

## Letters To The Editor



[TOP](#)

# Hope International Recruiting Bell Ringers This Holiday Season

DECEMBER 11TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Hope International Recruiting Bell Ringers This Holiday Season

Dear Friends;

Hope International is once again recruiting “Bell Ringers” for the Christmas Holiday Season.

We need bell ringers for shifts beginning at 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, Monday thru Saturday beginning November 25th and ending on December 24th.

There will be two kettles at the Walmart Store, in Dexter, one at each entrance.

The shifts may be 1 or 2 hr increments. Any church, business or organization may fill one whole day or the same day every week or any open shift. Each business or organization is welcomed to bring an 8 ½ x 11 sign and or wear their logo advertisement clothing.

Please keep in mind that EVERY PENNY we collect stays in Stoddard County to help those in need. The 2016 Red Kettle Campaign in Stoddard County raised \$15,600.00 all this money was spent helping residents of Stoddard County pay utility bills, rent, funeral expense, medical expense including dental and prescriptions and the Back To School Bash for Stoddard County School Children.

The Lord has blessed this event every year and will continue to bless it. Last year we had several spots not filled and we believe we have the potential to raise double what we did in 2016.

If you, your family or co-workers would like to bless the residents of Stoddard County please contact Ester Wheeler or Michelle Marvel at Lighthouse Church 573-624-2500 and schedule your slot to “Ring the Bell” during the 2017 Red Kettle Event.

May God richly bless you and your family!

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[TOP](#)

## National VFW Day

SEPTEMBER 30TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

[National VFW Day](#)

National VFW Day is observed annually on September 29, honoring the men and women devoted to this valuable organization and those members who have served our nation.

Members of the VFW today hold a long-standing history of volunteerism in their communities. Not only have they served their country, but they continue to serve their fellow veterans, families, and communities by sponsoring scholarships, career fairs, mental wellness campaigns, and so many more excellent services.

VFW membership since its inception has been instrumental in the establishment of the Veterans Administration, the creation of the national cemetery system and passage of the GI Bill. Through the VFW, veterans honor veterans and serve their communities.

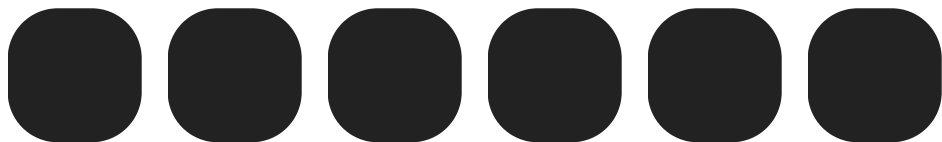
On National VFW Day, take a moment to recognize all the VFW does in your community.

**Check out the Dexter VFW Post #2659 Facebook page by [CLICKING HERE](#).**

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# Corps of Engineers Prepares for 135th Anniversary

AUGUST 26TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Corps of Engineers Prepares for 135th Anniversary

Memphis, Tennessee - A milestone is fast approaching for the Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as it prepares to celebrate its 135th anniversary on Aug. 30.

A year-long schedule of events and activities are planned that will highlight the agency's mission and the value it brings to this region.

"We are honored to be a part of this great community of Memphis and the Mid-South and look forward to helping the people we serve learn more about our rich history and what we do today," Col. Mike Ellicott, the Memphis District commander said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers first came to this part of the United States in 1820 when the U.S. Congress appropriated \$5,000 for a survey of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. That task fell to the Corps of Engineers.

When a major flood on the lower Mississippi River devastated local levee systems in 1882 and created hundreds of crevasses totaling 56 miles in length, the then newly-formed Mississippi River Commission (MRC) gave the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers responsible for implementing their flood control plans.

Part of those plans was the establishment of four administrative districts from Cairo, Ill., to New Orleans, each headed by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officer. The Second District had its headquarters in Memphis. Consolidated with the Cairo office in 1890, it eventually became the Memphis District.

