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2013

Featuring

Angels Among Us

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Features

- Page 5** Angels Among Us
- Page 7** .. Where the Blue Rose grows
- Page 15** Echoes of the past
- Page 18** A place of honor



Welcome

Each year the Lamar Ledger works on a few special sections that add depth to our publication. One of our favorites is the Impressions magazine, which features our Angels Among Us.

This year we are featuring two area women who have inspired others with their positive approach to life and their ability to make our community a better place to live. One thing we have learned over the years - it isn't always the folks whose names are in the paper on a regular basis who deserve special recognition. Some people, through their industry and thoughtfulness make a significant difference in our quality of life with very little fanfare – they just do it! Frankly, it is fun to honor them.

We hope you enjoy reading about this year's Angels and the stories about some of the people and places that make up the fabric of this place we call home. And be thinking about that special person you know who deserves to be recognized and nominate them next year. We love hearing about our area's angel's.

Mary Breslin, Publisher
Lance Maggart, Editor

Impressions 2013

A special edition
of the Lamar Ledger

310 South 5th, Lamar, CO 81052

Publisher
Mary Breslin
Project Editor
Lance Maggart

Index of Advertisers

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A-1 Towing	Page 19
Ace Tire Service	Page 17
Arkansas Valley Diesel Service	Page 10
Car Palace Inc.	Page 22
Community State Bank	Page 22
Crop Risk Advisors	Page 16
Daylight Donut	Page 16
De Loach's Tires	Page 23
Fellowship Credit Union	Page 21
Gobin's	Page 23
Green Garden Restaurant	Page 10
Guaranty Abstract	Page 15
High Plains Community Health Center	Page 20
Lamar Auto Parts	Page 14
Lamar Christian Church	Page 9
Lloyd Brown Insurance	Page 9
Machine Supply Co.	Page 21
Marples Country Market	Page 18
McClave State Bank	Page 10
Oquist Family Chiropractic	Page 18
Out West Equipment Co.	Page 8
Peery Electric	Page 11
Pizza Hut	Page 24
Prowers Medical Center	Page 2
Ron Austin Motor Sales	Page 11
Sure Crop Care Inc.	Page 11
The Legacy Assisted Living	Page 8
Valley National Bank	Page 20
Walmart	Page 20

Angels Among Us



Beverly Augustine

I nominate Beverly Augustine for over 60 years of business in the Lamar downtown community.

Beverly has seen and adapted to more change in Lamar than anyone I know and she's done it with grace and with class. I've had the benefit of becoming very good friends with Beverly over the last 10 or so years and she's always maintained a positive outlook for downtown business, her many friends and the general welfare of Lamar and Prowers County.

Beverly is passionate about her causes including downtown Lamar, Prowers County Zonta and many others. Beverly always has a positive thing to say and her optimism is the key to her continued success at her clothing store, The Lassie.

— Nominated by Trevor La Cost



Mary Rita Simmons

In our modern world, we think of Angels coming out of the clouds blowing trumpets with a lot of noisy fan fare.

The angels that live among us are quiet, reserved and don't ask for recognition. With this in mind, we want to recommend Mary Rita Simmons for the award of Angels Among Us.

Mary Rita Simmons has served as a Director on the Prowers County Historical Society Board since 2010. During the past four years, Mary Rita has been an exemplary volunteer. As a new board member, Mary Rita helped create new displays and implement plans for the 2011 Grand Opening of the Big Timbers Transportation Museum.

She also does a great deal of volunteer work for the community and senior citizens and expects nothing in return. At Christmas time she makes clothes for the dolls included in the Toys for Tots. She goes out of her way to help elderly people with cleaning, with their yard work, running their errands and helps when Christmas decorations are hung.

Her museum activities often include baking delicious cookies for events needing refreshments. She has easily volunteered more than 300 hours during her tenure as a PCHS Director. Mary Rita Simmons is highly regarded by The Prowers County Historical Society; The Prowers County Commissioners; and Museum Curator, Kathleen Scranton.

