

EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2018

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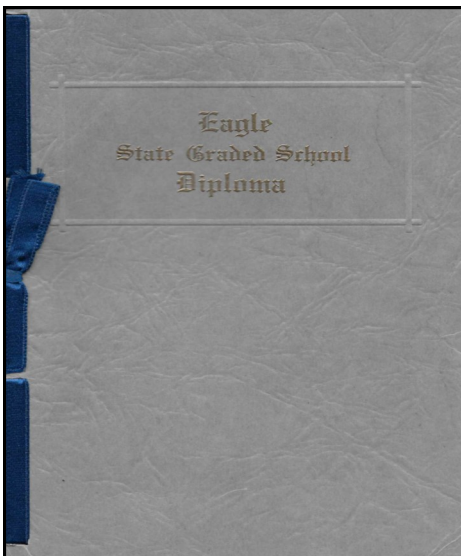
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Patron \$100

Eagle Business Association



Above: See 1943 speech from Dottie Murphy's mother beginning on Page 3.
Right: More photos and information on Veterans Recognition Program on P2.



ARTIFACT DONATIONS:

The following is a partial list of items donated. Thanks to the following donors:

Jan Suhm—Aerial Farm Photo	Joan Kriewald—Abstract
Richard Riba—Vietnam Photos and Book	Phil Hall—Hwy 67 Sign
Dottie Murphy—Assorted Doc., Class Photo	
Judith Bredlow—Assorted Items/Children's Books	

If you have any corrections or additions to membership, please contact Don Ledrowski at 262-594-3301 or don@ledrowski.com.

UPCOMING EHS EVENTS

July 8	Ice Cream Social/PE Band Concert - Eagle Village Park
Aug. 22	Member Appreciation Reception on EHS Patio
Oct. 27	Pumpkin Party--Return of the Pirates @ EHS Museum
Nov. 6	Bake Sale during Election @ Eagle Municipal Building

EHS Board

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594-3301

Newsletter Editors

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594-5454

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EHS Museum

262-594-8961

OPEN

Fridays and Saturdays

9 am to noon

Wednesdays, 3-6 pm

Website:

eaglehistoricalsociety.org

Facebook: Like us at

Eagle Historical Society



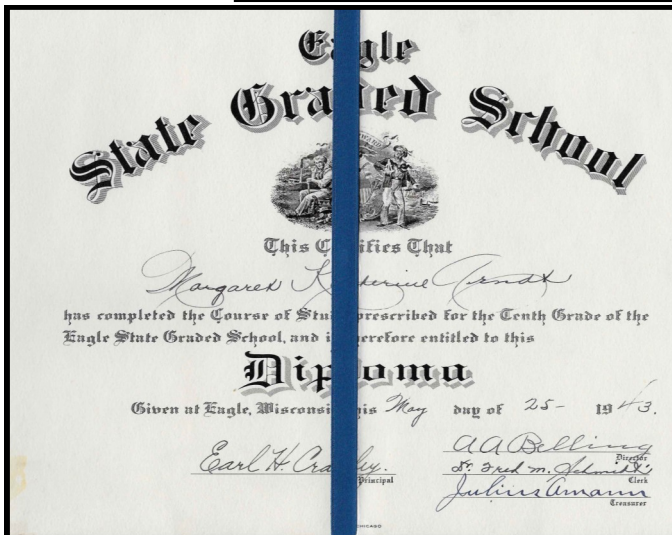
Photos on this page were taken by Annie Jung.



The weather was perfect on Saturday, June 2, 2018, for our third annual Veterans Recognition Program. The patio looked very festive with the red, white and blue tents. Over 200 people were on hand to honor 39 Vietnam Era Veterans. Phil Hall served as master of ceremonies and introduced our guest speaker, Col. Paul Kreis, who gave an inspirational speech. Maj. David Shamsi remembered the deceased veterans. Jim Neist and Nancy Campbell played an 'echo' version of Taps after a moment of silence. It was a very

touching moment as one by one the Veterans stood and saluted.

