

# NSP OPINIONS

## 17-year-old World War II victim finds rest at St. Ann's

When I say we here at *The NSP* love telling your stories, I really mean it. One of the things I like about this job is that you never know when you're going to happen along one of those stories.

Case in point: this week's story on Pvt. Fay Gene Teter.

Last Friday morning, our ad rep, Theresa Blackledge texted me in the morning. She said Jim Kuhl with the Eldridge VFW had stopped in and told her the VFW was going to be doing a military funeral at St. Ann's. He didn't have a lot of details, but he thought it might be something interesting, and if we had time, maybe someone could stop out at 10 a.m.



**Inside Story**  
NSP Editor  
Erin Gentz

Mark was out of the office for the day, and it was a gorgeous morning for a drive, so I thought, "Why

not?"

I pulled up by the cemetery and walked over, without any real expectations of what might come out of it. I stood close enough that I could hear Father Joseph Wolf, but far enough away that I didn't seem like a weird interloper, snapped a few photos, and mostly watched the VFW guys.

There's really something moving about a military funeral. I think they have a quiet dignity, and the rifle salute followed by the mournful sound of taps can send shivers down your back.

Afterwards, as the VFW members were collecting their brass to present to the family, I stopped over to say, "hi." As the family were thanking the VFW, I started to overhear something about World War II and DNA identification, and I quickly realized this wasn't just any military funeral.

It turned out to be one of the most improbable things I'd ever heard.

Pvt. Teter's family members were incredibly gracious and forthcoming with the story, but they were also



clearly so truly grateful to have him back. For nearly 80 years, he was all but gone. And now they have him, tangible and near, buried next to his mother.

Back at the office, I fired up Google, and VFW quartermaster Brad Striegel texted me a few other links about Teter. There was actually quite a bit of data to sort through, but there are also some very dedicated people out there, committed to ensuring that missing veterans don't go unremembered. So, in addition to learning Teter's story, I also got to learn about organizations such as History Flight and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency that are doing amazing work recovering missing veterans from all over the world.

Also, I had to brush up on some World War II history. Although I'd heard of battles in the South Pacific like Guadalcanal, I'd honestly never heard of Tarawa.

One of the links Brad Striegel sent me was about a film the Marines made called "With the Marines at Tarawa." I watched it on YouTube; it's about 20 minutes long and it's on the U.S. National Archives channel with a bunch of other military films. The Marine that filmed it, Norman Hatch,

literally had a gun in one hand and a 35 mm camera in the other, and he was as close as 15 feet away from the enemy at times.

It's about as grim and raw as you'd imagine. It's certainly nothing an audience in the 1940s would have seen before.

As I watched, I was struck at the contrast between the battlefield and that Friday morning in the Long Grove countryside. It occurred to me how loud and terrifying Pvt. Teter's last moments had to have been. How the last sounds he heard, far away from home, just 17 years old and alone, were almost certainly violent and jarring.

For nearly 80 years, he remained there, lost. For many of those years, the atoll was abandoned, and he was thought to be unrecoverable.

But then some people came along, determined to find him and reunite his remains with his loved ones.

And he got to come home, and it was quiet and peaceful. Just birds chirping and one or two cars breezing down St. Ann's Road, unaware something completely remarkable had just happened.

Three rifle volleys and then a bugler's

call.

Taps has been used as a bugle call since the Civil War. Officially, it's a military signal for lights out.

Unofficially though, it has lyrics. And while there are some variations, there is one particularly popular set of lyrics:

*Day is done, gone the sun,  
From the hills, from the lake, from the  
skies.  
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.  
Go to sleep, peaceful sleep, may the  
soldier  
or sailor, God keep. On the land or the  
deep, Safe in sleep.  
Love, good night, must thou go,  
when the day, and the night need thee  
so?  
All is well. Spedeth all To their rest.  
Fades the light;  
And afar Goeth day,  
And the stars Shineth bright,  
Fare thee well;  
Day has gone, night is on.  
Thanks and praise, for our days,  
'Neath the sun, 'Neath the stars, 'Neath  
the sky,  
As we go, this we know, God is nigh.*

Safely rest, Pvt. Teter.