— Nomination by Joe D. Marble, Prowers County Commissioner
and by Kathleen M. Scranton, Curator Big Timbers Museum

Our Past Angels

2008 Impressions: Angels Among Us

- Rosetta Hickman
- Diana Krausnick
- Connie Vocke
- Carol Brooks
- Jessica Hays
- Larreen Haggard
- Laura Gittings
- Evan Mendenhall

2009 Impressions: Angels Among Us

- Alice Rohr
- Cathy Hammes
- Delfina Arias
- Lori Hammer
- Carolyn Gentzler
- Cindy Waldrip
- Joann Williams
- Danna Krieg

2010 Impressions: Angels Among Us

- Anne Barrow
- Linda Lopez
- Lois Black
- Juanita Hays
- Esther Mulaney
- Mary Ybarra
- Clifford Boxley
- Bonnie Neill

2011 Impressions: Angels Among Us

- Linda Springer
- Morgan Warn
- Sharon Allen
- Barb Gentz
- Julie Adame
- Karen Bruckner
- Gail Schroeder
- Bianca Hernandez
- Myra McDermed
- Amy Montgomery
 - Alta McBee
 - Jeanie Strong

2012 Impressions: Angels Among Us

- Marilyn Bishop
- Lavetta Harbert
- Dennis and Kathy Leathers
 - Diane Pool
 - Lloyd Brown

A close-up photograph of a horse's head, showing its eye and the texture of its brown and white spotted coat. The horse is wearing a blue halter with a brass bit. The background is slightly blurred, showing wooden stall walls.

Where the Blue Rose Grows

The unofficial mascot of the Blue Rose Ranch, "Lots of Dots", is covered from nose to tail by brown and white leopard spots.

Lance Maggart | The Lamar Ledger

'We are not just rescuers'

By Lance Maggart
The Lamar Ledger

On the parched and sun baked plains just north of Springfield Colorado is a refuge; a haven for the weak and weary.

It is a sanctuary for the forgotten and neglected. A place where they find strength again, and love; where a blue rose grows amidst the sagebrush and grasslands of the high desert prairie.

The Blue Rose Ranch sitting just off the west side of Highway 287 is picturesque. The corrals and stables rest atop a gentle hill that slopes down to the main house and past, on down to a tree and shrub lined creek spotted with old logs. John Webb tells me the creek bottom and the pasture behind it is drier than normal. The Blue Rose is struggling

with the drought, like everyone in southeast Colorado.

At the top of the hill, near the corrals are half a dozen horses. Their lead ropes hung, wrapped loosely around a nearby hitching post. They stand patiently eyeing us as we near them, their manes whipping in the steady breeze.

With a bit of simple and basic instruction from Cheryl Webb my companions and I each found ourselves sitting atop a four legged 1,200 pound animal. I wondered to myself if Lots of Dots was as nervous as I was.

Normally, visiting riders are taken on a short tour of the ranch grounds by horseback. But with a stout wind kicking up dust and muffling their instructions John and Cheryl decided it safest for us new riders to stick to the corrals.

See **BLUE ROSE**, pg. 9



Courtesy photo

The Directors

Cheryl and John Webb ride a pair of horses at the Blue Rose Ranch Horse Rescue.

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BLUE ROSE from page 8

The Blue Rose Ranch is a horse rescue. It is also the culmination of a dream for John and Cheryl Webb; husband and wife and Directors of the ranch rescue. The couple planned and saved throughout their lives to establish their own vision of a horse rescue. With a background like Cheryl's it is easy to understand how they started down this unique path.

Cheryl was a Westernaire and the lead rider of the Varsity Red Team. The Westernaires are a mounted precision drill organization for young people ages 9 to 19 out of Jefferson County, Colorado. The group performs coordinated routines on horseback for various events like the National Western Stock Show. They spend time each summer on the road performing at state and county fairs.

In adulthood Cheryl and her husband John volunteered on a horse rescue on the front range and were on the board of the rescue.

The pair decided they wanted to start their own horse rescue and began a long search for the perfect place to build their dream. After looking at several locations throughout the western plains region they found their little slice of paradise outside of Springfield and purchased the land in June 2006.

They picked the Springfield area because it provided the right sort of land for the rescue. The Webbs explained how horses are herd animals and prefer to be able to move and not be penned in to tight quarters. The ranchland available to the Webbs near Springfield had plenty of that; wide open spaces with

See **BLUE ROSE**, pg. 10



The horses at the Blue Rose spend much of their time moving freely about the range land properties owned by the Ranch.

