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Lt. Col. Ed Gargas Keynote Speaker at Veterans Cemetery

NOVEMBER 13TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Lt. Col. Ed Gargas Keynote Speaker at Veterans Cemetery

Bloomfield, Missouri - Lt. Col. Ed Gargas addressed the crowd at the annual Veterans Day program held at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield on Tuesday.

Kenneth Swearengin welcomed everyone to honor the Veterans and introduced several including Tila Rowland-Hubrecht (Representative 151st District), Missouri Representative Jason Smith (R-8th Congressional District), and Doug Libla (Missouri State Senator, 25th District). Each thanked the Veterans for their sacrifice and reminded everyone to continue to thank a Veterans each time you see them.

Invocation was presented by Pastor Ronnie Stevens .


Gary Kitchen, SFC USA Retired presided over the POW/MIA Table Ceremony while Allison Statler, student at Bloomfield Schools, played Amazing Grace on her violin in the background.

Participating in the ceremony were James Adams SFC USA Retired (US Army); Tom Love Capt USMC Retired (US Marine Corps); Carl Bess PO1 USN Retired (US Navy); Darryl LaPierre SGT USAF (US Air Force); and Justin Baker CW04 USCG Retired (US Coast Guard). Each presented a cover and placed it on the plate on the table for their respective branch of the military. For more on just the POW/MIA Table Ceremony [CLICK HERE](#).

With temperatures quickly dropping below zero and the winds beginning to pick up a bit Ken Swearengin, SMSgt USAF Retired introduced LTC Ed Gargas, MOARNG as the keynote speaker.

"Lieutenant Colonel Ed Gargas has nearly 28 years of military service, serving 25 of those years in the 35th Engineer Brigade, headquartered at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he is now serving as the Deputy Brigade Commander.

He began his military career in January 1987, joining the Simultaneous Membership Program as an ROTC Cadet in September 1987 with the 1140th Engineer Battalion. He commissioned as a Second lieutenant on 13 May 1989 and was assigned as a Platoon Leader with the Headquarters Company, 1140th Engineer Battalion.

Lieutenant Colonel Gargas' National Guard  positions held are Platoon Leader with Headquarters , Charlie Company 1140th Engineer Battalion, and the 1221st Transportation Company, S1 (Personnel Officer), Company Commander with Charlie Company 1140th, Assistant Operations Officer, S4 (Logistics Officer), and Operations Officer for the 35th Engineer Brigade, S3 (Training and Operations Officer) and Executive Officer for the 1140th Engineer Battalion, Engineer Coordinator with 35th Infantry Division, S3 (Training and Operations Officer) with the 35th Engineer Brigade; and prior to his current assignment, the Commander for the 1140th Engineer Battalion.

Lieutenant Colonel Gargas has completed US Army Airborne School, Engineer Officer Basic Course, Master Fitness Trainer Course, Nuclear/Biological/Chemical Defense Course, Engineer Officer Advance Course, Combined Arms Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College, and recently graduated from the US Army War College with a Masters in Strategic Studies. He is a graduate of William Woods University with a Masters in Business Administration, and Southeast Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Major in Finance.

Lieutenant Colonel Gargas deployed in 2004-2005 as the Operations Officer (S3) with the 1140th Engineer Battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

He has been the recipient of numerous Federal and State awards including the Meritorious Service Medal, 4 Army Commendation Medals, 3 Army Achievement

Medals, 5 Army Reserve Component Achievement Medals, 2 National Defense Service Medals, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, 3 Humanitarian Service Medals, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device and Silver Hourglass, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, 4 Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbons, and Parachutist Badge.

Lieutenant Colonel Gargas is the proud father of Nathan Gargas (Nate). He and his lovely wife Tina, reside in Dexter, Missouri."

Ed compiled his speech from his 2011 speech, a 2014 Missouri National Guard Veterans Day talking points, and the 2014 American Legion Veterans Day talking points. His entire speech is posted below.