EHS presented the veterans a certificate of appreciation when each veteran was presented a quilt from the Quilts of Honor in Recognition of their service. Don Enright closed the program with a prayer. The Kettle Moraine Blues provided music during the reception. The traveling exhibit, 'Wisconsin Remembers: A Face for Every Name' was on exhibit at the museum from June 1-3.



From EHS Archives: Tenth Grade Diploma Awarded to Margaret Katherine Arndt dated May 25, 1943.

Brig. Gen. Farrand, Rev. Wollet,
Teachers, Members of the Board, parents
and friends;

As we, the Sophomore Class of 1943, bid
farewell to our classmates, we are faced with
a problem—How will young America fit into
the postwar world? Though the war is far
from being won and our greatest sacrifices lie
ahead, we must begin now to chart our post-
war course or we may lose in the peace all we
have fought for in the war.

The children that are gathered here to-
gether and millions like them will inherit the
postwar world. They will live in its dust-free
houses, eat its improved foods, go to its mod-
ernized schools, and, of course, soar on the
wings of the airplanes.

Of first importance in the world of to-
morrow are the schools. For if we are to pre-
serve the brave new peace, we must arm our
children with new wisdom. As each child is
a new creation, as life is ever growing, so
must the philosophy of education be alive
and ever changing.

Thinking of the schools of tomorrow,
arouses the question—How will these schools
be taught? We know that they should not
and must not be taught by force. For that is
the way a lion tamer would train his lions. If
they did not perform as they should, he
would use the whip. No, they cannot be
taught this way; neither can they be taught
by the method of award. Such as a boy being
told if he did his lesson he would receive a
prize education, **MUST** be made of sterner
stuff; it cannot be as a sugar coated pill easy
to take. It cannot be the path of least resist-
ance. For as you all know, that has been the
downfall of many a nation. We must im-
plant among our children the desire to learn,
the desire to know about the mistakes of the
past and what to do in the future. Anything
worth having is worth working for.

Young men leaving these schools will
have much to say in shaping the postwar
world. Directed by older men, several mil-
lion young men will win the war. What goes
on after the conflict is won will be largely in
their hands also. Not that a lot of youthful
statesmen will suddenly appear and write a
new charter, voiding all the mistakes of the
past. No adolescent will lead a shattered
world out of the wilderness. But, collective-
ly, young men will have a lot to say to the
older men.

The American form of government, the
prewar economic system—our natural re-
sources and tremendously expanded power
of production—all these can be adapted to
meet any postwar situation. Beyond ques-
tion if we use these intelligently we can lift

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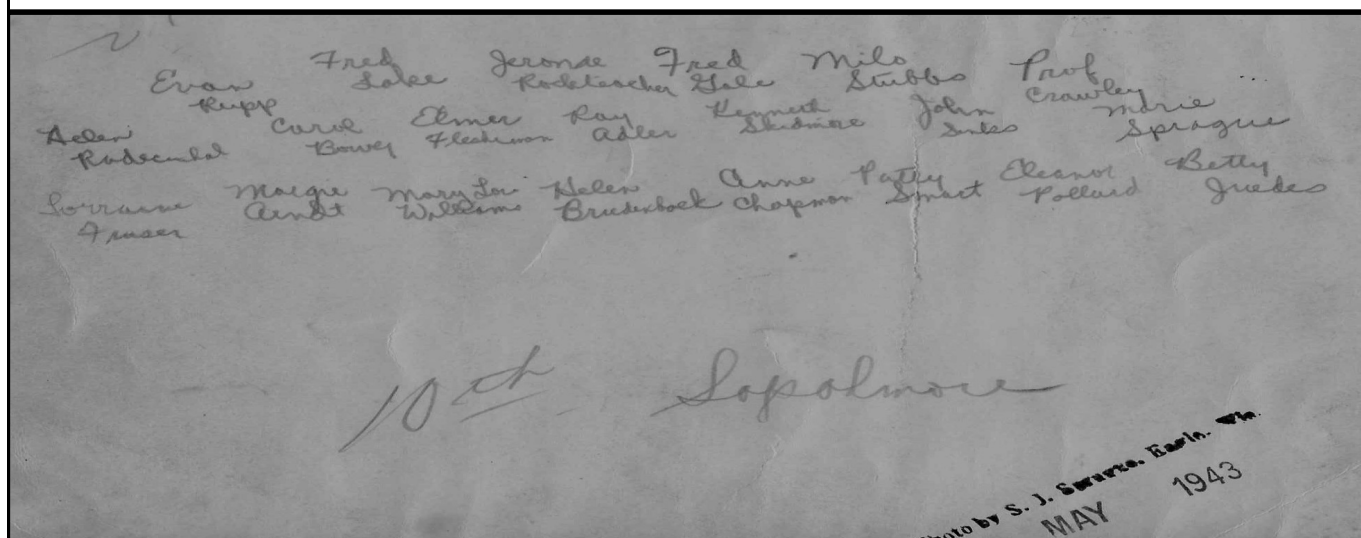
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ourselves to a new level of living. If we begin to plan now—if we work as hard at making a successful peace as we have to waging war—we can have a happier, richer life than America or any other country has ever had. But this country must not have a higher or lower standard than that of any other country—we must be more on an equal basis, cooperative and willing to help each other.

