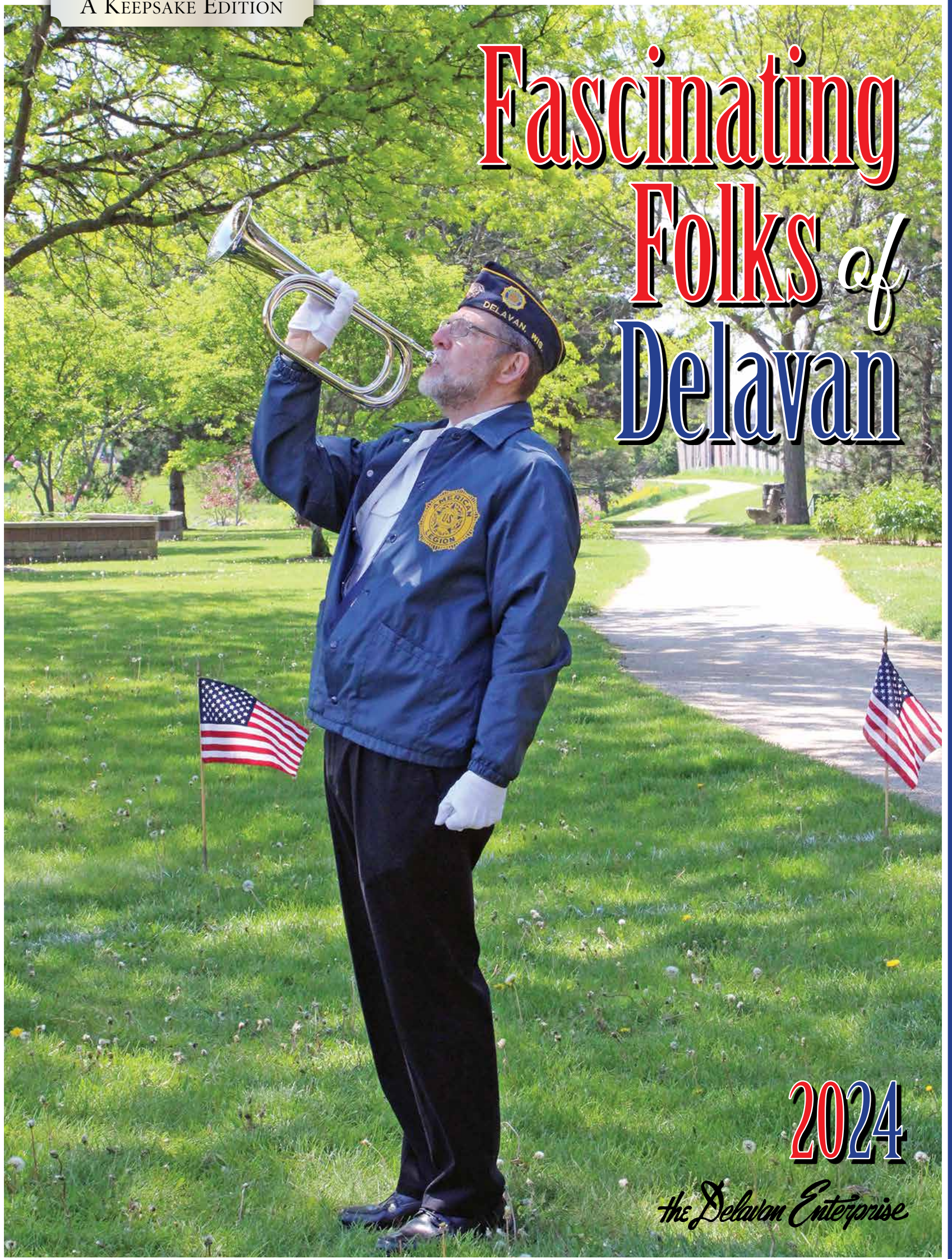


A KEEPSAKE EDITION

Fascinating Folks of Delavan



2024

the Delavan Enterprise

Special care



A group of volunteers are shown working last fall to continue the rehabilitation of headstones at Spring Grove Cemetery, which is located off of North 7th Street in Delavan. These volunteers raised the headstone of Civil War veteran W.P. Crary, who was born in 1830 and died in 1874.

MICHAEL S. HOEY *Fascinating Folks*



Helping hands

Volunteers planted arborvitaes, blue butterfly bushes and red and white roses at the new Veterans Memorial Garden at Congdon Gardens prior to the official dedication last spring. The new memorial space honors all veterans of the armed forces.

