



Foundations

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For Members of The Beaver Area Heritage Foundation

www.beaverheritage.org

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WW II Veterans Honored in 'Righteous Might' Video



Beaver-Area veterans of World War II who attended the Nov. 15, 2008 premier of "Righteous Might"



A large Charter Day crowd viewed the 2008 premiere of *Righteous Might*, the ambitious oral history and videotaping project capturing the memories and emotions of Beaver's "Greatest Generation" – living day veterans of World War II from the Beaver Area.

The nearly hourlong video – produced on a *pro bono* basis by Tom Dowlin and Eric Cooper – “begins with the Great Depression and Pearl Harbor, progresses to the daily routine of military life overseas in different parts of the world and climaxes with stories of combat, victory and homecomings,” said the *Beaver County Times* in a full-page feature. “One of the most poignant parts — and one of the least talked about aspects of World War

II — is how the veterans dealt with their return to civilian life after experiencing four years of carnage.”

Dowlin and Cooper shot about 20 hours of unedited interviews during two days of filming at First Presbyterian Church. The unedited interviews were burned on DVDs and deposited with the Heritage Museum, Beaver Area Memorial, Beaver Area High School and Geneva College libraries. Heritage Foundation volunteers helped by greeting interviewees, providing refreshments and helping to obtain additional information and photographs.

Veterans interviewed by David O'Leary were Bill Axtell, Betty Bunish, Ray Custard, Jack Davis, Ed & Edy Ealy, John Francis, Elmer Hulick, Eugene Jannuzi, Dale Karger, Fred Knott, Clark Kronk, Don Maze, Bus Morton, Ruth Mulcahy, Don Portman, Bob Reader, Bob Strock, Walt Tettenburn, Zack Wallover, Calvin Williams and Hazen Wilson.



Cooper (left) and Dowlin

For more detail on the project and its impact on the producers, visit this special page on our website: www.beaverheritage.org/righteous.htm.

Loudermilk Begins ROTC Command At Beaver High School



Col. Jeff Loudermilk assumed command of Beaver's JROTC last August

Three years ago, Col. Jeff Loudermilk set his sights on commanding Beaver's Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, a goal that required a 26-month separation from his wife Maria and son Nick. His vision was rewarded last August when he was named to lead JROTC, replacing Col. Joseph Sudol upon his retirement.

The Loudermilks moved to Beaver County upon his return from Germany in 2003. Then, in April 2006, he retired from the U.S. Army, but volunteered to go back on active duty for a tour in Iraq, followed by a term with the Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, VA. Having this impressive experience on his military record, he was prepared for the ultimate challenge: Beaver Area High School.

Beaver's JROTC, comprised of 112 students – more than 10% of the student body – is thriving. It continues to earn the designation of "Distinguished Unit," an honor that led to more scholarships for JROTC grads than the number of athletic scholarships combined over the past five years. Loudermilk attributes much of the program's current success to his "right-hand man," Army Instructor Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Gadra, and to enthusiastic support from the administration and community members, who, he says, realize that schools with JROTC programs boast a 30% higher graduation rate than those without such programs.

JROTC students contribute time, talent and hard work through student-run programs such as the twice yearly clean-ups at Fort McIntosh. The fort, a borough property overseen by the

Heritage Foundation, was covered with debris after the recent storm. Without being asked, JROTC students cleaned the site. Another student-run project is the annual Sept. 11 ceremony. JROTC members also play roles in Trick-or-Treat night safety and the Memorial Day Celebration. The Fife and Drum Corps, a Heritage Foundation-sponsored group that came under the management and direction of JROTC in



Fife and Drum Corps performs at Fort McIntosh

2004, is comprised of 15 students. Explains Loudermilk, "It is the only Fife and Drum Corps in the entire Northeast region...something that we and our higher brigade are very proud of."

Loudermilk is also proud of Beaver's JROTC Raiders, who practice each Wednesday at 6 a.m. for arduous physical and mental competition, and consistently place in the top two in regional competitions.

"Students are encouraged to get involved with projects that *they* come up with...and to learn the values of

Community, Citizenship and Leadership," he says. JROTC is not a military recruiting tool, but rather a group that empowers young people to become fully vested in the activities of their community, to set personal goals, and make choices to enable them to achieve goals. "The focus is on life-long learning," he explains, and he urges students to "set yourself apart, in jobs, education or military, and as members of the community." In addition to physical training and the Fife and Drum Corps, JROTC members participate with the Color Guard, drill team, marksmanship team, and the academic excellence and academic assistance teams.

Loudermilk's most rewarding moments are not at competitions, or community events, but at the classroom door, where he stands with CSM Gadra every morning as students arrive and head to their homerooms. He greets each one by name, and feels rewarded just "seeing their faces...they know who you are and come to you with their issues and interests."

JROTC classroom discussions are a daily reminder to students that they matter in the community. Every day they are asked, 'What happened?' and 'How does it impact you?' Political biases are avoided in favor of thinking critically, showing respect and building understanding about differing opinions. The Colonel urges his students, "You are responsible for your own decisions; know what is going on in current events, and take part in either supporting or changing what's going on."