Lance Maggart | The Lamar Ledger



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roaming room for horses to be horses.

What followed was a significant renovation and remodeling project as the Webbs cleaned up the ranch and main house, making a living space both for the future horses as well as themselves. The Blue Rose opened its doors in 2007. Since then the Webbs have rescued 170 horses on their 832-acre rangeland ranch split between four different properties.

The current economy has driven an upsurge in unwanted and neglected horses. According to the Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance 5,000 unwanted horses are generated in Colorado each year with approximately 250,000 nationwide. Unwanted horses are caused by many things but according to a report by the Unwanted Horse Coalition published in 2009 over 80 percent of unwanted horses were created by an owner's inability to pay for the care of the horse.



See **BLUE ROSE**, pg. 11

Lance Maggart | The Lamar Ledger

John Webb feeds a pair of horses near the horse corrals at the Blue Rose Ranch just outside of Springfield, Colo.

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The horses that wind up in the care of the Webbs come from a variety of backgrounds. Some are handed over because of financial hardships, some horses are too old and some become unwanted after a change of career or a divorce.

Some of the horses the ranch cares for were abandoned. They get left by owners, unable or unwilling to care for them, in pastures, state parks and along country roads.

The condition of the horses varies but some of them come to the ranch in pretty bad shape. But with the tenderness of a mother the Webbs have nursed many sick and dying horses back to health.

Cheryl Webb said, "We are not just their rescuers we are their voice."

The horses rescued by the Webbs are cared for by the couple and by one full time trainer that lives on the

ranch. A part-time trainer also helps out. After dealing with any immediate medical needs and getting the animals back to being strong and fit the horses undergo a training and rehabilitation program to ready them for adoption.

The Webbs are very particular about their adoption program and do not adopt horses out to just anyone. Horses commonly live 30 years which means caring for one is

typically a multi-decade endeavor. The Webbs will only adopt-out horses to people they believe fully understand the commitment. They are looking for true horse people who will love, care for and continue to work with the rescued animals.

Not all the horses rescued by the Webbs are suitable for adoption. Some continue stay at The Blue Rose under the loving and watchful

See **BLUE ROSE**, pg. 14



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Impressions of Home

When it comes to capturing the essence of life in our region, we've found that no one does it better than the folks who live here. These are just a few of the great photographs taken by area shutterbugs and entered in our Photo of the Week contest. Enjoy!



Kyla Witt | Courtesy photo



Jennifer McDaniel | Courtesy photo



Kyla Witt | Courtesy photo



Brett Buxton | Courtesy photo



Jennifer McDaniel | Courtesy photo



Brett Buxton | Courtesy photo



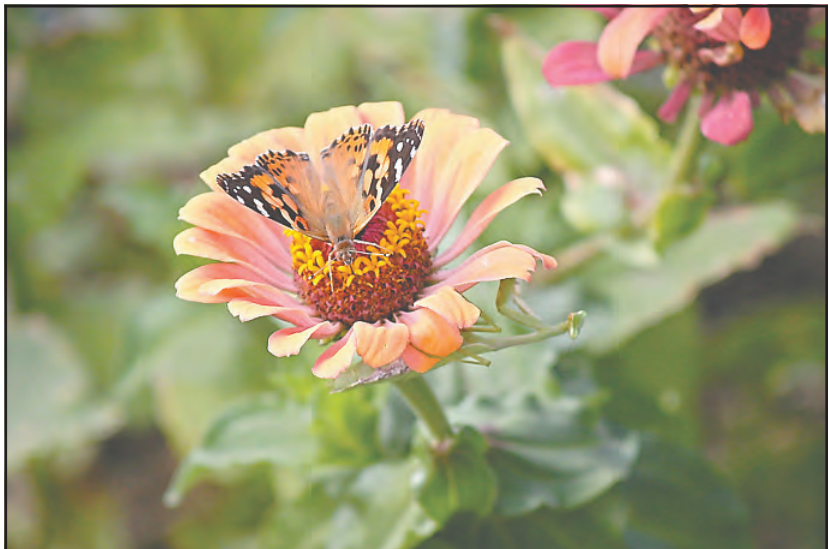
Kyla Witt | Courtesy photo



Jennifer McDaniel | Courtesy photo



Kalie Black | Courtesy photo



Brett Buxton | Courtesy photo

eyes of the Webbs. All the horses at the Blue Rose receive the highest standard of care. Food and water, to include special dietary feed as necessary, covered shelter, farrier and veterinary care, handling and training are all part of the commitment the Webbs make to their four legged wards.