DAVE DRESHOW *Fascinating Folks*

on the cover: Len Hahn plays "Taps" during the ribbon cutting of the new Veterans Memorial Garden at Delavan's Congdon Gardens in the spring of 2023. The space features artwork of all six branches of the armed forces, flowers, a flagpole and space for engraved bricks.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Fascinating Folks*

Delavan Lake, Wisconsin

WATERFRONT

Pub & Grill

Open Daily at 11:00 a.m.

Check us out on Facebook or website

www.waterfrontdelavan.com

408 State Road 50 | Delavan, WI 53115

262-728-4700

The Ultimate Luxury in Dog Care

Lolli Pups

**VISIT OUR KENNEL AND SPA,
SEE WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT!**

A Dog's Version of a Disney Style Vacation

Actually designed and built by R.J. Ogren, a Disney designer and artist with years of experience. Come and see for yourself the hand painted displays in the playroom, kennels, grooming and day camp areas. Meet the experienced staff that will care for your precious pets. Attendant on premises 24 hours. We specialize in cat and dog grooming. We have prices to accommodate every budget. We also have a background in exotic animals. Give us a call at (262) 728-2900 to learn more about us. Check our website www.lollipupspetresort.com.

- Boarding
- Grooming
- Cat Grooming
- Training
- Day Camp
- Playtime
- Luxury Pet Condos
- No Cages
- Cat Condos

**5020 State Road 50
Lake Geneva/Delavan, WI**

262.728.2900 • www.LolliPupspetresort.com

His recollections live on

Remembering Korean war hero Stewart Sizemore

By **Michael S. Hoey**
CORRESPONDENT

One of the few remaining veterans of the Korean War, Stewart Sizemore, died Jan. 28 at his home in Delavan.

Sizemore, 91, served in the U.S. Army and Marine Corps for more than 20 years.

Sizemore lived in Delavan with his wife of 63 years, Diane. The Sizemores had four children and 11 grandchildren.

He was known for his good health in his neighborhood as he would take care of his own lawn and garden and shovel his own sidewalk and driveway in the winter up until very recently.

Sizemore would often say that he was no hero; the heroes are still over there, meaning the lost soldiers who died or went missing in Korea.

He had a collection of medals from his time in the service but said they meant very little to him.

As one of the few remaining soldiers left from the Korean War, Sizemore was interviewed several times about his time in Korea. He was even interviewed by a group from Korea who came all the way to Delavan to meet him.

Sizemore was always very willing to share his story – and did so with students at Lake Geneva Badger High School each spring. He said always looked forward to telling his story about a war that many Americans know very little about.

Here is some of what he shared over the years.

Enlisted at an early age

Orphaned at a young age in West Virginia, Sizemore ran away from the orphanage at the age of 14 and rode the rails living in hobo jungles. He said he, like a lot of other hobos he ran into, was just trying to get away from everything.

The thing that finally got him to give up that life was when he and a friend were running from the bulls – what they called the railroad police – in Ohio. Sizemore made it onto a box car, but his friend was killed when he fell under the train.

The following day, Sizemore enlisted in the Army at the age of 16. He said he lied to the recruiter, claiming to be 17 but that it probably did not matter. After the World War II drawdown of soldiers, the Army would take any warm body, he explained.

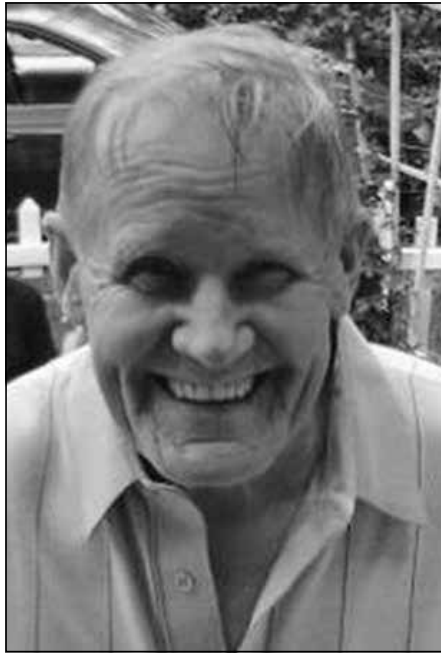
After basic training, Sizemore was stationed in Japan. His primary job was collecting and destroying leftover weapons from World War II. He was paid \$21 a month and he said it was a good life.

Fought in all five battles

When hostilities broke out in Korea, Sizemore was part of the very first company of American soldiers sent to fight there.

He said one day, his commanding officer just told them to pack their belongings – they were going to Korea. He said he had no idea what was going on at that time.

Sizemore said the Army was undersupplied and using leftover weapons from World War II. They did not even have



Stewart Sizemore - in a more recent photo as well as one from when he was serving in the military.



a military vessel to transport his company to Korea on. Instead, they were taken there in a Japanese fishing trawler.

