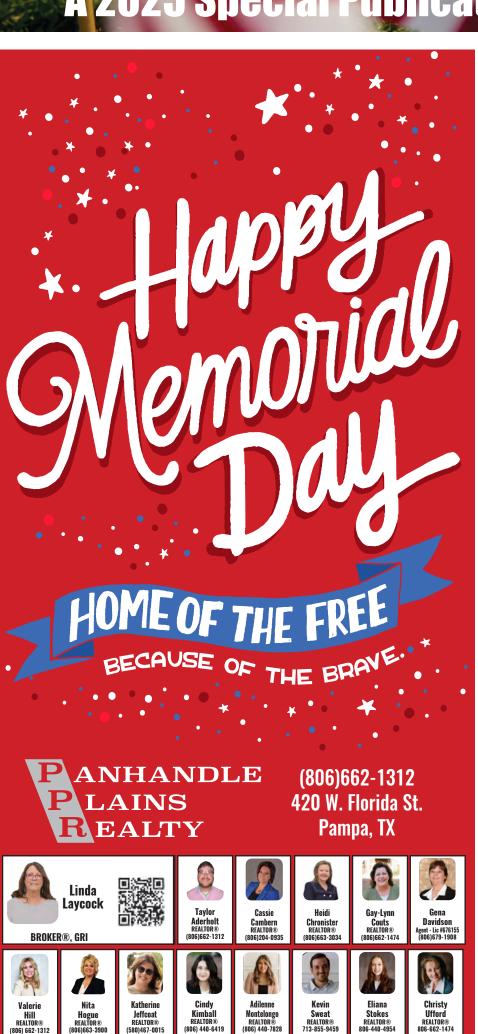
Memorial Day Remember and Honor







Missing in America Project

David Sieber Recognized for His Patriotism and Contribution to the Project

PER PAMPA VFW POST 1657/AUXILIARY Each year, the Missing in America Project identifies and locates the remains of veterans who died without family or means to be claimed, endignity they deserve.

To date, the Missing in America Project has identified 7,320 veteran cremains, and has interred 7,120 of them in Veteran cemeteries.

like The Panhandle War Museum in Amarillo and the Patriot Guard riders, alongside other civic and veteran related groups to get these heroes to their final resting place.

and from there to San Antonio for causes.

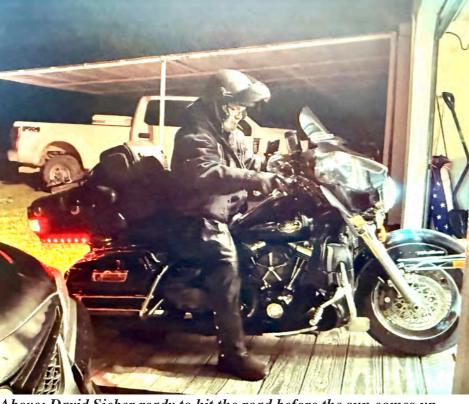
internment at Fort Sam Houston.

The veterans being escorted were: Mark M. Leclerc-US Army Jerry L. Williams-US Army Kirby J. Caylor-US Army Steven A. Groves-US Army Harvey Kelsey-US Army Robert W. Webb-US Air Force Jon S. Harrison-US Navy

David Sieber has been a part of this suring they receive the respect and humbling escort for two years now, and his unwavering dedication to ensuring that veterans receive the honor and dignity they deserve is truly commendable.

His efforts reflect a deep sense of MIAP partners with organizations respect for those who served and sacrificed for their country, and he stands as a beacon of gratitude and compassion within the VFW.

It is through individuals like David that the memory of these heroes is This year on May 1, the escort left preserved and celebrated, inspiring Amarillo and headed to Lubbock, others to contribute to such noble



Above: David Sieber ready to hit the road before the sun comes up Bottom Left: The cremated remains of veterans that were escorted to Fort Sam Houston for internment

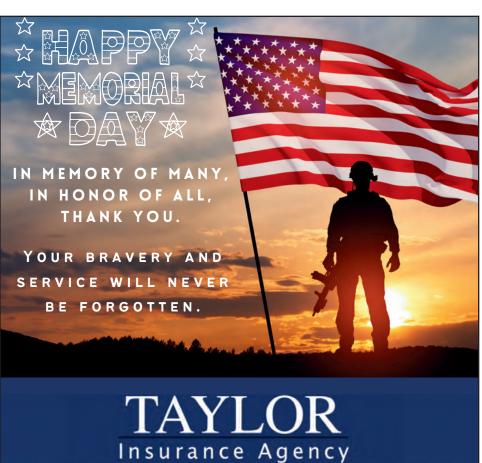
Bottom Right: VFW Post 1657 Post Commander Rick Dunn presents an award to David for his patriotism and contribution to the project











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Pampa High School Memorial Wall

BY GENEVA WILDCAT

Located in the Commons Room of Pampa High School is the Memorial Wall, full of plaques commemorating 'The Bravest of Pampa High School Who Gave it All.'

