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Annual Memorial Day Program at Bloomfield

MAY 29TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Annual Memorial Day Program at Bloomfield

Bloomfield, Missouri - The Annual Memorial Day Program will begin at 1 p.m. on Monday, May 30, 2016 at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield.

Monday is Memorial Day in the United States. It is a day to reflect and remember those who sacrificed so much for our freedoms.

Retired members of the Marine Corps, U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard will perform a ceremony at a beautifully decorated POW/MIA Table while Gary Kitchen SFC USA Retired will narrate. The table symbolizes the fact that members of our armed forces are missing from our ranks. They are unable to be with their loved ones and families today.

Memorial Day will be celebrated around our country as a day of laughter and joy with our families as we celebrate our freedom. Just take a few moments to remember those who gave all so that you may have this day with your family and friends. REMEMBER! All gave some, but some gave all!

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Bernie PAT March Student of the Month

MARCH 07TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bernie PAT March Student of the Month

Bernie, Missouri - Hunter Gage Cannady is Bernie Parents as Teachers March Student of the Month. he is the three year old son of Tiffany Cannady and Christopher Cannady.

Hunter enjoys playing hide and seek with his Mommy and riding his bike, playing with cars, and listening to music and dancing. He also loves to play outside with his friends.

During the family's PAT visits, Hunter enjoys reading the new books and playing games with Mrs. Courtney and his Mom.

If you would like to know more about Parents as Teachers contact Courtney McGarity or Casey Arnold at 573-293-5335, ext 293 or find them on Facebook by clicking [HERE](#).

The following information was taken directly from the Parent as Teachers Missouri website. For more information click [HERE](#).

Our Vision

All children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential.

Our Mission

To provide the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.

Our Values

The early years of a child's life are critical for optimal development and provide the foundation for success in school and in life.

Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers.

Established and emerging research should be the foundation of parent education and family support curricula, training, materials and services.

All young children and their families deserve the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of any demographic, geographic or economic considerations.

An understanding and appreciation of the history and traditions of diverse cultures is essential in serving families.

History

In 1981, Missouri pioneered the concept of helping parents embrace their important role as their child's first and best teacher.

Today, Parents as Teachers continues to equip early childhood organizations and professionals with information and tools that are relevant—and widely applicable—to today's parents, families and children.

The Parents as Teachers leadership team and Board of Directors is engaged in a three-year [strategic plan](#), which positions the organization as a valued partner to support the organizations and professionals who serve families and children, especially those most vulnerable.

The concept for Parents as Teachers was developed in the 1970s when Missouri educators noted that children were beginning kindergarten with varying levels of school readiness. Research showed that greater parent involvement is a critical link in the child's development of learning skills, including reading and writing.

Early childhood professionals suggested that a program to provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, and parent education to help parents understand their role in encouraging their child's development from the beginning could help improve school readiness and parent involvement.

With funding from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and The Danforth Foundation, Parents as Teachers began in 1981 in Missouri as a pilot project for first-time parents of newborns. Recognizing the program's benefits and cost effectiveness, the Missouri legislature provided state funding in 1985 to implement Parents as Teachers programs in all Missouri school districts. Since 1985, Parents as Teachers has expanded to all 50 states and six other countries.

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Bernie PAT December Student of the Month - Codielee Smith

DECEMBER 06TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bernie PAT December Student of the Month - Codielee Smith

Bernie, Missouri - Codielee Smith is one of Bernie Parents as Teachers' Students of the Month for December 2015.

He is the three month old son of Josh and Charity Smith.

Codielee enjoys tummy time with his Mommy and he also loves his older brothers who read to him. His favorite part of PAT is when his Mommy reads a new book to him during their visit with Mrs. Casey.