The Blue Rose Ranch is a somewhat unique model in the Horse Rescue field. Typically horse rescues are located close to high population areas. Horse rescues around urban areas often encounter difficulties with restrictions on the number of horses allowed on a property. Zoning and permitting costs can also be overwhelming to a horse rescue.

But John Webb stressed his belief that the future of horse rescue in America is rural, and sustainable. John's background before starting The Blue Rose was in business and he has applied some of that same thinking to the ranch.

The Webbs are always looking to reduce costs and are big believers in sustainability. It was a word that came up time and again when talking to the couple. Sustainability is more important than ever for the future of horse rescue. The number of horse rescues continues to decline throughout the US, even in the famously equine friendly western states.

The Webbs grow a small amount of hay on their property, which is used to supplement their overall hay needs. But they must purchase or rely on donations to cover the rest. They also extensively use solar panels and other forms of renewable energy to operate their water well pumps. The wells do not produce



Lance Maggart | The Lamar Ledger

A wall lined with saddles awaits riders at the Blue Rose Ranch where guests can ride one of the many rescued horses.

much water but meet most of the ranch's requirements.

The ranch is also aided greatly by donations, both monetary and in-kind. It, like almost all horse rescues, relies heavily on donations and grants for their operational needs and costs. A major part of the sustainability of a rural horse rescue is being near to the goods most needed by the horses.

As a way of helping, hay suppliers sometimes donate hay to the ranch. Others waive or discount delivery

costs. Occasionally folks looking to help loan large equipment pieces like flatbed trailers or loaders. This allows the rescue to utilize their operating funds for the care of horses rather than on the purchase of expensive equipment only needed seasonally.

The Blue Rose sometimes organizes volunteers to harvest small hay bales from fields, which often has high handling and labor costs for hay producers.

John explained his belief that

horse rescues need to be professional organizations staffed and operated by individuals who do not view the horses as mere commodities.

A horse rescue by definition saves lives, rescuing animals that otherwise would likely have died. But the horse rescue down at Springfield also nurtures them, body and spirit. It is a home for the weary, like a warm hearth after a long and lonesome road; a place on the prairie where the blue rose grows.