## Veterans deserve more than America is giving

### VFW honors Eldridge teen for veterans essay

I believe veterans are overlooked as part of our modern society. Our veterans are living examples of the American spirit. They display courage, determination, and the rugged individualism we all strive to achieve in our lives.

Without our veterans, we would not be living in this great nation that we have the right to call our home. Our veterans are pillars of the community who represent the grit and dedication to this great nation and the freedoms it gives us.

**Salute to veterans**  
by Jack Striegel

when it comes to keeping our country safe. During the 245 total years the United States has existed, the American people have always answered the call to defend our country, showing fearlessness and compassion for its people as they risked their lives to keep us all safe and free.

However, despite all veterans

have done for us, they're highly unappreciated in the modern era.

Roughly 11 percent of all homeless people are veterans who are often forgotten by society. Many of these veterans have mental illnesses, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, or disabilities that they suffered from during their service in both war and peace.

Along with this, veteran suicides are also a major issue, especially in the modern day. Veterans aren't receiving the support they need after a traumatic experience that occurred during or outside of deployment, and are unfortunately taking their life at a rate twice as high as that of civilians. Sadly, the amount of suicides have not yet shown a substantial dip—especially in recent times where the suicide numbers have been steadily increasing.

In light of this, the number of homeless veterans has been drastically reduced throughout the last decade as more money gets put toward their safety and well-being. As more and more people hopefully begin to recognize the dedication that veterans have put forth to our country, we can aim to see a better future for the veterans which have put their life on the line for our safety.

Veterans are the ones who have kept this great country alive since its creation. Ever since the Revolutionary

War all the way to current overseas operations, our veterans have been there to uphold our democratic values. Without those brave men from 1776, who were willing to risk their lives to establish the United States of America, we would not exist. Without our veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice during the world wars, the very existence of some of our greatest allies— and maybe even our own country— may have crumbled to nothing. Without our soldiers who took up arms to fight in the War on Terror, the lives of American citizens that were lost to terrorist attacks would have gone unavenged. More importantly, there would have been a high risk of more terrorist attacks on U.S. soil and its citizens if our military was not called on to protect our homeland. Fortunately, we can all thank our veterans, who risked their lives in the field of combat, for the ability to call this country home.

Our veterans are the soul embodiment of the American spirit. Defined in words such as courage, determination, optimism, and compassion, our veterans display each and every one of these—whether it be during their time of service or after they left the military—they still maintain their pro-American composure. This never-ending display of the American spirit continues to act

as the foundation of America as we build off of this spirit, creating a better country for everyone to live in.

The importance of the veteran should be self-explanatory, but fewer and fewer of our educational institutions are teaching patriotism for our country, let alone respect for veterans. In simple terms, there would be no America without them. However, there's much more to them than just that. Our veterans show extreme dedication to our country; even sacrificing their lives to assure our sovereignty as a nation. Unfortunately, these efforts are often unappreciated by many people who don't understand what these veterans have gone through to assure our safety and freedom. In addition to this, veterans have been the foundation of the American spirit for hundreds of years, being used as inspiration for the American people and the foundation of America itself. Even though the meaning of veterans for some may be minuscule, their importance does not go unnoticed by us all, because without you veterans, we are nothing.

*Jack Striegel, of Eldridge is a senior at North Scott High School. He wrote this in October for VFW Eldridge VFW Post 6174 Voice of Democracy Essay contest. Find this story online at northscottpress.com for a link to a recording of Jack reading his essay.*



# OPINIONS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Final call caps Phil Roberts' 27 years of firefighting

At 2:55 p.m., Saturday, May 6, the Walcott Fire Department issued a final page across Scott County for Phil Roberts.

Our dad was incredibly proud of his decades-long volunteer service for the fire department. He served as a volunteer firefighter in Walcott for 27 years, which included a term as assistant chief. He was also the department's public information officer. He and three others became the department's first-ever EMTs in January 1979, which he did for 14 years.