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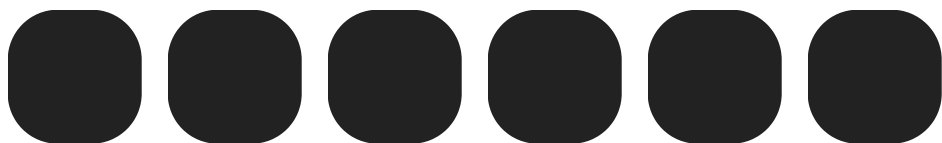
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National MIA/POW Recognition at MO Veterans Cemetery

SEPTEMBER 19TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

[National MIA/POW Recognition at MO Veterans Cemetery](#)

Bloomfield, Missouri - On Friday, the Missouri Veteran's Cemetery honored National POW/MIA Day with their annual ceremony made possible through the

John J. Pershing VA Medical Center and Ken Swearengin, Director of the Cemetery.

Also on hand were the Stoddard County Veterans Honor Guard, VFW Auxiliary Post 4556 from Piggott, Arkansas, Daughters of the American Revolution, and members of the Kenady-Hanks American Legion Post 59.

Paul Schuerenberg, Vocational Community Employment Coordinator for the Veterans Administration welcomed everyone in attendance and gave a brief history of the National POW/MIA Day.

“It was July 19, 1979,” stated Schuerenberg. “when the first commemoration was held to honor America’s POWs and MIAs.” Congress passed the first resolution and a national ceremony was held in the National Cathedral.

“Today,” Schuerenberg continued, “we honor the sacrifices and remarkable determination of veterans captured as prisoners of war, and we remember those who remain unaccounted for, and we wish their families some small comfort in knowing that America has not forgotten them.”

Keynote speaker was Seth W. Barlage, Associate Medical Center Director with the John J. Pershing VA Medical Center.

Barlage said, “Throughout our history, when enemies of freedom were on the march, great Americans took up arms and stopped their advance. They answered their nation’s call to duty.”

“More than 142,000 American servicemen and women were captured from World War I to the Gulf War. Twenty thousand are alive today. They endured the uncertainties, deprivations, and hardships of hostile captivity. The true cost of wartime imprisonment may never be known.”

Two of those servicemen were present today. Jay Barber who was captured in North Korea and taken prisoner on December 3, 1950. He spent nearly three years in the hands of the North Koreans. He was a member of G Company, 2nd Battalion of the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division during the Korean War. On August 5, 1953 he was finally freed.

Edward Bender of Cape Girardeau was captured by Germans in 1994 during World War II and is now 97 years old. He flew B17s for the U.S. Air Force. He spent one year and four days in prison camps throughout Germany and Poland

before being freed.

Barber and Bender met for the first time Friday morning. They were honored for their service, their courage and their ability to survive and return home to their families.

Lilly Hoggard and Pamela Wayer of the VFW Auxiliary Post 4556 placed yellow roses for each conflict. A touching POW/MIA Table Ceremony was performed narrated by Gary Kitchen SFC USA RET while Bloomfield student Allison Statler played Amazing Grace on her violin.

Representing the armed forces were James Adams SFC USA RET (US Army), Tom Love CAPT USMC RET (US Marine Corps), Carl Bess PO1 USN RET (US Navy), Michael Williams CAPT USAF (US Air Force), and Justin baker CW04 USCG RET (Us Coast Guard).

Donna Reynolds, Chief of Voluntary Service, VA, Chris Luecke, Voluntary Service Specialist, VA, and Bennie Hicks, Voluntary Service Assistant, VA presented gifts to former POWs Barber and Bender.

Firing of the Volley was by the Stoddard County Veterans Honor Guard and Bloomfield student John Lancaster performed TAPS.

[/images/MIA POW 900.jpg](#)

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Dedication of Historic Marker in Bloomfield

SEPTEMBER 02ND 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dedication of Historic Marker in Bloomfield

Bloomfield, Missouri - Historians Jim and Sue Mayo along with Dr. Frank Nickell, and Rev. Ron Dunavin were on hand for the unveiling of the latest historical marker at the old Stoddard County Courthouse in Bloomfield on Sunday afternoon.

Dr. Frank Nickell, director of the Southeast Missouri branch of the Historical Society of Missouri told a story of Asa Ladd, a Bloomfield native who enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861 and was executed along side six Confederate soldiers who were innocent of any crimes. It was an incredibly sad tale of a Civil War hero who was executed for the deaths of six Union soldiers.