"On Veterans Day, we pause to honor and remember the men and women who have served during war and peace, defending our country and the American Way of life," Gargas began his address. "As a nation, we must never forget the debt we owe them for securing the many freedoms we often take for granted."

</images/2014 Images/POW.jpg>

"We remember those who are part of our history and those who are presently serving to protect our future,"

Gargas continued. "Being a Service member was never an easy job, but the Service members in today's all-volunteer military chose to serve a cause greater than themselves; many made this decision knowing they may be sent in harm's way. For the past twelve years, they have endured multiple tours - protecting us from danger and giving others the opportunity to live life in security. Our military has proven itself in some of the most difficult environments this nation has ever faced. Our leaders at every level have displayed unparalleled ingenuity, flexibility, and adaptability. Our Service members have displayed mental and physical toughness, but most importantly, courage under fire. They have transformed the military into the most versatile, agile, rapidly deployable and sustainable strategic force the world has ever known."

"I am so proud to be part of that military today, but especially today, I am proud I have the opportunity to serve with these great men and women."

"On Veterans day, I think about the 2.2 million men and women we have in uniform today. These men and women live by a professional ethos that asserts, 'We will not accept defeat.' I think about those learning to use prosthetic hands and legs, those learning to live without eyesight. I think about the lone sentinel standing watch at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a hurricane. Many veterans, like these, do

remarkable things every day."

"These Service members do not see themselves as being brave or special; they just say they are doing their jobs. Many of our Service members have deployed multiple times and many who were injured during these deployments want to go back, not for a sense of revenge, but out of a sense of teamwork and duty. They fight for our security in an unsecured world, because that is what they promised they would do."

"Our democracy depends on the willingness of its finest men and women to step forward and to serve, to dedicate themselves to a greater cause, the cause of protecting our democracy. For more than two centuries, the veterans of our nation have been willing to serve and to sacrifice for a country and a cause they love more than their own lives. This has not changed."

"You cannot fight a war without veterans and while the utopian idea of a society without war is appealing, let us not forget that wars have liberated slaves, stopped genocide and toppled terrorists."

</images/2014 Images/Flags.jpg>

"Stephen Ambrose once wrote, 'America's wars have been like rungs on a ladder by which it rose to greatness. No other country has triumphed so long, so consistently or on such a vast scale through force of arms.'"

"I recently watched a television documentary featuring veterans of World War II as they recalled their experiences of the D-Day landing at Normandy. These members of America's "Greatest Generation" when asked whether there would ever be another great generation, replied forcefully and without hesitation: "Yes, the next great generation is serving today. Their sacrifices and their extraordinary dedication and courage are remarkable."

"Just as Pearl Harbor and World War II defined a generation destined for greatness, so have the events of 9-11 and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The 9-11 generation includes more than FIVE million Americans who have served in uniform, Active, Guard and Reserve, over the past decade."

"The NINE ELEVEN generation includes those on duty on September 11, 2001 who quickly transitioned to war and the nearly THREE million Americans who have joined the military since. Many of the young people serving today were sitting in classrooms on that fateful day. Still knowing they would be sent in harm's way, they raised their hands to serve the country."

"In contrast to earlier conflicts, the NINE ELEVEN generation is all volunteers. Everyone in today's military has chosen to serve in a time of war. Afghanistan and Iraq mark the first time since the Revolutionary War that our nation has engaged in sustained conflicts fought entirely by volunteers. Never before has America asked so much of our all-volunteer force."

"The NINE ELEVEN generation has earned its place among the greatest of generations in U.S. history. Over the past 13 years, more than two million of our troops have served in the war zones, deploying more than **TWO AND ONE HALF** million times. Hundreds of thousands of troops have deployed multiple times. Our National Guardsmen and Reservists have completed an unprecedented number of deployments."