Fire sirens were fixtures of small rural towns with volunteer fire departments to call firefighters in from the fields, away from Little League games, and family dinners. Those were supplemented with extra-long landline telephone rings to tell firefighters to get to the station, no matter what emergency was in store. They told everyone else to stay out of the way of firefighters racing to the fire station in their family cars.

They're rarely heard in cities, contested as nostalgic or a nuisance, and recommended by the National Fire Protection Association. Then in recent decades, the long rings were replaced by pagers with more detailed info from county dispatchers.

Those pagers and radio scanners were a familiar annoyance for our family members who can recite weekly test page scripts from memory: "Walcott Fire from Scott County, Walcott Fire from Scott County.

This is your weekly test page. Weekly test page only." It still rings in my



Walcott firefighters make a ceremonial last call May 6 for Phil Roberts, a volunteer and longtime Scott County journalist, including for The North Scott Press. Contributed photo

ears years and years later, it felt like a constant in our household growing up. When Dad went to the nursing home, he had Mom bring him his scanner and pager so he could stay in touch. I'm told Dad would listen and email news tips to

NSP, page by page.

We collected a few usable photos and the video of Dad's final fire page ceremony to share: [photos.app.goo.gl/q6HKmvHxNuzDXuFbA](https://photos.app.goo.gl/q6HKmvHxNuzDXuFbA)

Clint and Dane Roberts  
Minneapolis

### Celebrate Fourth of July respectfully

I have always loved shooting off fireworks. Now I can do it legally. I intend to shoot off my fireworks on the evening of July 3 around 9 p.m. I will be done having my fun by 10 p.m.

I will inform my neighbors that this will be happening, and I think most of them will enjoy watching my little backyard display. Even as a lover of fireworks, I thought the time period for shooting them off, signed into law by the state of Iowa, was way too liberal.

I think the new time period adopted by the Eldridge city council is perfect, and I will restrict my fun to those times. I realize that there are people who would just as soon not have any loud noises at any time of year, but I hope they feel that this is a good compromise for everyone.

So, if you are going to shoot off fireworks this year, please, please, please, abide by the times set for doing so. I would like to continue having my fun around the Fourth of July every year and don't want it ruined by a few nuts that cannot live by the rules.

Now, if we could only bring back the cherry bomb.

Gary Rohwer  
Eldridge

### Your letters on our pages

We encourage letters that shed light on new or familiar subjects, and share opinions in ways that invite discussion, not shut it down. Contact NSP Managing Editor Mark Ridolfi with your letter at [mridolfi@northscottpress.com](mailto:mridolfi@northscottpress.com), or 563-285-8111.



## Follow the flag: 'Not because I must, but because I may'

*You can stand alone, or with somebody else;  
Or stand with all of us together.  
If you can believe in something bigger than yourself,  
You can follow the flag forever.  
They say it's just a dream, it's a dreamer's dream,  
And it's an empty thing that really has no meaning.  
They say it's all a lie. It's not a lie! I'm gonna follow the  
flag 'til I die!  
Into ev'ry life, a little rain must fall, but it's not gonna  
rain forever.  
You can rise above, you can rise above it all.  
We will follow the flag together.  
We will follow the flag forever.*

— Randy Newman, 1988

Today, June 14, is Flag Day, designated by Congress and signed by President Harry Truman in 1949 to commemorate the flag resolution adopted by the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia on June 14, 1777.



This is a day to fly your flag proudly – or not. I add "or not," because in this land of the free and home of the brave, flying the flag is a choice. Were it not so, would it have any meaning?

