Center who maintain the garden, we would not have been able to pursue this project. Thank you to all who supported this project; it really did take a village to build our Blue Star Memorial Garden.

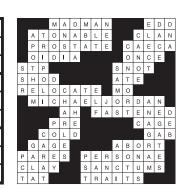


And so, after all the challenging work, on Saturday May 18, President NY4 Blue Star Mothers, Susan Rowley led the dedication program which opened with a stirring rendition of Scotland the Brave and the Marines Hymn by the 96th Highlanders Pipes and Drums. The Dwyer Color Guard presented our Nations Colors. Elora Watkins, a Maple Grove Junior sang our National Anthem followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Kathy Collver 1st VP Blue Star Mothers

Following an invocation by Rev. Willian Blair, USN Ret. of the New Creation Assembly of God Church, Ms. Rowley introduced honored guests and officials: NYS Senator George Borello, NYS Assemblyman Andy Goodell, County Executive PJ Wendell and Jamestown Mayor Kim Ecklund. Keynote Speaker Greg Carlson Major USAF Ret. Director of the Veterans Service Agency Chautauqua County reflected on the role of the Blue Star Mothers as the loving and life-giving women who support the young men and women who choose to serve and protect their country. The Patriot Guard Riders Motorcycle group provided a patriotic background for the garden with the flag of each branch of service flanked by the American flag.

After a history of the Blue Star Memorial Markers by Jane Babinsky, director of the Fenton History Center and a recognition of the Blue Star Families of NY4, Kathleen Collver and Dan Stone Parks and Recreation Director unveiled the Marker. Our garden received its designation as a Blue Star Memorial Garden and Marker from the National Garden Club. The 96th Highland Pipes and Drums performed Amazing Grace as a tribute to the flowers followed by our Benediction and the playing of TAPS by Michelle Battaglia, Band Director Falconer HS, USN Musician Ret. The playing of Green Hills and The Battles Over by the 96th Highlanders Pipes and Drums completed the program.

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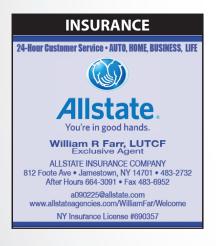
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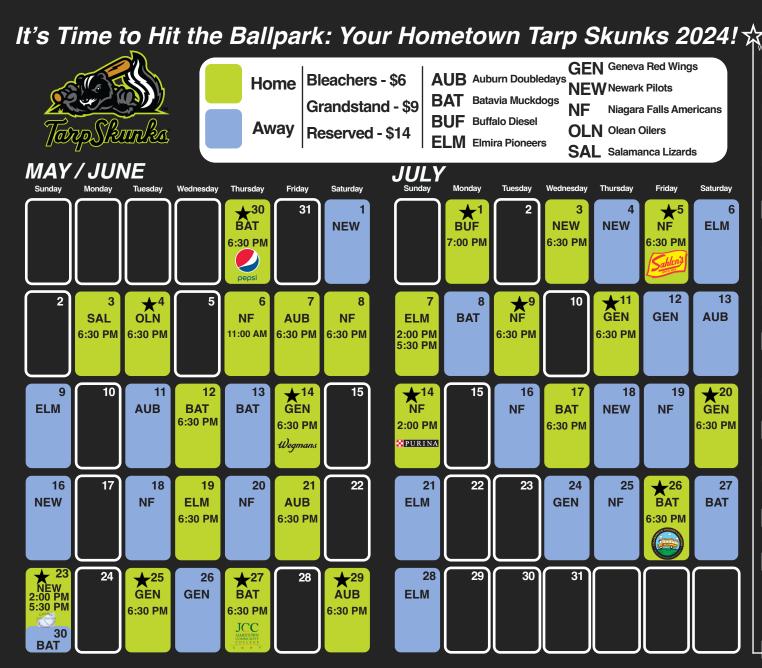
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June 4th

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#### Pat's Pen with Pat Locke

# June is National Rose Month



Contributing Writer

#### Pat Locke

he month of June is National Rose Month and was first observed in 1959 when efforts were made to pass a bill to designate the rose as the national flower. However, the rose wasn't made the national flower until 1986 when President Ronald Reagan made it official. First Lady Ellen Wilson created the White House Rose Garden in 1913. Before becoming a rose garden, part of the property was allocated to the White House stables, horses and coaches.