"It is amazing when you think about how much has changed in America and around the world since our nation's founding, even in the last TEN years. We have overcome many challenges to become the most diverse and powerful nation in the world. Today we continue to face significant strategic challenges abroad, made more so by a globally interconnected world moving "at the speed of Twitter."

"The key to this growth has always been the creative, unrelenting spirit of America. Faced with formidable adversaries, our resilient Service members have proven themselves as a generation of innovators. They adopted new tactics, mastered new languages and harnessed new technologies. Junior officers have taken on responsibilities once reserved for more senior commanders."


"Our Service members have not only had to defeat their enemies on the battlefield, they have excelled in political, economic and development tasks for which they often had little or no training, but which have been critical to their success."

"As we look back on the last 13 years and how the new "Great

Generation” has brought the military into the TWENTY FIRST century, we need to look toward the future and wonder where this “Great Generation” will take us next. This is a time like no other in history. It is a time of uncertainty and historic change. As operations shift from Iraq and Afghanistan, the future will dictate what our country will need the military to do. Just as earlier generations of Americans overcame great tests and turmoil, the NINE ELEVEN generation has risen to the challenges of our time, ensuring that America emerged even stronger. They will be the ones to bring the military through this period of uncertainty to be as good in 2024 as it is today."

"Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen and their families have served with honor, kept us safe, and earned the eternal gratitude of all Americans. As a nation, we will move forward with the same strength, unity and resilience that our Service members and their families display every day."

"Despite the enormous strains of 13 years of continuous operations, our military remains the strongest it has ever been. Thanks to the commitment and character of the NINE ELEVEN generation, **we have the best-trained, best-led, best-equipped fighting force in history**. We are going to maintain our military superiority so that our Service members can meet any mission and so we can keep America safe. Many of us in 2001 could not have imagined that in 13 years, we would have a completely transformed military, filled with men and women who have spent the bulk of their careers fighting two wars. As our country again faces the winds of change, I am confident that today’s military, one made up of the men and women of the NINE ELEVEN generation will rise to new heights over the next TEN years."

"In closing, to our Veterans-our service members of  all ages-who have engaged in combat, stability, and humanitarian operations-we honor you. To those service members who paid the ultimate price or who are still missing or unaccounted for-we honor you by remembering the sacrifices you and your families made for our great nation."

"Today is a day of Honor and a day to Honor. On this day of celebration and reflection, I thank everyone who has worn a U.S. military uniform for their honorable service and for our freedom.

God bless you all for being here, God bless our veterans, and God bless America"

Pastor Ronnie Stevens said the benediction and the firing of volley commenced. The Stoddard County Veterans Honor Guard fired while Taps was played.

Special acknowledgments to the Stoddard County Veterans Honor Guard, American Legion Post 59 Honor Guard, Bloomfield Assistance League of the Missouri Veterans Cemetery, Bloomfield High School Band, Boy Scout Troop #58 Dexter, and the Hope Community Resource Center. Thank you for your continued support.

LAST UPDATED ON NOVEMBER 13TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

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DHS Choir Department to Perform The Sound of Music

NOVEMBER 12TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

DHS Choir Department to Perform The Sound of Music

Dexter, Missouri – The Dexter High School Choir department will present “The Sound of Music” on Thursday, November 20th, Friday, November 21st, and Saturday, November 22nd.

“The Sound of Music” is a musical from 1959 with music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. It is based on the memoir of Maria von Trapp and The Story of the Trapp Family Singers. You will recognize many of the songs from the musical, *Edelweiss*, *My Favorite Things*, *Climb Ev’ry Mountain*, and *Do-Re-Mi*. And of course the song title *The Sound of Music* most of us can sing by heart.

The set for the musical is being professionally built by Robert Abney from Poplar Bluff. The costumes for the production are being made by Jane's Alterations. The musical will be a top notch performance and the Choir Department would like to encourage everyone in the community to come to one of their performances.