### Impressions

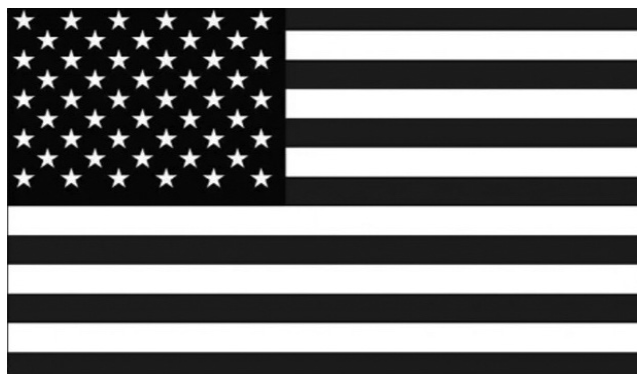
by Bill Tubbs

### Brittney Griner

Let me explain through the eyes of Brittney Griner, the 6-foot-8 women's basketball player who was detained in Russia in January 2022 and convicted by a Russian court in August on a charge of attempting to smuggle narcotics into Russia. The former Baylor All-American and present WNBA star was sentenced to the max: nine years in a penal colony after vape cartridges with hashish oil were found in her luggage at the Moscow airport.

That's a careless act, if true, but truth is known to not get in the way of a conviction in a Russian court – especially if the accused is a high-profile individual. Persons like Griner make for high stakes bargaining chips to secure the release of Russian spies whose crimes are not so benign. Thus on Dec. 8, Griner was released in a swap for Viktor Bout, a Russian arms dealer known as the Merchant of Death. He had been serving a 25-year prison sentence for conspiring to sell weapons to people who said they planned to kill Americans.

A lousy deal for the U.S., perhaps. Everyone has an opinion, but no one except those involved in the actual



**The power of that symbol (flag) would be drained if it were mandatory (to stand), say, under penalty of law; we would be robots, as in North Korea. Which is why I stand, and why I fly the flag, not because I must, but because I may. That it is a choice – and choice is the expression of liberty – is what gives it meaning.**

negotiations know all the facts. Bottom line, Griner returned home and rejoined her WNBA team, the Phoenix Mercury, a changed person.

### National Anthem

On May 19, she made news when she stood for the National Anthem – something she did not do previously, to protest police brutality and social injustice after the killing of George Floyd in May 2020.

"You know I was literally in a cage and could not stand the way I wanted to and a lot of other different situations," she said. That, and the uncertainty of when, or if, she would be released gave her a new appreciation of the good old USA – like the men and women of the armed forces who kiss U.S. soil after surviving horrific circumstances overseas.

But unlike some who are quick to condemn, Griner will not judge those who exercise their rights by not standing. "I totally respect them. That's our right, as

an American in this great country."

By recognizing that standing for the National Anthem is a choice, Griner makes that choice a powerful statement for those who do. Likewise for flying the American flag. The power of that symbol would be drained if it were mandatory, say, under penalty of law; we would be robots, as in North Korea.

Which is why I stand, why I fly the flag, and why I sing "Follow the Flag" (words above) with my fellow Davenport Chordbusters, one of our favorite patriotic songs. It is why I join with neighbors throughout our city when the Optimist Club lines streets with Old Glory on patriotic holidays – a magnificent spectacle of red, white and blue.

I have seen the grave markers and flags, row upon row, at Normandy Beach, the coast of France, where 9,386 Americans who gave their lives on D-Day, June 6, 1944, are interred. I get a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye. I honor their sacrifice. This is hallowed ground.

That is one reason I stand for the National Anthem and salute the flag, not because I must, but because I may. With all our faults and imperfections, America, my home, is where I choose to be.

Ditto for Brittney Griner. "I appreciate everything a little more," she said. "All the little, small moments that I used to just, oh, I'm so tired, I don't want to go to practice today. And, oh, this and that.

"That has changed, honestly. Just appreciating everything because tomorrow's not guaranteed. You don't know what it's going to be like. So I think that's how I changed a little bit."

### Most are lucky

Most of us, luckily, have not endured captivity or enslavement or deprivation or discrimination. We stand for the National Anthem and fly the flag because we were taught that we should, not that we must. That it is a choice – and choice is the expression of liberty – is what gives it meaning. It is also why I will not condemn those who – as an expression of personal or religious beliefs (Jehovah's Witnesses, for one) – choose differently.

This is not North Korea. Here, we have that right. Just ask Brittney Griner.