With 43 plaques on the wall in total, each one tells a brief military history of the brave soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country, all of them being prior graduates of PHS.

With the help of the VFW Post 1657 and many residents of Pampa who had familial knowledge and resources, the Memorial Wall features biographies of soldiers dating back to World War 1 up until the war in Afghanistan: a humble reminder of what it means to be free.

Pampa High School is the third high school that Clay Jones, Principal of PHS, has worked in, as well as the smallest, and he shared that Pampa is the only school that he has seen that has a Memorial Wall for its fallen graduates.

"Just the time and resources it took into finding information on so many veterans I thought was really amazing," Jones said.

Jones' admiration for the Memorial Wall hits a much more personal place in his heart, as his grandfather, who was a Lieutenant in the Air Force navigating on a B-47 during the Cold War, sits among the eternal soldiers.

On April 29, 1960 during a routine training mission in Topeka, Kansas, there was an accident that killed all three people on board, his grandfather included.

"I never got to meet him. That's the important part of remembering those people and a really big part for our kids to learn is the reason we get a lot of these freedoms that we have is because of the sacrifices that our classmates have made."

Because the location of the Memorial Wall is heavy with traffic-the hustle and bustle of students switching classes, going to lunch or going home for the day-it's easy for the Wall to be overlooked and its purpose somewhat



underappreciated at times.

dents tend to be the ones who notice it more half a world away from that so we don't reand when they begin to share their own sto- ally think about it, but we had a kid from ries with their classmates about why they're Greece who got a call to say he needed to there and what it's like in their own country, come back because he had gotten drafted. It students take notice and reflect on just how gets a little bit more real when our kids are lucky they are.

cent in the freedoms we have, like getting to that." choose your own lunch or what you're go-

"When the war in Ukraine started, we had Jones said that the foreign exchange stu- a few European kids here and for us, we're right there when one of their classmates gets "I think it's very easy to become compla- a call to come back home for something like

"It's interesting to see the kids realize that ing to do as a major," he said. "Sometimes the rest of the world isn't as comfortable as we don't understand just how the rest of the ours and it's because of those sacrifices that those people have made for us."





THIS MEMORIAL DAY

HEROES.

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Handling the Flag

There are specific rules to ensure that this important symbol is always treated with respect.

The U.S. flag should always be handled and displayed with the utmost care. Familiarizing yourself with the Flag Code will ensure that you're always following the proper protocols.

HOW TO FOLD IT

Folding the flag into its traditional three-corner shape isn't easy, so take time for some practice. Begin by holding the flag lengthwise and then folding it in half. Next, fold the flag in half lengthwise again, making sure that the blue field remains visible on the outside. You'll create a triangular fold from the opposite end, then repeat this process until the flag is completely folded. The final step is to secure the edge of the flag within the folds so that you're showcasing only the blue field and its white stars.

LOWERING THE FLAG

The Flag Code cautions that your flag should never touch the ground. This can be a particular risk when lowering flags at dusk. You'll extend its life by keeping the flag away from dirt and things that may tear at the fabric. Should the flag inadvertently fall to the ground, the Flag Code doesn't require its retirement. Instead, simply hand wash or dry clean



your flag before displaying it again.

Note that presidents or governors can order flags to be flown at half-staff as a symbol of mourning. There are several established dates where flags are traditionally lowered, including Memorial Day on the The Flag Code recommends

last Monday of May, Sept. 11, and National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on Dec. 7.

RETIREMENT **PROCEDURE**

Flags that are torn or frayed should be properly retired.

that they be ceremonially burned. Begin by folding the flag in the customary manner then prepare a fire that is big enough to completely consume it. Exercise caution during the process, staying mindful of any applicable local or state fire regulations. Salute

as the flag is placed in the fire. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance, then observe a moment of silence. Finally, respectfully bury the ashes. You can reach out to your local American Legion post. Many of them organize retirement ceremonies on Flag Day.