Tickets can be purchased at the door and are only \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for students/children ages 4 – 18, and children 3 and under are free. All three-night performances will begin at 7:00 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30 p.m.

This production of The Sound of Music will feature **Lauren Thrower** as Maria! **Brooks Propst** will play the handsome Captain von Trapp. Rolf will be played by **Jon Rodgers**. The 16 going on 17 teenager Liesl will be played by **Rachel Putnam** and **Addie Kruse**. The second oldest daughter, Louisa, will be played by **Meg Simmons**, followed by the dashing older son played by **Andrew Teel** and the youngest encourageable son played by **Tres Hampton**.

The third oldest girl, Brigitta, will be played by **Abby DeMent**, the second youngest girl, Marta, will be played by **Grace Sepulvado**. The youngest daughter, Gretl, who is four years old, will be played by the sweet **Selah Sepulvado**.

Mother Abbess will be played by **Madelyn Webb**. Sister Berthe will be played by **Cassidy Bess**. **Tori Beaird** will play Sister Margaretta and **Olivia Sitzes** will play the part of sister Sophia. The overly confident Uncle Max will be played by **Cody McFaddin** and **Jordan Chambliss**. Their soldiers will be portrayed by **Chris Seabaugh** and **Dylan Davis**.

On Saturday, November 22nd a matinee performance will be at 2:00 p.m. with a very special price of just \$2.00 per person.

Come and see a classic brought to life with professional sets, costumes, and performers.

They are also seeking sponsors for the show. If you are interested in advertising in their professional playbill contact Jamie Sepulvado at jamies@dexter.k12.mo.us for a sponsorship form.

Please join the Dexter High School Choir as they sing, dance, and act on the stage at the High School Auditorium. They would love to have you. Parents, family members, friends and the public are encouraged to attend!

LAST UPDATED ON NOVEMBER 12TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

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DHS Book Fair Slated This Week, Open to Public on Wednesday Evening

DHS Book Fair Slated This Week, Open to Public on Wednesday Evening

Dexter, Missouri – The Dexter High School will host their very first DHS Book Fair beginning Monday, November 10th and ending on Friday, November 14th. Their mission to get 300+ books into the hands of readers, young and old!

“We will roll out the red carpet this week in honor of the new movie *Mockingjay*, which will be released to theatres on November 21st,” stated DHS Library Media Specialist Krystal Hobgood.

Mockingjay is the latest book made into film from the The Hunger Games series. It is the first of two cinematic parts based on the novel and the final book in the Hunger Games trilogy written by Suzanne Collins.

“This is the first event of its kind and I have been blown away by how amazing our community has been in supporting this,” Hobgood continued. “We have so many prizes to give away to the students and I know they will be thrilled. I owe that all to the support of our community.”

Everyone is invited to join the students for a festive time as they celebrate the wonderful world of reading. It will be open to the public from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

All book fair participants, whether purchasing online, by app, or in the library, will receive their choice of a free Big Mac or sweet treat from McDonalds and two coupons from Taco Bell – good for one free seasoned beef taco and one Doritos Locos taco while supplies last. All book fair participants will also be entered into special drawings, which will be held throughout the day on November 14th.

All DHS students and staff who purchase items totaling \$5.00 or more from the book fair will be entered into their prize drawing. The first 15 students to purchase items online or via app will receive a free McDonalds sandwich of their choice. The first 24 students to purchase items IN THE LIBRARY will receive a very special *Mockingjay* treat! (Hmmmm what could that be?)