*Publisher emeritus Bill Tubbs is a veteran of the Iowa Army National Guard and an Iowa Master Columnist. He can be contacted at [btubbs@northscottpress.com](mailto:btubbs@northscottpress.com).*



# 1973: U.S. 61 path clears 13 homes, 6 farmsteads and one business

## June 13, 1973

The Iowa Highway Commission announced the path for the proposed Highway 561, which would link Interstate 80 to Highway 30 south of DeWitt. The commission said the highway would bypass Mt. Joy to the east and then go directly north, halfway between Eldridge and Eldridge Corners. The project was expected to cost approximately \$13 million. Thirteen homes, six farmsteads and one business between the interstate and DeWitt would be displaced, and the commission expected to begin purchasing the right-of-way land in the fall of 1974.



### Our Past

From the files of *The North Scott Press* compiled by NSP Editor Erin Gentz

• **Annette Keppy**, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Roy Keppy** of rural Eldridge, was crowned Scott County Pork Queen. Other members of the court included **Louise Auliff**, **Beverly Rock** and **Becky Schafer**.

• Two Donahue landmarks were torn down to make way for the new Donahue Savings Bank building. The structures, both owned by **Erwen "Bud" Keppy**, were a long shed that had once served as an imple-

ment dealer, and a building that had served as Donahue's first general store in 1874. Both had more recently been used for storage.

• **Karla Warnecke** and **Dr. Mickey Gene Burt** announced their engagement. Parents of the couple were Mr. and Mrs. Albert Warnecke of Walcott, and Mr. and Mrs. George Burt of Grand Blanc, Mich. An August wedding was planned.

## June 16, 1983

The Eldridge City Council voted to legalize the sale and consumption of beer at Sheridan Meadows. Members of the community had lobbied for the change, with members of the Lions Club, who sponsored the Eldridge Summer Festival, saying they would have to move the festival if they couldn't sell beer to help pay for it. **Earl Oelerich** reminded the council that "the money used to acquire the park land (Sheridan Meadows) was largely from the sale of beer."

• **Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Mumm** of rural Long Grove celebrated their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a family dinner. Alice Leuders and Mr. Mumm were married



1998: Countryside Community Theatre presented "The Odd Couple," including cast members, from left: Keith Riewerts, Mary Ross, Dave Mahl (seated) Jim Seward, Stehanie Gadiant, Don Faust, Jack Curl and Todd Hawley.

NSP file photo

June 10, 1925, and had farmed near McCausland prior to retirement. Mr. Mumm also drove bus for the North Scott School District.

• Students and teachers from the former Sheridan No. 6 school held an all-class reunion at the Izaak Walton League in Mt. Joy. The oldest attending the reunion was 88-year-old **Alfred Arp** of rural Davenport. Three former teachers, **Nora (Paulus) Mess**, **Bernita (Woodford) Bell**, and **Ruth (Wheatcraft) Sparks**, and four former directors, **Orey Goettsch**, **Vernon Kuhl**, **Walter Dengler**, and **Victor Meinert**, also attended.

• **Father Clifford Egert** reflected on the 10 years he had served as pastor at St. Ann's Church in Long Grove. Egert, who was retiring after 45 years in the priesthood, had seen the size of the parish double from 250 to 500, and expected it could grow to 750 within the next five years. He had also overseen the growth of the parish center and the church building. Egert said he had enjoyed his time at the church. "I'll remember the serenity. This is the nicest place you can imagine to have a wedding."

• The **North Scott softball team** improved its record to 15-4 after a busy week that saw them win eight games, with one loss.

## June 17, 1998

• The **Eldridge Police Department** was preparing to launch a bicycle patrol program, thanks in part to a \$4,500 grant from the Scott County Regional Authority. Police chief **Marty Stolmeier** said not only would this program give his officers another tool in their fight against crime, it could also bring them closer to the community. "We are a community-oriented police department, and this is a way to enhance that image," he said.

• **Countryside Community Theatre** presented Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple." Cast members included **Jim Seward**, **Todd Hawley**, **Jack Curl**, **Don Faust**, **Keith Riewerts**, **Dave Mahl**, **Mary Ross** and **Stephanie Gadiant**.