-- by Paula Soto

World War II Memorial Renovation to Honor Fallen Heroes



Ralph Morton

Ralph “Buss” Morton, a World War II veteran, still remembers his boyhood friends who didn’t make it back from the war – and is working to honor their memory. There has never been a monument in Beaver uniquely dedicated to the boys – they were boys then, he emphasizes – who were killed in the war. The

plaque on the existing monument simply states, “To All Services.” Morton is leading efforts to see that this memorial is properly maintained, and that all of Beaver’s fallen WWII soldiers are honored by name.

In 1953, World War II vets Harold Adams, Leonard Beck and Oscar Karlberg led a team of volunteers to construct the monument in Irvine Park. While well-built, it has suffered with age. Morton has secured \$2,500 from the Heritage Foundation to restore the monument to its original state, and to add a plaque listing the names of each casualty from Beaver, Bridgewater, Vanport and Brighton Township. The restoration will be completed by Memorial Day 2009.

Morton is requesting help to make sure the list is complete. Morton He through Veterans Administration records and conveyed a request in a *Beaver County Times* article in September. If you know of names not on this list, please call him ASAP at 724-775-0490.

-- by Paula Soto

World War II Casualties from Beaver

- Stephen J. Anzio** – Beaver. Age 19. Plane shot down off the coast of Spain, July 19, 1943.
- Henry Baker** – Bridgewater. Killed in France, Sept. 28, 1944
- John Baker** – Beaver. Killed in Germany, April 3, 1945.
- Milton A. Bennett** – Bridgewater. Killed in New Guinea, March 18, 1944.
- Wilbert E. Black** – Brighton Twp. Beaver High School football captain, 1937. Killed in Anzio landing, Feb. 18, 1944.
- Alfred W. Boggs** – Beaver. Killed in action, Oct. 19, 1944.
- Donald C. Boyde** – Beaver. Killed in France, July 19, 1944.
- Joseph J. Brozich** – Bridgewater. Killed in France, Sept. 17, 1944.
- Frank Grdenich** – Bridgewater. Beaver High School class of 1937. Killed in air crash in France, June 19, 1944.
- John Thomas Heeter** – Beaver. Killed in France, July 20, 1944.
- Samuel H. Hozschuh** – Vanport. Killed in D-Day invasion of France, June 9, 1944.
- William A. Lovell** – Beaver. Fighter pilot killed in Tunisia, Jan. 11, 1944.
- Richard McClure** – Beaver. Died of battle wounds in France; June 20, 1944.
- John A. Roth** – Beaver. Killed in France, July 7, 1944.
- Hubert H. Washburn** – Beaver. Medic with an airborne division. Killed in Sicily, July 11, 1943.
- James H. Williams** – Beaver. Beaver High School class of 1940. Killed at Okinawa, July 9, 1945.
- Charles M. Wilson** – Beaver. Killed in France, April 28, 1944.

Ancient Brighton Twp. Tree Slice Now a Timeline for Students



John McLaughlin with the “tree timeline”

Did you ever gaze at a freshly-cut tree stump and wonder at the expanse of time recorded in its rings? When a 290 year-old white oak tree was cut down on the John and Nicki McLaughlin farm in Brighton Township several years ago, the family wondered the same thing. Thus began a project of creating a national and local timeline display using a cross-section of their tree for display in our museum.

The McLaughlins painstakingly counted the uncommonly thin rings on the 32 inch diameter cross-section, and determined

that the tree sprouted in 1715, when the area was occupied by the Delaware and Shawnee tribes, 61 years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The next step was to choose what events would be listed on the time line. A decision was made to do two separate lines: one to represent local developments; the other for significant national events. Items were selected through a collaborative family effort, with input from Robert Smith on Beaver’s early history.

The building of Fort McIntosh, incorporation of the borough of Beaver, and construction of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad Bridge are a few of the local highlights. Nationally, this includes wars, the Great Depression, the first moon landing, and the destruction of the World Trade Center. Each event is marked at the appropriate tree ring with a small red light that illuminates when that event’s button is pushed on a panel underneath the oak’s cross-section.

Vanport company C3Controls provided the layout and engineering for the project, with invaluable attention to detail and quality work. Hank McPherson then constructed the display.

-- by Paula Soto



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Garrison Takes Field of Battle



The Fort McIntosh Garrison grew its membership last year and took part in several parades and historical re-enactments. These photos show the Garrison in "battle" at Fort Henry, WV.

Corporate Member Spotlight

Noll Funeral Home

Founded by Mark Eli and Melanie Noll in 1998, the Noll Funeral Home of Beaver is committed to providing a high level of personalized service and comfort to families during what can be the most difficult time in their lives.

Homer Nine & Sons, Inc.

A customer focused heating and air-conditioning company that was founded in 1943. Located in Bridgewater, the company specializes in designing, engineering, and installing complete comfort systems for owners of existing homes and buildings.

Chick-fil-A

Chick-fil-A at the Beaver Valley Mall is owned by Diane and Larry Brosius of Beaver. For 40 years, its chicken sandwich has been made with 100 percent natural chicken breast, hand-breaded, and cooked in cholesterol free and trans fat free peanut oil. Closed Sundays.

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The firm is led by a public relations and marketing strategist recognized by peers with a Renaissance Hall of Fame Award for "significant, lasting contributions to the advancement of public relations in the Pittsburgh region." For more, visit www.markminer.com.