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Just the Facts
Wednesday, May 29, 2024
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Service members willing to sacrifice, Americans have duty: Moore



U.S. Marine Cpl. Corey Moore gives the keynote speech at Monday's Memorial Day service at Floral Hill Cemetery, as Gene Hanson looks on.

Marine Cpl. Corey Moore asked those attending Monday's Memorial Day ceremony to "try to bear with me during this speech today. Marines are known for being America's best war fighters...not so much the best public speakers."

He went on to give a speech on his experience evacuating Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan that touched the hearts of those attending the ceremony.

Moore, now a member of the Marine Corps Reserve, started his remarks with a brief history of Memorial Day, and how the scripture verse, John 15:13, which says, "Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his brother," is true of service members.

"Ask any veteran in this crowd today and they will tell you they were more than willing to lay down their life for their fellow Americans to preserve the freedoms we enjoy in this great country. It is a verse that rings true in the hearts of all veterans. During my time in Afghanistan with Operation Allies Refuge, I had John 15:13 written inside my Kevlar, alongside a picture of my wife, Jenna.

"Every day when I put my Kevlar on, that verse reminded me of what we were there for, no matter how hard it got. We were there to preserve and protect the liberties of those back home, and if need be, to die for that

See SACRIFICE on other side


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7 PM

cause.”

On August 15, 2021, Moore’s unit, Golf Co. 2nd Battalion 1st Marines, was tasked with manning the walls of the Kabul airport. They were there to evacuate Americans and allies after 20 years of fighting in the country. For two weeks, the marines and sailors of Golf Company 2/1 ran on minimal food, water and sleep as they worked to battle the crowds of desperate Afghan refugees wanting to flee their country. Two straight weeks of non-stop riot control and keeping the Taliban and ISIS at bay left Marines men-

tally and physically fatigued.

On August 26, the unit learned an Improvised Electronic Device (IED) attack was imminent and that a suicide bomber was in the crowd.” Any sane person would have immediately fallen back to safety,” Moore said, “but Marines are a different breed. Knowing the IED could go off at any moment, they continued their task, “for if we just pulled one more American or Afghan ally from the crowd, it would all have been worth it.”

At about 4:30 p.m. Kabul time, the bomber detonated his device, a 20 lb. directional charge with military grade explosives and thousands of ball bearings, which went flying through the air. Gunmen on nearby rooftops opened fire. When it was over, 13 service members, including

nine of Moore’s friends, and more than 170 Afghan civilians were dead.

“The service members we lost on that deployment truly embodied the meaning of John 15:13,” Moore said. “They knew the risk and yet continued the mission. They gave their lives for their fellow Marines and for all Americans back home. There is no greater honor than that.”

The service members had a duty. So, too, do American citizens. “As Americans, it is our duty and calling to uphold the values, traditions and morals of this country that they bled for. And to fight and preserve our freedoms here at home, just as they did for us abroad. If we don’t, then what did they die for,” Moore asked.

“I urge all of you to make the most out of the freedoms

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Briefly

Retirement Open House

Hoopeston Multi Agency will hold a retirement open house for Steve Bane, from 1-3 p.m. Thursday at the agency’s community room. Bane, who has driven the agency bus for 10 years, is retiring.

Our Town Hoopeston

WCIA Channel 3 will wrap up a week of Our Town Hoopeston with activities from 3-7 p.m. Friday. Residents can gather at Bank and Main to partake of free food - Hoopeston Rotary’s ice cream, popcorn from the Little Lorraine, free hotdogs at The Barn and free water from Anthem Chevrolet - along with Touch-a-Truck, bounce houses, and music by Pink Double Wide at 112 Wine & Coffee Shoppe.

Any Hoopeston business or group that wants to participate has until 3 p.m. Wednesday to register at city hall to do so. There is no fee, but registration is required.

Weekly hydrant flushing has been canceled this week.

Bulk garbage day

Bulk garbage day, for Hoopeston residents only, will be held from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday at Hoopeston City Hall parking lot.

Residents are limited to one load per bulk day and must unload their own load or bring some-one to help.

Dumping of electronics, appliances, paint, liquids, tires, batteries, yard waste, construction/demolition material or anything that fits in the provided blue totes is not allowed. Items from apartments with a dumpster will not be allowed and items from businesses and contractors will not be permitted.

VBS

First Baptist Church will hold Vacation Bible School June 3-7 at the church, 323 E. Seminary. It is for kids in grades K-6 and will be held from 9-11:45 a.m. The theme is WILDLIVE Showcasing Christ’s Character. For more information or a ride, call (217) 283-6820.

Card shower

A card shower is being held for Eleanor Mann, who will celebrate her 92nd birthday on June 3. Cards and notes of well wishes may be mailed to Eleanor Mann, 410 W. Elm St., Hoopeston IL 60942.

Obituaries

HOFBAUER - Gene Leray Hofbauer, 87, of Rankin, died Sunday, May 26, 2024, at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. Visitation will be 5-7 p.m. Friday at Cox-Knapp Funeral Home, Rankin and one hour before the 11 a.m. funeral Saturday at Christian Bible Church, Cissna Park. Graveside service with military rites will follow at Rankin Union Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Christian Bible Church or Rankin Lions Club. Condolences may be shared at coxknapp.com.

Weather

Mostly sunny, today. High 71. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 45. Tomorrow, sunny. High 74, low 49.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

provided for us in the Constitution, which they fought so hard to preserve. Volunteer in your community, donate to charity, instill patriotism in your children and teach them American values. Whatever it may be, we should all work towards honoring their service with our own service. I truly believe this is the greatest country to ever exist, thanks in part to our fallen warriors.

“As I speak here today, I pray that their courage, selflessness, and devotion to duty are never forgotten. May their names be forever etched into history. And may we, as Americans, strive to uphold their legacy. Thank you. Semper Fidelis. And God bless America.”

Moore was introduced by Gene Hanson of the Hoopeston American Legion. He also said a prayer before Moore spoke. The Legion Color Guard stood at attention as the Honor Guard performed the salute to those who died in service to America.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

First Christian Church looking for a Secretary 8-Noon Tuesday-Friday. Send a Resume to FCC, P.O. Box 115, Hoopeston IL 60942

Join Our Team! We're seeking a skilled Technician/Mechanic passionate about their craft. If you're a self-starter who thrives in a team environment, we'd love to hear from you. Candidates should possess their own tools and a valid driver's license. Offering a competitive pay of \$25/hr (flat rate). Interested? Visit us in person to apply at Outlaw Automotive, 1919 E 500 N Rd, Milford, Illinois 60953. Let's build something great together – no online inquiries, please. Apply in person to take the first step towards your new career.

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at silgancontainers.wd1.myworkday.com/en-US/silgan/job/Mechanic_R168.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is hiring for 2nd Production Machine Operators, \$18/hour. Apply at www.full-fill.com Applications available onsite. EOE

Aquality Solutions is looking for men or women to deliver its products to area businesses and residential customers. This position offers benefits and incentive bonuses. Apply in person at 102 N 1st Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.

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