• Family and friends of the late **Joyce Brockhouse** gathered to dedicate a memorial to the longtime secretary at Virgil Grissom Elementary School. An engraved stone was placed near a tree on the school grounds.

• The **North Scott baseball team** was riding a three-game win streak. They defeated Clinton 10-1 and ran up the score after taking advantage of three straight errors by the River Kings. The Lancers sat at 5-4 on the season.

## June 18, 2008

• Scott County area communities were dealing with flooding, as both the Mississippi and Wapsipinicon rivers spilled over their banks. However, it was nothing compared to other parts of the state, such as Cedar Rapids and Anamosa, which saw record flood levels. "We have just a

slight inconvenience," said Princeton public works director **Colleen Morthland**. "We're very fortunate compared to everyone else."

• **Countryside Community Theatre** opened its 25<sup>th</sup> season with a production of "The Sound of Music." Cast members included **Liz Millea**, **Pat Burr**, **Greg Bouljon**, **Susie Schaecker**, **Christina Myatt**, **Cara Chumbley**, **Autumn Loose**, **Travis Melroy**, **Michael Helmich**, **Chelsea Crimbleholme**, **Haley Wolfe**, and **Ali Girsch**.

• Coach **Dennis Johnson** was pleased with the progress the North Scott softball team was making, as their record sat at 17-3. "If you watch them now, our kids are starting to get more confident."

• The **Walcott Intermediate School** and the **Walcott American Legion** presented Good Citizenship Awards to eighth-graders **Savanna Bramstedt**, **Kathryn Classon**, **Chuck Bald** and **Brett Mengler**.

## June 13, 2018

• **Faith Lutheran Church** installed a new exterior cross. Church member wrote prayers on the wood underneath the aluminum cover.

• **Terina Bruns** was sworn in as the new North Scott School District board secretary. She replaced the retiring **Kristy Looney**.

• The **North Scott trap shooting team** won the doubles and singles titles at the State Clay Target Championships in Cedar Falls, and missed winning the handicap division by a single bird. **Tommy Keeshan** won the High All-Around Award.

• **Brenna Kundel** and **Rylie Rucker** were named to first team all-state for girls' soccer by the Iowa Girls' Coaches Association.

## Breaking News:

# We're Hiring!

## Part Time Office Assistant

Must have the ability to travel between and work at each of our three locations; Eldridge, Wilton and West Liberty. Must be able to communicate effectively with other staff members as well as customers and be able to multi-task, be organized and proficient.

- General office duties, including, but not limited to phone and in person customer service as well as computer work/ data entry
- Pick up mail as needed
- Prepare bank deposits as needed
- Measure paper and figure advertising percentage and weight
- Deliver papers to vendor outlets as needed, keep records of counter sales and send bills to vendors
- Proofreading newspaper pages and legal notices
- Tear sheets per customer requests
- Legal affidavits/ proof of publications
- Review and send out invoices/ statements to those customers with tear sheets and affidavits
- Forward circulation payments/questions and classified ads to NSP office manager
- When working at the NSP office, Interlink and Account Scout program, work as needed
- Assist Editor/location Manager as needed

Please send resume to [josh@northscottpress.com](mailto:josh@northscottpress.com)



## ON SALE AT THESE LOCATIONS:

- Davenport:** Fareway W. 53rd St.
- Durant:** Jeff's Market
- Eldridge:** Hy-Vee, Casey's, Big 10 Mart, Eldridge BP, Quality Inn & Suites, North Scott Pharmacy, Eldridge Mart
- LeClaire:** Casey's
- Mt. Joy:** Mt. Joy Amoco
- Park View:** Casey's
- Princeton:** Casey's



# MEDICARE MADE CLEAR SEMINAR

Wednesday June 28, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Scott County Library  
Eldridge Branch  
RSVP Polly Smith 563-508-4099  
[polly@towerfinancial.org](mailto:polly@towerfinancial.org)

Come learn about the basics of Medicare and how to fill in the gaps for full coverage. Free materials to take home!