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Echos of the past

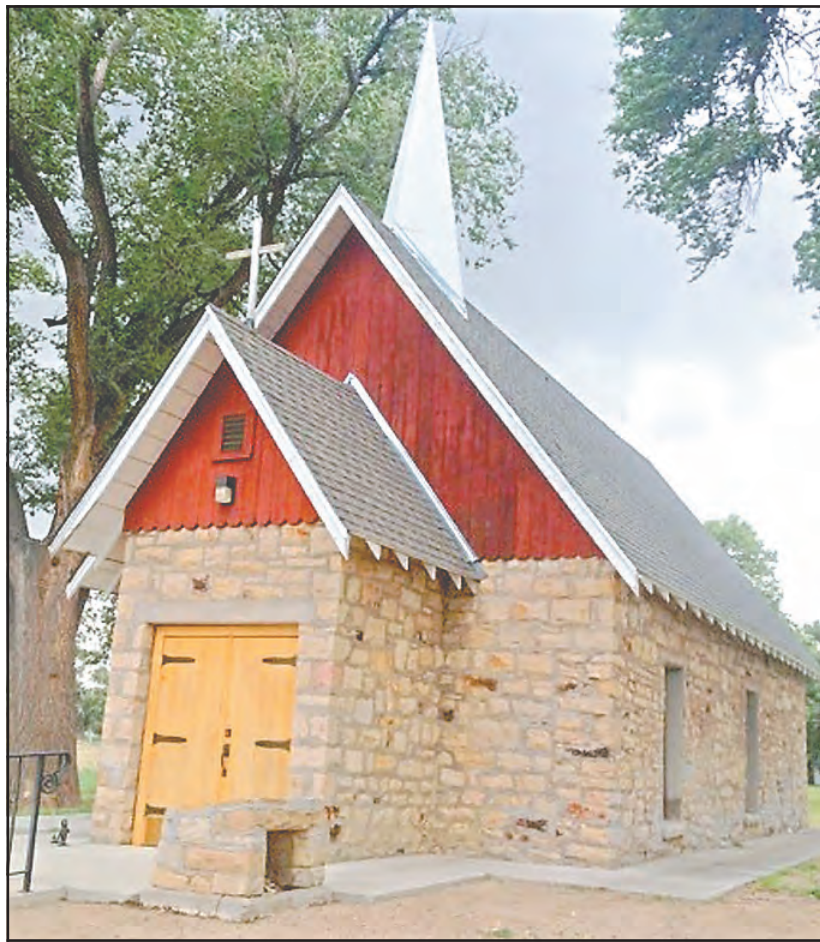
By Catherine Meyer
The Lamar Ledger

On a windy and rain soaked Sunday I pulled up to the Fort Lyon chapel in Bent County Colorado and circled the grounds.

The weathered light brown stones of the chapel roof spoke volumes of the history long past. A plaque confirmed a date, around—1860. Street lights and towering trees border the abandoned road that recently took prisoners, guards and visitors to the correctional facility. A no trespassing sign is visible with a barrier locked across the worn road. Before today I traveled down Highway 50 like any other person passing by.

Returning home from the cities of Colorado Springs and Pueblo travelers may be overlooking some of Colorado's historical points along Highway 50. Bent's Old Fort to the north of the highway is disregarded as speeds pick up leaving Las Animas. As travel east continues a miniscule marker mentioning Fort Lyon is south of the highway and a bright yellow sign warns drivers that a correctional facility is near and to not pick up hitchhikers. But this year the warning will now be a welcome to homeless veterans. The site, Fort Lyon, has a new beginning to a history that started in 1860.

The southern Colorado fort, formerly known as Fort Wise, took its name after Virginia Governor Henry Wise, until the Civil War



Catherine Meyer | The Lamar Ledger

The old church just up the road from the Fort Lyon facility. The church was rebuilt on the spot from the remains of the building where Kit Carson died.

broke out. The fort then changed its name to reflect a war hero rather than a confederate leader. From that point on the fort would be called Fort Lyon after Union General Nathaniel Lyon who died at the

Battle of Wilson's Creek.

The following year Fort Lyon's garrison marched south into New Mexico and aided in the defeat of a confederate force at the Battle of Glorieta Pass; thanks to Colonel

Major John Chivington who later appears in Fort Lyon history again. As the Civil War raged on the post served as a protector along the Santa Fe Trail, in cooperation with forts in Kansas and New Mexico. (legendssofamerica.com)

Not only did the fort help the Union soldiers against the Confederates, the fort also involved itself in Indian Affairs with the help of Buffalo Soldiers of the 10th Cavalry.

Even though extreme racial prejudice existed Fort Lyon housed the 10th Cavalry. The 10th Cavalry was an early African American regiment that battled Indian tribes; hence the nickname of Buffalo Soldiers. Fort Lyon housed both white and black troops until the relocation of the cavalry. (Nps.gov) In the early 1860s Fort Lyon would become known for its connection with a massacre known around the country and especially in southern Colorado.

The treaty of Fort Wise guaranteed peace along the Trail and in the region. Some tribes relinquished their territory to go onto reservations. Many other chiefs refused and kept on hunting between the Platte and Arkansas Rivers. Tensions between the Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians who did not sign the treaty and Coloradoans thickened and erupted in 1864. As settlers and

See **PAST**, pg. 16

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miners traveled to Colorado warriors raided settlements and stalled traffic on the Santa Fe Trail. It continued until Colonel Chivington had his own revenge on the nearby Native Americans.