Flood control was the primary mission assigned to the districts in those early years, but in 1891 representatives from several large steamboat companies asked the MRC to improve navigation during low water conditions on the river. In response to this, the Corps constructed the first experimental hydraulic dredge - the ALPHA. It proved to be a great success and by 1901, nine Corps dredges were operating on the river.

Flooding remained the greatest concern however, and enormous floods struck the region in 1897, 1912, 1916 and 1922. Then in 1927 the most destructive flood in U.S. history took the lives of as many as 500 people along the Mississippi River, destroyed 25,000

commercial buildings and homes, and property damage exceeded \$236 million (equivalent to more than \$3.3 billion today).

More floods came in 1937, 1950, 1973, 1975, 1979, several in the 1990s and the most recent major event in 2011. But with each successive event the people of the Mid-South have seen less and less damage, and more savings from damages prevented by the ongoing work of the Corps of Engineers.

Today, the 450 men and women of the Memphis District work from offices in the Clifford Davis-Odell Horton Federal Building in downtown Memphis, at the Corps' Ensley Engineer Yard on McKellar Lake in south Memphis, from field offices in Wynne, Ark., Carlisle, Ark., and Caruthersville, Mo., and aboard a wide variety of vessels operating on the Mississippi River. Year in and year out, they deliver their mission of flood risk reduction, dependable navigation, environmental stewardship, emergency operations, other authorized civil works and work for others to benefit this region and the Nation.

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[TOP](#)

# Three Chances to Donate Blood in Stoddard County During July

JULY 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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## Three Chances to Donate Blood in Stoddard County During July

The American Red Cross is asking for YOUR help!

**There are three days in July that Red Cross will be in Stoddard County:**

**Wednesday, July 12th at the Bernie Community Center in Bernie, MO from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Friday, July 14th at the Bank of Advance in Advance, MO from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, July 15th at the First General Baptist Church in Bloomfield, MO from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

The American Red Cross is urging all eligible donors to make an appointment to give blood or platelets this summer. While the need for blood and platelets remains constant throughout the summer, the Red Cross experiences a drastic decline in new donors, and current donors often delay giving due to summer vacation plans. Last summer, nearly one-third fewer new blood donors came out to give than during the rest of the year. Many schools where blood drives are held and where new donors give are out of session during the summer months.

Blood and platelet donations often do not keep pace with hospital demand during the summer months, but every day there are thousands of lives to help save. Right now, blood and platelet donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in.

\*Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

\*The Red Cross must collect nearly 14,000 blood donations every day to meet the needs of patients at approximately 2,600 hospitals across the country.

Eligible donors of all blood types are needed to make a donation appointment now and help sustain a sufficient community blood supply.

\*Donating blood is a relatively safe and easy process, and only takes about an hour.

\*Scheduling an appointment is easy and fast through the Blood Donor App, online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

\*Donors of all blood types are needed to help save lives.

Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

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[Go to post](#)



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[TOP](#)

## Letter to the Editor - SSM Health Thanks Senators

JUNE 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Letter to the Editor - SSM Health Thanks Senators

SSM Health thanks State Senators Gary Romine and Doug Libla for their hard work in fighting to keep utility costs low for our Missouri hospitals, physician's offices, home care, and outpatient centers.

Keeping utility costs down is an important part of managing our operations and providing high quality care that is affordable and sustainable to our communities.

Their work during the 2017 regular session, as well as during special session, deserves recognition.

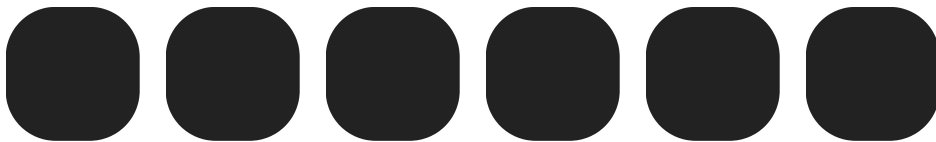
We know both are working tirelessly not only for their constituencies, but also for our patients, employees and all Missourians. We cannot thank you enough, Senators!

Jessica Pabst and Mike Rosenblatt  
SSM Health

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