The problems of conversion from war to peace are numberless. Our soldiers today have been asking — “What am I and all these with me going to do when this thing is over?” Is peace to bring with it that deadly spiral of men laid off and demobilized, hence less purchasing power, more plants closed down, more men laid off and once again the breadlines? These are only a few of the problems thought about. No one can answer a fraction of them now. No one can predict a date when the answers must be known. But this much can be said: We must begin now to draw the outline of what we want to accomplish, to build machinery that will make it possible to put the answers to work once we have found them.

The most important contribution we can

make to the postwar world is to be strong and prosperous ourselves, now, and to build for the future. As a people we are still living in a peacetime psychology, studying the headlines as if we were spectators. It is time we realized that we cannot win this war with wishful thinking alone, that to win will require the active effort of every citizen. It is time we stopped political bickering, stopped whispering campaigns against American minorities and against our allies. It is time we show our enemies that they are dead wrong in thinking us incapable of unity and sacrifice, a weaker breed of men than our forefathers. The end of the war is soon at hand and we or they—not both—will survive. And you know if we are to survive, each and every one of us must do our part by giving war our own contribution. Mothers and daughters in the home can take up a home nursing course, the men can put all their savings into war bonds, and the children can put all their pennies into war stamps. These are only a couple of the many things we can do to bring victory closer, so that we once again can have the peace we so long for and once again we can have our fathers, brothers and friends back with us.



MEMBER APPRECIATION RECEPTION



**You are invited to a
Member Appreciation Night
On the Patio**

Wednesday, August 22, 2018

From 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Greet old friends and make new ones!

Step back in time!

Join us on a shortened version of the Eagle Village Historic Walking Tour. Bring your iPad or phone with a QR Reader or use one of our printed brochures as your guide. Start at the library for the full 1.5-mile hike, or shortened guided tours will start at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. at the museum.

Have fun telling the young'uns what our little village used to be like in the "old days"!



ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL & PALMYRA/EAGLE COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

Some snapshots from last year's event in case you missed it...



Photos taken by Carolyn Rosprim.

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL & PALMYRA/EAGLE COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT



**Eagle Village Park
Sunday, July 8, 2018**

Take a musical journey with the Palmyra/Eagle Community Band for the 2018 Summer “Pops” season and “Around the World in 80 Ways”. Hop into our musical travel balloon as we take audiences on a mystical, magical, musical journey from England to India to South America. Our band balloon will then bring us back to America where we will visit the “Big Apple” with a musical salute that runs from Central Park through Lincoln Center to the very streets of New York.