A forty-two-mile march from Fort Lyon brought Chivington and hundreds of soldiers to the Cheyenne reservation at dawn on November 29, 1864 where an estimated 200 Indians were killed including many women and children. This event would come to be known as the Sand Creek Massacre. According to the Britannica Encyclopedia, Cheyenne Chief Black Kettle raised the US and white flags but the massacre did not cease. Chivington orchestrated the incident that eventually became a major contributing factor in the Arapaho-Cheyenne and Plains Wars of the next decade.

Indians later retaliated when the fort moved upstream from the frequently flooding waters of the Arkansas River by burning the old post.



Catherine Meyer | The Lamar Ledger

A metal barrier blocks the long single road that runs to Fort Lyon. Soon the fort will experience a rebirth as homeless veterans from across the state find a new home in the old facility.

See **PAST**, pg. 17

 A cartoon character of a yellow donut with a purple hat, blue sunglasses, and black and white striped pants is waving. Below it is an open box of Daylight Donuts filled with various flavored donuts. The background is red.

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A long row of graves overlooks the countryside at the Fort Lyon National Cemetery.

The 51.9 acre cemetery has served as a final resting place for our nation's soldiers for over 100 years.

Catherine Meyer |
The Lamar Ledger

PAST from page 16

Another significant event at Fort Lyon occurred when a famous Indian scout and former US Army General visited the fort and ultimately died there in 1868. Kit Carson had moved his family to Boggsville, Colo. after being appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Colorado territory. He visited the Assistant US Surgeon H.K Tilden's quarters at the fort when he suffered an abdominal aortic aneurysm. The surgeon could not save Kit Carson and he died.

His memory lives on in the chapel built with the stones from the building where he perished. After Kit Carson's death and the end of the Indian Wars, the US Army abandoned the fort in 1897. The cemetery was then transferred to

Fort McPherson National Cemetery in Nebraska.

The US Navy then moved in, opening a tuberculosis hospital to treat soldiers and prisoners of war. During the same time, burials began at the National cemetery. In 1922, the Veterans Bureau took over.

The lot was vacant until another hospital opened in 1930 and it was turned over to the Veterans Administration (VA). Some adobe structures were remodeled at the time as a VA neuropsychiatry hospital. The VA stayed at Fort Lyon until 2001 when a different plan for Fort Lyon began.

From there the State of Colorado took over the grounds and the hospital closed. The site became a minimum-security prison and the

property could not be entered without permission.

I visited the facility once while it was a prison. A field trip brought me to the Fort Lyon Correction Facility some years ago for the Scared Straight program in hopes of preventing me from ending up at a prison. At that moment classmates and I were told to not look prisoners in the eyes and follow the painted border on the cold cement floor, single-file of course. I didn't know then the layered barbed wire held such history, especially multiple functions with the military.

As an Army fort, a navy hospital, and a Veteran's Administration hospital complex, Fort Lyon was in active service for two branches of the United States military for 133 years.

The prison closed in 2011 and has sat vacant until this year. Fort Lyon will now house upwards to 200 homeless veterans. The Colorado Senate signed a bill that will renovate the correctional facility..

According to the Colorado Springs Gazette Gov. John Hickenlooper indicated the renovation would be the "best possible use for the century-old prison." Details about a future budget, set aside for the renovation, and an expected finish date are still uncertain as of this moment.

The next time you are traveling to a city full of entertainment, pull off for a short visit and travel back to the 1860s to experience part of the rich history of Southeast Colorado.