Some prizes available are Hunger Games Bath & Body Works hand sanitizer, Barnes and Noble gift card, Buffalo Wild Wings gift cards, free passes to the Malco Trio in Sikeston, free passes to the Wehrenberg Theater in Cape Girardeau, free passes to AMC Theater in Poplar Bluff, free pizza from Casey's

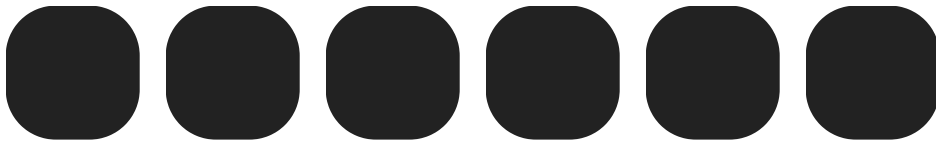
General Store, Dexter queen gift certificate, free pizzas from Pizza Hut, Hickory Log gift card, Penny's Diner gift certificates, and Mrs. Bruce's famous cake pops.

For more information please click **HERE**. High School students may come between the hours of 7:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesday the LIBRARY will be open late for the public from 4 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. for your shopping pleasure!

LAST UPDATED ON NOVEMBER 09TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

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First Midwest Bank Celebrates Fall

NOVEMBER 04TH 2014 BY STAFF WRITER

[First Midwest Bank Celebrates Fall](#)

Dexter, Missouri - First Midwest Bank of Dexter and the Downtown Branch in Dexter shared their Holiday pictures from this past Friday with the ShowMe Times. It was a fun filled festive day around the bank as they dresses for annual Halloween celebrations.

Many area businesses participated in Fall Celebrations this past Friday. Members of the First Midwest Bank team dressed up for Halloween to get in the spirit and get their groove on.

They chose the theme of the 1960's in honor of their 50th Anniversary Celebration this year. First Midwest Bank opened its doors in 1964! Happy Anniversary First Midwest Bank and congratulations on your 50 years of service to our community.

Some of the employees dressed as characters from the 1960s. Hugh Hefner and his Playboy bunnies made an appearance. We can only imagine what folks thought when they entered the doors and saw Hugh sitting there with a bunny!

Several cartoon characters emerged out of the 60s as well including the Flintstones! Pebbles and Bam Bam, Fred and Wilma are always glad to appear during Halloween.

Can you imagine walking into the bank and feeling the flower power of the fabulous 60s! With mods, hippies, flares, mini-skirts and even Austin Powers, you are sure to find First Midwest Bank transporting you to era of the swinging 60s. It was a decade of love, peace, and fantastic GROOVY outfits!

</images/2014 Images/2014 RAH/Branch 2.jpg>

First Midwest got their groove on and celebrated in style! As always First Midwest Bank is a sponsor of the ShowMe Times and we are grateful for their spirit, integrity, and the way they do bussines!

What a way to start the Fall season with some fun and GROOVY times!

First Midwest Bank of Dexter is located at 20 West Stoddard in downtown Dexter or at the corner of 819 Business 60 & 1 Mile Road.

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Caroline Powers Is November Calendar Girl

NOVEMBER 04TH 2014 BY DEE LOFLIN

Caroline Powers Is November Calendar Girl

Dexter, Missouri – Caroline Francis Powers has been chosen as November Calendar Girl. She is the 16-year-old daughter of Charles and Felicia Powers of Dexter.

Caroline is a sophomore at Dexter High School and is involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, FCCLA, Student Council, Model UN, Football Cheer, and the DHS Kickin' Cats Dance Team. She is also a Top 10% student.

Her goal is to work at a hospital similar to St. Jude's as her future plans are to attend Missouri State University and major in Oncology and minor in Pediatrics.

Caroline's hobbies are singing, dancing, cheering, fishing, riding four wheelers, hanging out with her friends and family, going to Branson, and babysitting. She also loves to perform at pageants. Her main activities other than school are being involved with her church youth group Refuge and singing in the Youth Praise Band.

Miss Caroline Powers was chosen as First Alternate in the Miss Dexter 2014 Pageant. This is an annual pageant sponsored by the Dexter Senior High School Music Department. Each year Miss Dexter and her attendants are chosen as

Calendar Girls throughout the year.

Congratulations Caroline! The Dexter community is extremely proud of you and your accomplishments.

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