- **Special in-flight offerings will include the music of Henry Mancini, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Richard Rogers and Frank Sinatra.**
- **A tribute to the centennial of the birth of the great American composer, Leonard Bernstein will be a special highlight.**
- **Bandmaster Ed Pierce will have his usual flight crew, Jim Neist and the “Kettle Moraine Blues,” sax soloist Ellie Hawes will ensure that each musical passenger is properly cared for with the finest music possible.**
- **Dancers Josh and Caitlyn Voigt will entertain one and all as they “cut a rug” with music from Dick Clark’s “American Bandstand”.**



Leonard Bernstein

Eagle Boy Scout Troop 54, led by Mike Eddy, Scott Beckwith and Jim Dean, will again help with the flag ceremony, set-up of chairs, and seating of concert goers. It will be a journey you won't forget! Pack your bag chair and feel free to get up at any time during our musical flight to get more delightful cake and ice cream. Our flight crew is always pleased to see seconds and thirds!

No boarding pass is required!

(IT IS ALL FREE!)

Questions... 262.594.8961 or elaine@ledrowski.com

THE LAST FULL MEASURE *By Phil Hall*

The movie *The Last Full Measure* will be released later this year bringing some closure to an event that occurred April 11, 1966. On that day I experienced both the worst and best of humanity.

In 1998 I was contacted by Parker Hayes of the Air Force Sergeants Association; he was heading the effort to have an Air Force Pararescueman's Air Force Cross upgraded to the Medal of Honor. The effort was being made by the men who served with William Pitsenbarger, known as Pits. Pits had been put in for the Medal of Honor, but somewhere along the line, it was downgraded to the Air Force Cross which is the second highest Air Force award. I was asked if I would write a statement in support of the effort. Although I was a very busy young man during the battle, I was able to witness some of what Pits did for the men of Charlie

Company 2nd Battalion 16th Infantry; he didn't hesitate to sacrifice his life to save people he didn't even know! I was honored to write an account of what I saw and how it moved me and

was even more honored that Secretary of the Air Force, Whit Peters, read much of my letter when The Medal of Honor was posthumously awarded and presented to his father in 2000 with men from Pits' unit, The Ben Hoa Eagles; some of the Charlie Company survivors from that horrific battle, The Mud Soldiers; active duty Pararescuemen, PJs; and dignitaries from the Air Force and state of Ohio in attendance. This movie is based on the story of



the effort to get Pits his Medal of Honor.

An amazing all-star cast was assembled and their talented performances make this movie

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truly moving. Among the cast are Sebastian Stan, Samuel L. Jackson, Ed Harris, Christopher Plummer, William Hurt, Alison Sudol, Bradley Whitford, Jeremy Irvine, Linus Roache, Michael Imperioli, Peter Fonda, Amy Madigan, Diane Ladd, John Savage, and more. In 2001 I was contacted by the movie's writer/director Todd Robinson and producer Sidney Sherman to talk about this project. After many starts and stops the project went into production in 2017. I was thrilled when they invited me to Atlanta for some of the filming last April. Ken Alderson, Charlie Company's XO (second in command) and I were the Charlie Co. advisors for the movie. We both have director's chairs with our names on the back! We watched quite a bit of shooting, sometimes live, sometimes via monitors. During breaks we had the chance to meet the actors and spend some time with them, some came to find and meet us. The last couple of days we were joined by a handful of guys from Charlie Co. and The Ben Hoa Eagles. Barb flew in and we were seated in the crowd being filmed at the reenactment of the Medal of Honor ceremony. The chance to have been involved with this project will go down as one of the best times in my life.

Since then the crew went to Thailand to shoot the flash backs to Vietnam. They then moved to cutting room, then to England to add special effects and sound. Now we're just waiting for an opening date.

What follows is a brief account by me of a day of hero's! But also should have never happened!

In 1966 I was a member to C Co. 2nd battalion 16th Infantry Regiment 1st Infantry Division "The Big Red One". While on a search and destroy operation named Abilene, Charlie Co. had

been hacking its way through the jungle looking for the front line Viet Cong Battalion D 800 reinforced with North Vietnamese (NVA) Regulars, some 600 soldiers. These were full-time soldiers, well trained well equipped and very motivated. The day before we killed two and wounded a third of their scouts who had been doing just that, scouting us, and they wanted pay back!