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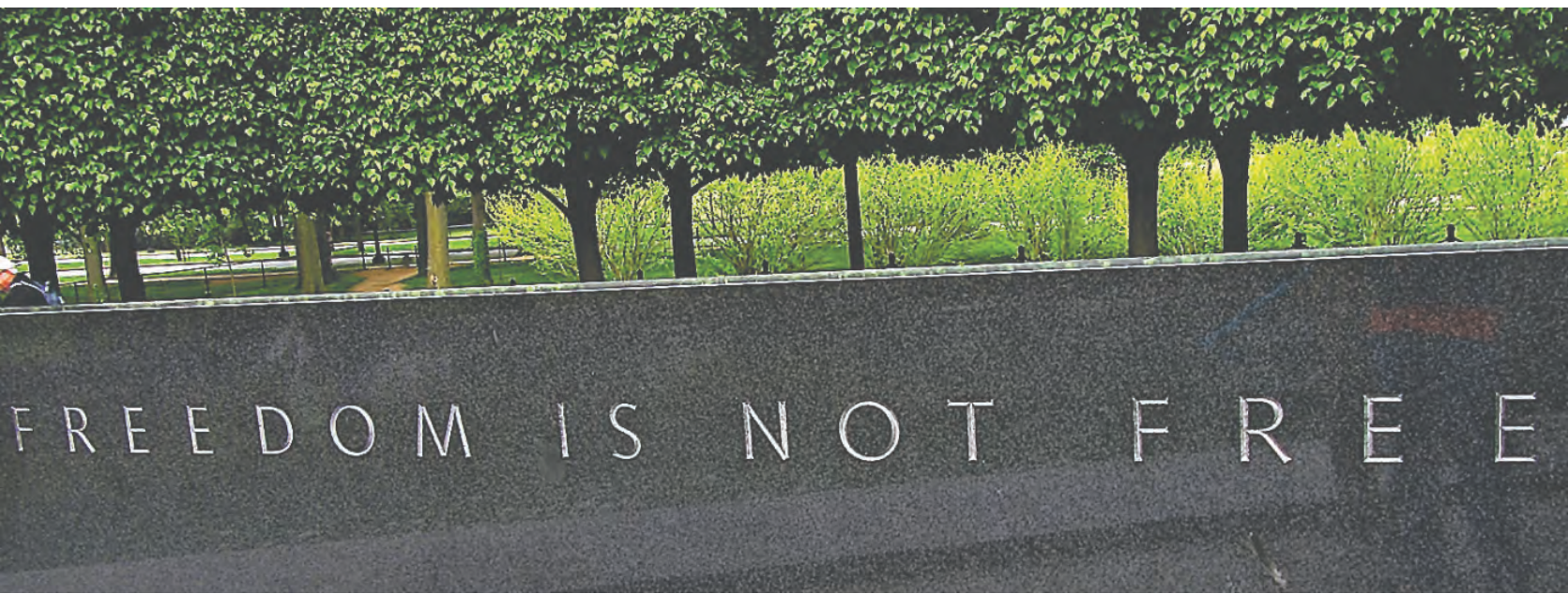
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A Place of Honor



Courtesy photo

The legacy of an entire generation, the greatest generation, casts a long and heavy shadow over the American landscape. Now 68 years after the end of the greatest conflict in human history, as more and more of those events pass out of living memory, a nation honors those who answered the call for service.

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The Stars and Stripes and a large number of Colorado Patriot Guard Riders lined the road the veterans traveled down to the airport before flying out to Washington D.C.

‘Saw names of good friends of mine’

By Lance Maggart
The Lamar Ledger

What happens when the memory of a thing disappears forever?

What happens when human events move out of living memory and tales told fade away and become only legends read? How much is lost when no more stories can be recalled and we have only what is already recorded to connect us to the past. To tell us of a time before the souls that walk the earth now were born.

It is a question being asked more

often as the world increasingly loses one of its greatest treasures and greatest assets, the Greatest Generation. A report published by the Department of Veterans Affairs in May of 2013 listed 1,711,000 living U.S. veterans of World War II. The same report estimates the number of still living WWII veterans to be down to 1,002,000 by October of 2014. It goes on to estimate there will be only 127,000 surviving U.S. veterans a decade from now in 2023. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs veterans from the Second World War die at a rate of 640 per day.

It is therefore incumbent upon society to record all that can be recorded of the memories and remembrances of the greatest era in human history. It is also essential that we honor those still living in what ways we can, that they should take some measure of our immense gratitude.

A portion of that gratitude has come in the form of National War Memorials. The Marine Corps War Memorial, better known as the Iwo Jima Memorial, was among the first of the National War Memorials, dedicated in 1954. In 1982 the Vietnam War Memorial was

dedicated after large amounts of initial controversy. The Korean War Memorial held dedication ceremonies over 10 years later in 1995. But it was not until May of 2004 that the World War II Memorial was finally dedicated; nearly 60 years after the end of the conflict and 20 years after the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial.