Dr. Nickell read two letters from Asa Ladd, one to his wife and one to his father. Neither of the letters ever reached his family. Amy lived the rest of her life not knowing what really happened to her husband.

 /images/2015 Images/Asa 1.jpg

"Asa had written a [letter to his father](#) explaining what was to happen between two and 4 o'clock. He told his father not to worry about the state of his faith as it was well founded. He asked that his father take care of his debts and stated that he wanted his family to come back to his home place. The original letter still remains yellowed, and crumbled, tucked away in the bible of my Aunt," commented Ron Dunavin.

"He wrote a letter to his [dear wife Amy](#). He advised her not to cross the St. Francis River when the water was up. He told her to stay there until the dry

season. It has been told that Amy did not receive the letter for she had packed up and went to her home lands in Ark before the letter had ever arrived. Ransom had spent many months trying to locate Amy. It is said that Amy never received the letter from her husband and it was kept in Ransoms Bible until it was one day claimed by Asa's son-in-law Ike Emery," stated Dr. Nickell.

[/images/2015 Images/Asa 2.jpg](#)

On the bronze plaque outside of the courthouse the marker reads, "Dear wife and children, I take my pen with trembling hand to inform you that I have to be shot between two and four o'clock this evening. I have but a few hours to remain in this unfriendly world. There is six of us sentenced."

Rev. Ron Dunavin traveled from Arkansas to attend the dedication. He is a direct descendant of Asa Ladd. His mother was the granddaughter of Asa and Amy.

According to military records, Asa Ladd enlisted in the Civil War March 10, 1861 in Stoddard County, Mo. He served with Jacksons Co A, Burbridge's Regiment, 4th Missouri Calvery. He was captured by the Union army in Sedelia, Mo. on October 16, 1864.

He was then taken to Jefferson City and remained there for eight days, then was sent to Gratiot Street prison in St. Louis on the 25th of October 1864.

Asa had been a farmer, and all this fight and run tactics must have been very wearing on him. He seemed to be quite confused at his interrogation in Gratiot Street Prison; he answered some questions as though he were not entirely sure of his answers. For example: To the question "Have you a wife - children?" he replied, Wife and four children. The Census Records show that he had seven children. To the question "Have you relatives in the Rebellion?" he answered that he had two brothers-in-law; this was scratched out and "a brother" inserted. (His brother-in-law, John Allen, served in the Union Army).

One can only imagine what he was going through

[/images/2015 Images/Asa 3.jpg](#)

and what he must have worried about during those long desperate One thing for sure is that Asa was a Godly man. He was raised of the Methodist faith; his father pastored at the Sadlers Chapel Church in Dexter.

At the Battle of Pilot Knob, near Bloomfield, Mo., in September of 1864, Union Major James Wilson and six of his men were captured by the Confederates.

According to Brig. Gen. Thomas C. Fletcher, USA, "they were held for one week, then turned over to Major Tim Reeves, CSA of Marmaduke's command. Major Wilson was taken out and hung and his men were shot.

When word of his execution reached Gen. Rosecrans, commanding the Department of the Missouri, he issued a retaliatory order to the effect that a Major and six enlisted men of the Rebel captives be shot.

In carrying out this order, only those prisoners who refused to take the Oath of Allegiance to the Federal Government were selected. These men were taken into a room where they were ordered to draw marbles, of which there were six black ones, was held above eye level so the men could not see the color they were drawing. The ones drawing a white marble were freed - those drawing a black one were to be executed. Asa drew a black marble. and hence the execution of Asa Ladd went into the history books of man who paid for a crime he did not commit.

It is a dream of Jim and Sue Mayo to complete 21 total bronze markers in the area. This was number ten. Taps was played while the unveiling of the marker commenced and a prayer was said over the marker.

Shown in the photo are Dr. Frank Nickell, Jim Mayo, Sue Mayo, and Rev. Ron Dunavin.

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