Charlie Co. had spent a tense night (Easter night April 10th) as we knew we were close to the D 800 base camp and they knew we were there. At last light we moved our location a couple hundred meters fearing we would be hit that night. In the morning we got to our feet, stretched, rubbed our eyes, had some wonderful C rations for breakfast, and got ready to "move out". The company traveled in three columns and as my platoon (2nd platoon) had been on point (first in line) the day before, we would be last of the four platoons this day.

Third platoon led the way hacking its way through this thick triple-canopy jungle. Mid-day they ran into trails, so the company stopped in place and scouts were sent to look where the trails led. About this time 3rd platoon came under fire. After a few minutes of fire and return fire my Lt., John Libs, looked around and spotted me sitting with a shotgun across my knees (my partner John Noyce and I traded every other day carrying the M 60 machine gun.) Libs told me "Hall go out there about 20 meters and keep your eyes open." With that I walked out about 20 meters mumbling to myself and sat on the ground. Not long after, I spotted a squad of VC moving towards our rear; they were closing the back door! We walked into a well-planned kill sack and now they were finishing the plan by closing off the way we had come. We were encircled and we were outnumbered by 5 or 6 to one.

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Then I came under fire from two positions, one behind a termite mound and one in a tree. When the guy behind the termite mound thought I was dead, he got up and started towards me; I rose to my knee and took him out and then ran for the perimeter. I made it with only a shot canteen!

What followed was a twelve-hour battle with the VC having the upper hand for most of it. Artillery was called in with the first volley hitting inside the perimeter killing a couple of our men and wounding more. With a growing number wounded and several dead we desperately needed help, but there was nowhere for an Army Huey to land because of the triple canopy jungle. An Air Force Pararescue unit station at Ben Hoa Air Base, Detachment 6, 38th Aerospace Rescue Recovery Squadron, "The Ben Hoa Eagles", heard the of the battle and the need to get our wounded out. They volunteered to come to our aid with two Air Force Huskies (choppers) equipped with wenchers to lift out wounded. Their mission in Vietnam was to go to the aid of downed pilots and lower down a medic Para-rescue man when needed. Combat engineers attached to Charlie Co. blew down a couple of trees to make a space to lift out wounded, all of this happening under fire. The Huskies hovered over the opening marked by colored smoke, lowered their litter baskets (wire stretcher), lifted the first load of wounded out, and flew to an aid station while the second moved over the hole to recover the second load; once loaded with wounded it to flew to an aid station.

While the Huskies were gone the battle intensified with the enemy moving ever closer, with snipers in the trees, some in spider holes, one man holes covered with camouflage where they could rise up fire and duck back down. Then they brought up two heavy machine guns

(Russian 51 cal.) one of which was firing on 2nd Platoon (my platoon) the other on 1st platoon. About this time the VC started mortaring Charlie Co. walking rounds across the perimeter. One of these rounds landed and exploded about four feet to my left blowing me into the air and knocking me unconscious. Slowly I came to. My partner John Noyce thought I was dead when he saw my eyes started to roll around; he was yelling at me, but I couldn't hear him. Slowly my hearing returned but with ringing in them. (They're still ringing today.)

Try to imagine, if you can, the roar of all that was happening: artillery rounds exploding, mortar rounds going off, 51 cal. Machine guns firing with their thug, thug, thug, A.K. 47s firing, grenades going off along with RPGs with Charlies Companies M16s and M 60 machine guns, men yelling orders and guys screaming in pain. These sounds will never leave you.

On their second trip over the hole an Air Force PJ had asked his pilot (his commander) to let him go down and help load the wounded. The pilot argued about how hot it was down there (dangerous) but agreed to let the PJ go down. We on the ground were amazed to see a guy riding a jungle penetrator down to the ground. What the @\$% was this guy thinking! The PJ's name was William Pitsenbarger "Pits". First he took control of loading wounded, and then after the Huskies left loaded with wounded he started treating wounded and helping get them to the lift out point, all this is under intense fire. When the huskies returned for the third time and Cpt. Hal Salem hovered his bird over the hole and the crew lowered the litter basket the VC opened up on the Huskie, the bird was crippled and in trouble, the crew waved for Pits to get in the basket to get out while he could. Pits waved them off; he

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was going to stay with Charlie Co., men he didn't even know! Cpt. Salem had no time to waste; he needed to get his wounded bird out of there.