Retired Air Force Captain Earl Morse worked as a Physician Assistant for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ohio. He asked his WWII veteran patients if they had plans to visit the memorial

See **HONOR**, pg. 20

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HONOR from page 19

dedicated to their service. They all hoped to make it to the memorial but financial burdens and physical limitations made it difficult to impossible for most of them.

Captain Morse started the National Honor Flight program in response. The inaugural flight was held in Aug. 2005. In 2008 retired Army Colonel Stan Cass started the local hub for the national program with Honor Flight Northern Colorado. The Honor Flights are all expenses paid two-day trips to Washington D.C. to see the various National War Memorials.

On Sunday May 5 of this year 121 veterans and 60 guardians left out of Loveland, Colorado for Denver International Airport. Motorcyclists from the Colorado Patriot Guard Riders escorted them down I-25. The interstate was lined with people who came out to wave to the veterans in the buses as they passed. Fire trucks and other emergency response vehicles sat

across every overpass, with American flags unfurled waving in the breeze.

Most of the veterans, 59, were members of the armed forces during Korea. Fifty-four were WWII veterans. There were also nine purple heart recipients including one Afghanistan veteran.

Among them was World War II veteran and Lamar resident Wayne Clausen. Clausen enlisted in the National Guard at 16 before eventually being drafted at age 18 into the Army Air Corps. He shipped out to the China-India-Burma theater in 1943. After sailing from Los Angeles, through the Panama Canal and down around the southern cape of Africa and over to Australia, Clausen and his other compatriots were unloaded in Bombay India before heading to their main base in Calcutta.

Clausen worked as an armorer loading bombs and ammunition onto

See **HONOR**, pg. 21



Courtesy photo

World War II veteran Wayne Clausen is kissed by his wife Ellen before leaving for the airport to fly out to Washington D.C. on an Honor Flight.

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the B-29's of the 40th Bomber Group. The bombers of the 40th flew the dangerous route "over the hump" flying high over the Himalayan mountains and down into Japanese controlled China.

When the war was over he returned to the U.S., going up through the Suez Canal and into the Mediterranean Sea before traversing the Atlantic and ending in New York City in the middle of a snow storm.

Going along with Clausen on the trip was his Guardian Roy Gueswel. Gueswel was a helicopter crew chief during Vietnam. He is also the pastor of the Community Church of the Nazarene in Lamar, Colo. Gueswel was one of the official Honor Flight Guardians. The two veterans thoroughly enjoyed their trip to D.C.

After flying out with the entire group on a chartered airplane on Sunday morning the veterans landed in Baltimore later that day. The first night the group spent at the Baltimore Hilton where a special banquet was held in their honor and Gueswel was given the honor of offering the invocation at the banquet that night.


Monday the honorees toured D.C. in buses, starting with the World War II memorial. There they took a large group photo with all the veterans. After leaving the WWII memorial the group traveled to the Air Force Memorial. The group also visited the Marine Corps War Memorial and the Korean War



Wayne Clausen, WWII veteran, and Roy Gueswel, Honor Flight Guardian and Chaplin, are all smiles while they visit the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C.


Courtesy photo

See **HONOR**, pg. 22

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HONOR

from page 21

Memorial before moving on to the Vietnam War Memorial, an especially moving moment for Gueswel. "I saw the names of some good friends of mine," Gueswel said.

After a day of touring D.C. the veterans returned to Baltimore before flying back home. They returned to Denver with great fanfare with a welcome committee of soldiers and bagpipers before a final ceremony honoring their service.

These actions are all attempts to honor the collective sacrifice of an entire generation. But they are meager and fall far short of the debt owed to such people. It is a debt we can never truly repay. There are no words, no songs, no speech that can be given to convey the true depth of what we owe to those who served in dark days of WWII.

That era is quickly fading forever from our living consciousness. It is a meager pittance that we as society pay, but yet we strive, to give them a place of honor.

Honor Flight Guardian Roy Gueswel places his hand on the Vietnam Wall Memorial near to the names of friends he lost during the war. Gueswel is a Vietnam veteran.

Courtesy photo



Wayne Clausen (center) stands with other WWII and Korean War veterans during ceremonies at the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.

Courtesy photo



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