There were 198 men in Sizemore's company, and he personally fought in all five of the major battles in the war. He said his commanders told them that when the North Koreans saw American troops coming toward them, they would drop their weapons and run the other way.

The opposite happened.

The North Koreans were well supplied and outnumbered the American troops by and large. They were also professional soldiers who had been fighting the Chinese for 20 years, now taking on 16- and 17-year-old American soldiers.

Sizemore said the North Koreans had 150 T-34 Russian tanks and they ran right over the South Koreans and later the American troops.

When Sizemore's company fought along side others, they numbered just shy of 2,000 while the North Koreans often had three divisions of 10,000 men each.



Korean War veteran Stewart Sizemore was always willing to share his story and did so with Badger High School students in Lake Geneva every spring. Sizemore, who also fought in Vietnam, died Jan. 28 at the age of 91.

MIKE HOEY *Fascinating Folks*

Witnessed many deaths

The first man Sizemore saw killed in battle was a friend of his from West Virginia. He said they were on each side of a road tasked with taking out a column of approaching tanks but his friend's rocket launcher had no effect. When the friend peered out to check the situation, he was killed by machine gun fire from one of the tanks, Sizemore recalled.

The way the U.S. troops eventually learned to take out the tanks was to climb on them while they were moving and break bottles of gasoline over the engine compartment. The tank would then catch fire and the soldiers inside had two choices, stay inside the tank and die or climb out of it and be killed.

Sizemore's initial company was wiped out at a battle near Taejon in July of 1950. Of the 198 soldiers who had started the battle, 12 survived.

As a grunt, Sizemore said he walked the entire 740-mile length of Korea twice. He said it was well above 100 degrees in the south in the summer and well below zero degrees in the north in the winter and he had no winter gear to keep him warm.

Detailed stories

Sizemore had many colorful stories about the action he saw, including watching over a million Chinese troops swarm across the frozen Yalu River into North Korea in tennis shoes and quilted uniforms to attack American forces.

Sizemore – a machine gunner – and his second gunner were wounded and left for dead. He said they probably would have died if it had not been so cold. The cold stopped the bleeding that almost certainly would have killed them.

They eventually got up, stole some Chinese uniforms from dead soldiers and snuck back to the American line. At one point they even joined a Chinese unit heading south without anyone noticing they were Americans.

The South Korean civilians treated them well, Sizemore said, but the North Koreans threw apples at them when they marched through.

Sizemore had not taken any water since 1952 because he and his company had some water they later learned was contaminated by decomposing bodies left in the well they were fetching the water from.

His life in Korea was mainly fighting all day, walking all night, and digging foxholes for cover.

He said they often had to steal watermelons and corn from local fields because they didn't have anything to eat. When they did have rations, they were rations packed in 1918 that included hard biscuits, some kind of meat, and green cigarettes that were difficult to smoke.

"War is hell," Sizemore said.

He said he did not take any pride in killing but he was doing his job and often it was kill or be killed.

When asked how he dealt with what he experienced following the war, he said he

In memory

A bench dedicated by the Royal Redcoat Car Club was installed last fall in front of American Legion Post 95 Hall in Delavan. The bench is in memory of Harry Larsen, the former Delavan Police Chief. From the left: (front) Dennis Muller, Joyce Larsen, Kevin Davis; (back) Larry Malsch, Al Williams, Mike Lucchesi and Mike Roherty. Missing from the photo is Ken Kramer.

PHOTO COURTESY
ROCKY TROY
Fascinating Folks





Bond's Auto Care

All Aspects of Automotive Repair

Steve "Junior" Williams, Owner

Thank You Veterans

106 E. Walworth Avenue
Delavan, WI 53115
Phone: 262-728-7750

bondsautocare.net

HERE FOR YOU, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

Whether you are in the planning stage of your dream pursuit or you're looking to safeguard all that you've accomplished, I will meet you wherever you are in your journey.

**Let's talk about your plans,
and how I can help you protect them.**



Matthew Faytle, Agent
Matthew Faytle & Associates, Inc.
1407 Racine St Ste A, Delavan
Bus: (262) 728-2585
mfaytle@amfam.com



In honor of all veterans



Congdon Gardens now site of Delavan Veterans Memorial

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
STAFF WRITER

On a cool and breezy morning last spring, veterans assembled, and supporters came out to offer their respects as a new memorial to the U.S. Armed Forces was dedicated at Congdon Gardens in Delavan.