On the ground the battle raged with the perimeter being penetrated a total of three times. A determined Charlie Co. repulsed the first two by the other side of the perimeter firing over the heads of Charlie Co. soldiers firing from the prone. The third assault was turned back when a badly wounded Sgt. Bozy Gerald threw a tear gas canister that turned back the assault. In the early hours of the morning Sgt. Gerald was in so much pain he cried for someone to finish him off. No one did, there was nothing anyone could do for him, his cries got lower and finally ceased. Pits had picked up a rifle during an assault and stayed over the wounded until he too fell, the next day he was found with a bullet hole in his head.

As the battle raged a group of 2nd platoon soldiers made an attempt at the 51 cal. machine gun. The four leading were all hit, with Ed Riley killed, Lt. John Libs and Jack Lancaster wounded, and I was hit with a grenade and knocked out again. When I came to, Lt. Libs was yelling at me to get back to the perimeter or what was left of it. There were only pockets of guys still in the fight. Sgt. James Robinson was more successful in his attempt to take out the 51 cal. facing first platoon. He threw the grenade he had in his hand before he was hit and killed, he had taken out the 51. Cal. He would receive the Medal of Honor. We were out of water, many out of ammo, everyone out of first aid bandages.

Then the VC started yelling instructions over us with megaphones to make their final assault. Lt. Libs and then Lt. Alderson called in artillery walking it ever closer, dirt, trees, and bodies flew through the air covering us. In all 1143 rounds of high explosive artillery were fired during the bat-

tle. The last barrage pretty much ended the battle. During the night Army gunships flew overhead. Flairs were fired into the air drifting to earth swinging from small parachutes making shadows shifting keeping guys on edge. In the morning B Company 2nd Battalion 16th Infantry Regiment entered the area that could no longer be called a perimeter. As they walked through us, some of them started crying, some started taking care of wounded giving what water they had; they had been on the way the day before and all night.

Army choppers flew overhead, then large double-bladed Chinooks arrived lowering rope ladders, chain saws, engineers, and medics. They set to work cutting and blowing trees for a landing zone which took a couple hours. Finally Charlie Company started being lifted out.

Charlie Co. had around 40 KIA or died of wounds and about 75 wounded. With 134 members on the morning report April 11th, that's 80% casualties. The VC D 800 and attached NVA ceased to be never to be reformed. Charlie Co. was back in the field in three weeks with some guys taken from other units and a bunch of new guys, and now I was one of the old guys with eight more months to go in Vietnam!



Photo taken on location in a house that was used as Samuel's (Tokoda in the movie) house for the movie by a movie crew member. Actor Samuel Jackson with Phil Hall.

Casey, Wayne

April 20, 1920– May 11, 2018



Wayne Casey, age 98, of Eagle, WI, passed away peacefully with his family by his side at Waterford Senior Living Center on May 11, 2018. Wayne was born on April 20, 1920, in Illinois, the son

of the late Richard and Effie (Causey) Casey. Wayne married Lucille Armbrust on January 12, 1946, and together they farmed for many years in the Town of Eagle. He was a veteran of The United States Army serving his country in WWII. Wayne was a member of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Eagle and the Knights of Columbus.

Wayne was loved and will be remembered by his beloved wife Lucille; children, Mary (Robert) Anderson, Donald, Jim (Kathy), and Ken (Linda); grandchildren, Richard Anderson, Christine (Stefan) Vater, Matthew (Cherette) Casey, Nick (Sarah) Casey, Jeremiah (Alicia) Casey, Katie Casey, Jessica (Jay) Ruehl, Andrew Casey, Billie-Jo (Chad) Brunsveen, and Jon (Fran) Casey; 21 great-grandchildren along with many other relatives and friends.