MEMORIAL





We honor the fallen heroes who bravely fought for our freedom





Saluting Our Soldiers

For their courage, service, sacrifice and dedication, we honor the men and women, past and present, of our military. We will always remember that freedom is not free.



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Medal of Honor Recipient, Specialist Five Dwight W. Birdwell, to be Guest Speaker at Memorial Day Ceremony at Pampa VFW Post 1657



Please join the Pampa 31, 1968. VFW Post 1657, locatspeaker.

at the risk of his life and heavy enemy fire.

The C Troop came uned at 105 S. Cuyler, on der intense enemy fire, the public and refresh-Monday, May 26 at 5 with Specialist Five ments will be provided PM, for a Memorial Day Birdwell immediately by the Meredith Court. Ceremony where Medal moving the tank comof Honor Recipient, mander to safety after of Pampa has been a Specialist Five Dwight being wounded. He then tremendous support to W. Birdwell, will be mounted the tank and the community and has the honorary guest and assumed the command- donated to numerous Birdwell was awarded fire on the enemy until Just a few of the activithe Medal of Honor in all ammunition was ex- ties that the VFW Post 1983 for 'conspicuous hausted, his body com- 1657 has been locally gallantry and intrepidity pletely exposed to to involved with include:

beyond the call of duty', After a U.S. helicop- \$200,000 in scholarwhile serving with C ter had crashed nearby, ships Troop, 3d Squadron, 4th Specialist Five Birdwell • Disbursing over \$2 Calvary, 25th Infantry ran to the helicopter to million to help individu-Division in the Republic retrieve two M-60 ma- als with their water and

nition, giving one to a local organizations with funerals and an Honor fellow soldier. He re- their activities mounted the tank and continued to engage the pa Police and Fire De- trips to the M.K. Brown out to the community

Specialist Five Bird- needed equipment well was wounded in the face, neck, chest, porter of the Youth Op- seum USA and arms, but refusing timist Club to be medically treated, fellow soldiers and set could not afford them up a defensive position by a large tree, where dren's Christmas Shopwith M-16 fire and gre-

lessened, Specialist Five Birdwell gathered ammunition from disabled vehicles and helped wounded soldiers move to safer positions.

Specialist Five Birdwell formally received the Medal of Honor on July 4, 2022, presented by President Joe Biden.

The event is open to

The VFW Post 1657 er's position, releasing causes around Pampa.

- Giving out over
- of Vietnam on January chine guns and ammu- gas bills as well as help

- Donated to the Pampartment to help buy Camp
- advanced forward with of flags for those who Presented the flags uals whose camaraderies
 - Sponsored the Chil- events
 - Once the enemy fire escorts for veteran's in the hospital

Guard at the cemetery

- Been an active sup- ber of the Freedom Mu- marily focusing on the

 - at numerous sporting brotherhood/sisterhood
- they engaged the enemy ping Tour and Angel rooms at the Legacy try lays at the forefront House in Amarillo for of everything they stand • Provided motorcycle families with loved ones for.

The VFW Post 1657 are currently coming up Sponsored Boy Scout with new ideas to reach and to potentially at-• Are a founding mem- tract new members, priyounger veterans who Always sponsored need a support system • Bought thousands the Veterans Day Parade of like-minded individand love for the com-Sponsored two munity and their coun-







REMEMBER & HONOR



1050 N Hobart St. | Pampa (877) 719-1288 OPEN 6am-8pm





Mon-Fri 7:30a-8:00p Sat 8:00a-6:00p Sun 12:00p-6:00p

Pampa VFW Post 1657 Recognized for Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony



BART Guthrie and Department Commander Robert Martinez presented VFW Post 1657 Post Commander Rick Dunn the Community Service Award for their program on Pearl Harbor, the first of its kind in the Pampa



Steve Porter and Pat Maddox leading attendees of the Pearl Harbor Memorial in song

On December 7 of last year, the Pampa VFW Post 1657 held a ceremony to honor those lost at Pearl Harbor, the first one of its kind in Pampa.

The ceremony began with a historical video of the events that transpired on that day more than 80 years ago, flashing images of the destruction as President FDR's famous speech boomed over the speaker.

Attendants of the ceremony listened as the biographies and stories were told of those soldiers who died on that fateful day by members of the community, and for each name that was read aloud, a bell was rung.

The biographies included those military personnel from the Texas Panhandle, Eligah "Popeye" Autry, Jr. from here in Gray County.

