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Memorial Day Ceremony Planned at MO State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield

MAY 22ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Memorial Day Ceremony Planned at MO State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield

Bloomfield, Missouri - The annual Memorial Day ceremony will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield on Monday, May 28, 2018.

The American Legion Post #59 Honor Guard will present the POW/MIA Table Ceremony which honors soldiers that were prisoners of war or missing in action from each branch of the U.S. Military.

The Stoddard County Honor Guard will provide the firing of the volley for the Memorial Service.

The public is encouraged to attend.

Families and friends of those buried at the cemetery are invited to attend, as well as members of the general public. For more information, contact the cemetery office at (573) 568-3871.

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Congressman Jason Smith Honors Matthew Agey of Dexter

MAY 22ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Congressman Jason Smith Honors Matthew Agey of Dexter

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Dexter, Missouri - On Saturday U.S. Rep. Jason Smith presented a Congressional Award to Matthew Agey of Dexter. The award is the highest honor given by Congress to a youth who excels in a number of areas including personal development, public service, physical fitness and exploration. The awards can range from several different certificate levels, all the way to bronze, silver and gold medals.

“It’s a great honor for me to acknowledge Matt’s dedication and commitment to reaching his goals and achieving the Congressional Award,” said Smith. “I hope this is the first of many medals I will present to some of the outstanding youth in southern

Missouri.”

Matt is the son of Debby and David Agey of Dexter. He earned certificates through the program as he worked to complete the requirement for the medal. While other students in the 8th Congressional District have received certificates, this is the first medal earned by a high school student in the 8th District since Congressman Smith entered office.

To earn the bronze medal, Matt, who will be going into his Junior year at Dexter High School, gave more than 100 hours in voluntary public service in his community and achieved challenging goals in the areas of physical fitness and personal development. Students in the program choose someone to help encourage and guide them through the process and Matt worked with Sean Vanslyke as his advisor, CEO of SEMO Electric, helping him set his goals and validating his activities in each of four program areas.

Matt served his community by assisting at 4H and Sons of the American Legion events. He helped raise money for Wreaths Across America and local cancer organizations. Matthew volunteered his time to set up community events for children and placed wreaths on graves of veterans. He furthered his physical goals by learning proper rules, technique and skills associated with the game of golf and participated in the Junior PGA. He also pursued aggressive physical development for the upcoming football season.

“The Congressional Award is a way to encourage students to set goals and work to achieve them,” said Smith. “I have no doubt this has helped keep Matt on a course toward a successful future. It can do the same for other students.”

The Congressional Award is the United States Congress’ award for young Americans. It is non-partisan, voluntary, and non-competitive. The program is open to all youth regardless of ability, circumstance, or socioeconomic status. Participants earn Bronze, Silver, and Gold Certificates and Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas; Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration. Any student, including those with special needs or disabilities willing to take the challenge, may earn the award. To find out more, contact Congressman Smith’s office at 202-225-4404.

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Mayor Banken Signs Proclamation for National Police Week

MAY 14TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Mayor Banken Signs Proclamation for National Police Week

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Dexter, Missouri - Jason Banken signed his first proclamation as the new Mayor of Dexter on Monday, May 14, 2018 honoring men and women who have served as police officers for the city of Dexter. May 13th - May 19th is National Police Officer Week.

Established by President John F. Kennedy, National Police Officer Week also has designated Tuesday as National Peace Officers Fallen Day. **Flags are to fly half-staff all day on May 15, 2018.**

Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

Proclamation

Whereas, the Congress and President of the United States have designated May 15, 2018 as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which it falls as Police Week;

Whereas, the International Association of Chiefs of Police has declared law enforcement officer safety and wellness a top priority, and the IACP's Center for Officer Safety and Wellness promotes the importance of individual, agency, family, and community safety and wellness awareness; and

Whereas the members of law enforcement agency of Dexter Police Department play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Dexter, Missouri; and

Whereas, it is important that all citizens know and understand the problems, duties and responsibilities of their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence or disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression or intimidation; and

Whereas the police department of Dexter PD has grown to be modern and scientific law enforcement agency which unceasingly provides a vital public service;

Now, Therefore, I, Jason Banken, Mayor of the City of Dexter, call upon all citizens of Dexter, MO and upon all patriotic, civil, and educational organizations to observe the week of May 14th as Police Week with appropriate ceremonies in which all of our people may join in commemorating police officers, past, and present, who by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and, in doing so, have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

I further call upon all citizens of Dexter, Missouri to observe May 15, 2018 as Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor those peace officers who through their courageous deeds, have lost their lives or have become disabled in the performance of duty.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of the City of Dexter, Missouri to be affixed this 14th Day of May, 2018.

Pictured are from left to right City Administrator Mark Stidham and from the Dexter Police Department Hank Trout, Trevor Pulley, and Joshua Benton. Seated Mayor Jason Banken ready to sign the Proclamation.

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Dexter Wal Mart Donates to Local Police Department

MAY 08TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter Wal Mart Donates to Local Police Department

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Dexter's Walmart presented the Dexter Police Department with a \$1,500 donation on Thursday, April 26, 2018.

The monies will be utilized in supplying the department with updated body cameras.

This is the second time Walmart has committed to assisting with the local department's upgrade of equipment.

Accepting the grant are Lt. Joshua Benton and Capt. Trevor Pulley. At left are

Walmart Asset Protection Assistant Manager Cory Nugent and Assistant Store Manager Randee Holder.

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Weber's Ben Franklin to Close After 109 Years of Business in Downtown Dexter

MAY 01ST 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Weber's Ben Franklin to Close After 109 Years of Business in Downtown Dexter

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Dexter, Missouri - It is with bittersweet emotions that the ShowMe Times announces the closing of Weber's Ben Franklin in downtown Dexter. For more than 109 years the store has graced the downtown as one of the best locally owned shopping retail stores in Stoddard County. Dexter has been truly blessed to have such a store in our community. However life is ever evolving and time has a way of changing our goals, aspirations, and priorities.

Edward and Alice Weber began the store under the name of Weber's Novelty Store in 1909.

Ernest Weber, Joe Weber's grandfather ran the store from 1920s through the mid 1950s. When Joe returned home from the Air Force in 1955 he took over working the store.

While originally it was a variety, 5 and dime store, the business transitioned to an arts and crafts store with floral, framing and fabric in the early 1980's. .

You can find Joe working the counter most every day, but due to health he has been in the store less and less. He started when he was about 10 years old weighing candy, barely tall enough to see over the counter.

Another familiar face you would see everyday is Donna West. In 2012 she celebrated her 50th year at Weber's Ben Franklin. Donna has been with the store since her high school days and has managed the store for 40+ years. She is looking forward to retirement.

The Weber family wishes to thank the Dexter community as well as faithful customers from the surrounding Southeast Missouri area for their continued support over the years.

"The decision to end the business after 109 years was not an easy one to make, but the timing is right," commented Cynthia Weber Chesser, Joe's daughter.

Sales begin Wednesday, May 2, 2018 with discounts up to 30% on most items in inventory. They will keep the doors open long enough to sell the majority of the merchandise.

You might want to stop in one last time and enjoy a little Ben Franklin. It's the end of an era.

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