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Just the Facts[©]
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Hoopeston Area supports veterans with song, speech

From speeches to songs, Hoopeston Area students showed local veterans their appreciation for their service to America.

Following the playing of the National Anthem by high School band, and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by the middle school student council, the high school varsity chorus performed an a cappella rendition of "Amazing Grace" that brought tears to the eyes of many of those attending Monday's Veterans Day service in the Hoopeston Area Middle School gym.

Following the song, Caitlyn Bekkering, a senior English student, read her essay, "What Veteran's Day Means to Me." In it, Bekkering talked of the selflessness of veterans who "risk their lives to ensure the safety of American citizens. Too often, we forget the sacrifices that have been made, lives that have been lost and that life does not always have a happy ending," she wrote. "Some men and women in our armed forces have seek what hell looks like, in order to ensure that others here at home would never have to."

Bekkering thought back to when she heard teacher Rich Stipp say "all have given some and some have given all."

This quote shows the reality of war and that people have given their lives to protect the people of this nation," Bekkering said. "I heard this quote for the first time as a freshman, standing back with the band, and I will never forget the impact that it has left me with."

In his keynote speech, Chris Small, Hoopeston Area board member, talked about the high rate of suicide among returning veterans. "More than one a day. That is how many members of our active-duty military, National Guard and Reserve forces have committed suicide over the last year," Small said, beginning his address. "Simply put, we are losing more service members by

See VETERANS on other side



BEKKERING



SMALL

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Veterans continued from other side

their own hands than we are by the enemy in Afghanistan.”

Small said only those who have served in combat can understand why most of the young men and women take such drastic and permanent measures, saying it is for those at home to help. “We are their friends, their family, their co-workers and their neighbors,” he said. “It is up to us to ensure that every veteran feels that his or her service to this country is appreciated by their fellow

Obituaries

McVICKER - Maurice L. “Bud” McVicker, 86, of Mascoutah, formerly of Hoopeston, died at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11, 2013, at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Belleville. A celebration of his life will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at First Church of the Nazarene, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Friday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Volunteer Fire Department or Mascoutah Volunteer Fire Department.

Americans.”

Veterans who show signs of unhappiness or depression should be encouraged to immediately seek help from the Veterans Administration. Those who are having difficulty obtaining benefits should be encouraged to contact the American Legion, which has thousands of trained service officers nationwide to help navigate the VA bureaucracy at no cost to the veteran.

For those veterans who made the supreme sacrifice, “remember the price that has been paid for our freedom and offer your support to the loved ones left behind,” Small said.

While not all veterans have seen war, a common bond of all is the oath in which they expressed their willingness to die defending this nation.

Small reminded the audience of military members who made a difference, such as Army Technical Sergeant Vernon McGarity, seriously wounded during the Battle of the Bulge, who refused to be evacuated and instead led a small unit against the enemy’s Western Front offensive, and rescued two comrades under heavy

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fire. McGarity, who died May 21, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

More recently, Marine Capt. Cameron West and retired Marine Sgt. Gabriel Martinez, both amputees, shared their upbeat attitudes with Boston Marathon victims who had lost limbs.

Veterans were then called by name and recognized, receiving a standing ovation from students, school staff and guests.

Police News



Jim L. Wisecup, 46, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 11:34 a.m. Monday after an incident at Olympic Hardware, 516 N. Dixie Hwy. He was charged with theft and was released on a notice to appear in city court.


No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 2:42 p.m. Monday at 1550 E. and 4000 N. Brandon Ivin of Hoopeston, was northbound when his 2008 Honda utility vehicle left the roadway and hit a sign post.

A gold and black Rampage bicycle was fond Tuesday at Third Ave. and Penn. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

A 35-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 6:10 p.m. Tuesday that someone took a GPS from her vehicle in the 600 block of South Fifth Ave.

A 33-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 7:04 p.m. Tuesday that someone damaged the door to her home in the 300 block of West Washington.

Weather



Sunny today. High 49. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 33. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 52, low 40.

Classifieds

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