June is recogized as an ideal month for roses and a popular choice for brides at their June weddings. Roses come in more than 150 varieties across the Northern Hemisphere and around the globe. Five states make the rose their state flower. New York State's official rose (named on April 20,1955) is one of any color or combination, North Dakota and Iowa named the Prairie Rose as their state flower. Georgia's state flower is the Cherokee Rose and the Oklahoma Rose is the state flower of its namesake.

Roses have a long history of symbolism from love, peace, devotion and beauty. You can enjoy go the beauty of roses this month by visiting to Botanica under the symbol of the symbol of

South Part or perhaps gift a bouquet from your own personal rose garden. If your summer includes planting a rose garden, suggested tips are to learn which roses grow best in your soil with good drainage, avoid placing them too close to other plants to

guarantee adequate sunlight and air

circulation. Water the roses at the base of the plant to avoid wetting the leaves and trim tall bushes to approximately five feet during the winter season to prevent wind damage. One of the keys to success in growing roses in New York State is choosing disease-resistant varieties.

If visiting the botanical gardens in Buffalo, you will learn that in early 1893 Frederick Law Olmsted provided the Buffalo Board of Park Commissioners with a design for the 156-acre South Park with its picturesque lake and pedestrian paths. It became the location of an arboretum displaying trees and shrubs that could grow in Western New York. Erected in 1898 by the well-known firm of Lord & Burnham, the glass conservatory is one of the largest structures of its type in the country.

Several iconic rose gardens in New York
City are a must-visit for rose enthusiasts.
The Peggy Rockefeller
Rose Garden located within the New York
Botanical Garden boasts

over 600 rose varieties.

Stop and smell the roses, enjoy those little things about your life, your family, your spouse and your friends. The origin of the phrase, stop and smell the roses, is attributed to a golfer by the name of Walter Hagen. He published a book in 1956 called

for a short visit. Don't hurry. Don't worry. Be sure to smell flowers along the way". The quote became rather famous due to its motivational and inspirational qualities therefore an interpretive license was taken to shorten the sentence to "stop and smell the roses".

ry. In it, he

# Local Author Dawn M. Swanson Announces Book and Upcoming Events



Contributed by

Dawn M. Swanson

Director, Kennedy Free Library

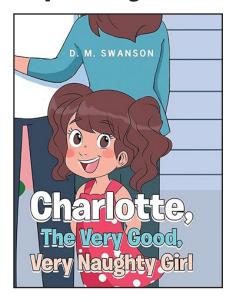
#### **Book Synopsis**

Tharlotte, the Very Good, Very Naughty Girl is a delightful story of little Charlotte who has learned how fun it is to use the word no a little more often than her mother. father, grandparents, and teacher would like. As the story unfolds, Charlotte refuses to pick up her toys, go to bed on time, and even participate when her teacher asks! Father has a wonderful idea to turn the tables on little Charlotte. With clear communication, the adults in Charlotte's life work together to help her begin to rethink how fun the word no is. The unsuspecting Charlotte is quite surprised and perplexed when everyone begins telling her no! This fictional tale of sweet little Charlotte is quick to point out that everyone does naughty things sometimes. It does not mean that you are naughty!

#### **Author Bio**

First time author, mother, library dire Ker abo education, child development,

and reading. Dawn is devoted to providing a place for the community to feel welcome and have access to technology and educational advancement.



Dawn's first book, Charlotte, The Very Good, Very Naughty Girl was released July of 2023. The second book in this series, Charlotte and the Mischievous Cat, will be released by the end of this year. Dawn is hoping to have a series of children's books and to eventually release a book of poetry. Charlotte, The Very Good, Very Naughty Girl is available online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Books A Million, and other national retailers. Locally, this book is available at Dots Gift Boutique (Jamestown), The Good Neighbor Bookstore (Lakewood), and RAW Juice and More (Randolph).

#### 2024 Author Calendar of Events

- May 25, Cattaraugus Free Library 11am
- May 30, Anderson-Lee Library (Silvercreek) 10:30am
- July 23, King Memorial Library (Machias) 11:45am
  - August 6. Lokewood Memorial RP any Public
  - Library 3:30pm SRP
- September 16, Hazeltine Public Library Time TBA
- Mayville Library TBA
- Pine Valley Elementary School