Wayne was preceded in death by his son Richard; grandson, Joshua Casey; brothers, Ward and Newell; sister, Erma Atwood.

Funeral Mass for Wayne was held on Sat., May 19, 2018, at 11:00 am at St. Theresa Catholic Church, 135 W. Waukesha Rd. Eagle, WI, 53119 with Father Dennis

Ackeret officiating.

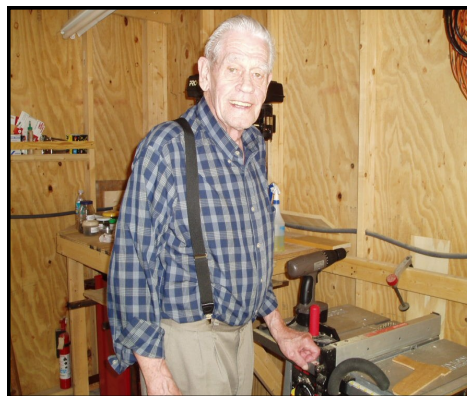
Visitation was at the church from 9:00 am Sat. until the time of Mass. Burial followed at St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery in Eagle.

Memorial masses for Wayne or donations to St. Theresa Catholic Church were suggested.



Curran, Robert D.

November 13, 1929–May 26, 2018



Robert D. Curran, age 88, of East Troy, WI, passed away peacefully with his family by his side at his home on May 26, 2018. Bob was born on November 13, 1929 in Elkhorn, WI, the son of the

late Walter and Vesta (Dawley) Curran. Bob married Mary Isabelle Kalb and they had 3 daughters. Following her death he married Joyce L. Jackson on March 19, 1988 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in East Troy. Bob served his country in the United States Army Signal Corps during the Korean War. He was a member of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Eagle serving on the Parish Council and Knights of Columbus. He was a member of the Eagle Lions Club, American Legion Post 535 in Eagle and VFW Post 7501 in East Troy. After he retired, Bob built beautiful, award-winning wood strip canoes.

Beloved husband of Joyce of East Troy; Bob was loved and will be remembered by his children, Cynthia Patterson of Neenah, Teresa (Neal) Norris of Palmyra, Elaine (Jeffrey) Hawes of Eagle; step-children, Cheryl (Robert) Knox of East Troy, Linda (Richard) Oliver of East Troy, and Douglas (Kathy) Jackson of Lake Geneva; his grandchildren Mathew Curran, Jennifer Youngwerth, Andrew Patterson, Robert Norris, William Norris, Daniel Hawes and Amy Morateck and his step-grandchildren Paul Knox, Rita McConkey, Heather Gerleman, Gregory Knox, Martha Knox, Ellison Birch, Ross Oliver and Kate Oliver; 16 great-grandchildren; sisters, Beverly Lackey of East Troy, Patricia Jenner of Lake Geneva, and Sheila Curran of Whitefish Bay; along with many other relatives and dear friends.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Mary Isabelle, and son-in-law Michael Patterson.

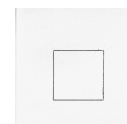
Memorial Mass for Bob was held on Friday, June 1, 2018 at 2:00 pm at St. Theresa Catholic Church 135 W. Waukesha Rd. Eagle, WI with Father Edward Tluczek officiating. Visitation was at the church from 1:00 pm Friday until the time of Mass. Burial followed at St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery in Eagle.

Memorials to the Palmyra-Eagle Community Band, www.pecb.info the VFW, Eagle Lions Club and the American Legion Post 535 were suggested. Condolences were left at www.Haaselockwoodfhs.com.

Eagle Historical Society, Inc.

217 Main Street

P.O. Box 454



Ice Cream Social 1:00
Palmyra/Eagle
Community Band
Concert 2:00
July 8



Above photo taken by S.J. Swarts in May, 1943, of Eagle State Graded School's Sophomore Class of 1943. How many people can you identify? See Page 4.