The ceremony came to an end with Steve Porter and Pat Maddox leading everyone in 'God Bless America', with Larry Ray, retired USMC, finishing with Taps.

Recently, the Pampa VFW was recognized for this special and somber ceremony, with Post Commander Rick Dunn receiving the Community Service Award presented by BART Guthrie and Department Commander Robert Martinez.

We thank the Pampa VFW for always remembering to honor those who put their lives on the line, no matter how much time has passed.



Larry Ray USMC, Auxiliary Patriotic Instructor David Sieber, Keith Black, and VFW Post Commander Rick Dunn with the memorial bell



REMEMBER AND HONOR

This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave



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Freedom Museum USA

BY GENEVA WILDCAT

to commemorate and remember fallen service members who died actively serving their country, The Freedom Museum USA in Pampa sits on the busiest street in Pampa where every day passersby can clearly see the planes, helicopters and tanks, all from different world conflicts, acting as a stark reminder of why we are free.

the soldiers who went through the hells of war museum's conception and purpose. and the sacrifices they made: from the numerous displayed uniforms and patches (both from our own countrymen and from the enemy) to the Hall of Honor that holds multiple framed

many of their stories preserved in time.

The Freedom Museum USA, founded by the eral public and veterans. While Memorial Day may only be once a year VFW Post 1657 of Pampa, remains a crucial element to preserving not only the history of local the Memorial Day sales that popular retailers service members, but to tell their story in a vi- advertise and enjoying the three-day weekend sual way that truly speaks to the heart.

on the deep reverence and commitment every- lost their lives in action. But what lies on the inside tells the story about one had and still has that was involved with the

Day are celebrated differently between the gen-

While many of us will be taking advantage of without the worry of having to come in to work The detailed exhibits and stories show the im- on Monday, for service members, it's a day of pressive and intense research and dedication that mourning for their fallen brethren when they went into putting the museum together, speaking will hold a special ceremony to honor those who

The Freedom Museum USA is located at 600 N. Hobart in Pampa and is open Tuesday through To be able to see the artifacts from different Saturday from noon until 4 PM. It's gauranteed wars, from World War I and World War II to that once you step foot through the door and take Vietnam, the observer can surely at least begin the time to visit the exhibits, even if it's just one, to understand the importance of preserving the you'll come out with a deeper understanding of









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Home of the Free, Thanks to the Brave

We salute the men and women of our military, both past and present, who sacrifice so much to protect our freedom and way of life.

Happy Memorial Day, and God Bless America!

Pampa Regional Medical Center 1 Medical Plaza • 806-665-3721 prmctx.com

FLAG ETIQUETTE | ROUTINE CARE

Caring for Your Flag

Signs of slight wear or dirt don't have to lead to retirement.

Flying your flag outdoors can inevitably lead to grunge or tears. You can extend its life with proper cleaning and mending. The U.S. Flag Code offers some recommended tips for proper care.

WASHING THE FLAG

Allowing dirt and grime to accumulate can lead to irreversible stains, while strong winds can cause tears in the fabric. If your flag becomes dirty, try to promptly address the issue. Don't let your flag touch the ground when lowering it for cleaning, since that's seen as disrespectful. (It may also leave still more unsightly marks.) Always wash by hand. When cleaning your flag, use cold water and a mild detergent. After cleaning, lay the flag out flat to dry. This will help maintain its shape and keep the colors from bleeding together.

REGULAR INSPECTIONS

In addition to monitoring for dirt and other debris, regularly inspect your flag for any signs of holes or fraying. These inspections are particularly important for all-weather flags, which are subject to blistering sunlight, continual wind and severe storms. Remember that even minor tears can quickly develop into large holes in bad weather. Just exercise



plenty of caution when sewing. Frequent adjustments may also alter the flag's shape and overall appearance.

TALK TO AN EXPERT

Consistent, careful flag maintenance and repairs will enhance the flag's appearance and extend its longevity.

Reach out to a local dry cleaner if you are uncertain about how to repair minor imperfections, or simply want to ensure that this important symbol receives the highest level of care. Their expertise in handling delicate materials will help extend the lifespan of your flag. Just remember to

carefully follow any care instructions they provide.

FLAG'S LIFESPAN

It is important to note that even well-cared-for flags don't last forever. Experts say the typical lifespan for an average cotton or nylon flag is approximately 90 days. That's under

optimal display conditions, when they're only flown from dawn to dusk without being exposed to inclement weather.

Flags that are displayed continuously, day and night, may only last about a quarter of that time before they begin to fray or fade.