The combined work of several different veterans' groups, volunteers and the Delavan Rotary Gardens Foundation, the new memorial features steel emblems of the six U.S. armed forces – Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and Space Force – as well as plants, a flag and pole and memorial bricks.

While some memorial bricks have already been purchased, they are for sale through the foundation.

A meeting of the Congdon Gardens board a few years ago gave birth to the idea of a Veterans Memorial.

Ed Wichman, who served as master of ceremonies for the May 2023 dedication, was park foreman and a member of the City of Delavan Streets Department when discussions began.

“The city had talked about a memorial for the veterans all that time, and it just never happened,” Wichman said.

The park board and parks and recreation department spoke with the American Legion, and then the Delavan Rotary Garden Foundation decided to take on the project.

Wichman said that members of the group went online and typed in “war memorials,” to research a variety of different spaces in the state – particularly in Elkhorn and Milwaukee – and how memorials looked in those spaces.

“We started looking around and thought, what do we want to do here?” Wichman said. “We wanted to do something a little different.”

From that goal of wanting to do something different, the idea to do the round steel emblems was born, and R.C. Welding in Elkhorn was sought out to do the work.

Other groups that contributed to the construction included Delavan’s American Legion Post 95, Fao Concrete LLC, Kruger Landscape, Little Limestone, Lowes of Delavan, Unilock Block and Women’s Auxiliary Post 95.

Now, the memorial space features – in addition to the paved bricks area and the emblems – a flagpole for the American flag. At its base is the sign, “Lest We Forget.”

Two weeks prior to the dedication, representatives from Lowes came in with the flowers for the space. Volunteers planted them less than two weeks before the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Wichman said, in the end, everything came together, in spite of numerous moving pieces.

“It was a God thing,” he said. “It all fell into place so nicely.”

The memorial (Congdon Gardens) is at 1424 Hobbs Dr., Delavan. For more information on the paving bricks, contact the Delavan Rotary Gardens Foundation, P.O. Box 385, Delavan, WI, 53115.

below: Congdon Gardens in Delavan is the home of the new Veterans Memorial, which was dedicated in May 2023. The sign “Lest We Forget” sits in front of the memorial area. **above:** American Legion Post 95 Commander Brian Balsewicz raises the flag at the dedication, which was attended by veterans and community members. **above, left:** An honor guard fires a 21-gun salute at the dedication of the memorial.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Fascinating Folks*



was still dealing with it and had flashbacks for many years.

Sizemore had been back to Korea four times since the war and said it's a beautiful country. He said he genuinely loved the South Koreans and that they did more to honor him and other American soldiers than his own country did.

Despite the horrors he experienced, Sizemore reenlisted after with the Army was up, this time with the Marines with whom he saw some action in Vietnam.

Sizemore said he saw a better chance for survival with the Marines because they had more firepower. There were 12 men per unit in the Marines instead of only nine and each unit had three automatic weapons instead of only one.

He was on leave between his service stints when he met Diane. She said their eyes met as she and her friends were waiting for the next song to play when he entered the room from the attached tavern. They were married in September of 1960.

Sizemore retired from the military for good in the late 60s. He worked for a company in Waukesha and eventually retired from Trent Tube in East Troy. The Sizemores lived in East Troy and Lake Geneva before settling in Delavan.

Diane said her husband was an avid reader of local newspapers and war non-fiction books. He belonged to the VFW, Marine Corps League and American Legion Post 95 in Delavan.

Sizemore was proud of his service and eager to share his experiences in the Forgotten War, a war that was America's second bloodiest behind only the Civil War.

Even though he refused to accept the honor, it's clear Stewart Sizemore was a true war hero.



left: While speaking to high school students, war veteran Stewart Sizemore would refer to maps. As a grunt, he said he walked the entire 740-mile length of Korea twice during his time there. **right:** After talking about what he and fellow soldiers faced in the Korean War, often sharing gruesome details, Badger High School students would stop to thank him and shake his hand.

MIKE HOEY *Fascinating Folks*



THANK YOU VETERANS AND U.S. TROOPS FOR YOUR SERVICE

**A.O. Bauer
 Glass**

262-728-4262



For All Your Glass Needs

903 E. Geneva Street • Delavan, WI
 email: glass@aobauer.net

www.aobauerglass.com

437431



At Pentair, we believe the health of our world depends on reliable access to clean, safe water.

We deliver a comprehensive range of smart, sustainable water solutions to homes, businesses and industry around the world.

437360

**THE COACH'S
 LOCKER**

PH: (262) 740-1008
 Fax: (262) 740-1017

230 S. 7th Street
 Delavan, WI 53115

**ALL
 YOUR
 ATHLETIC
 NEEDS**

437430

455209

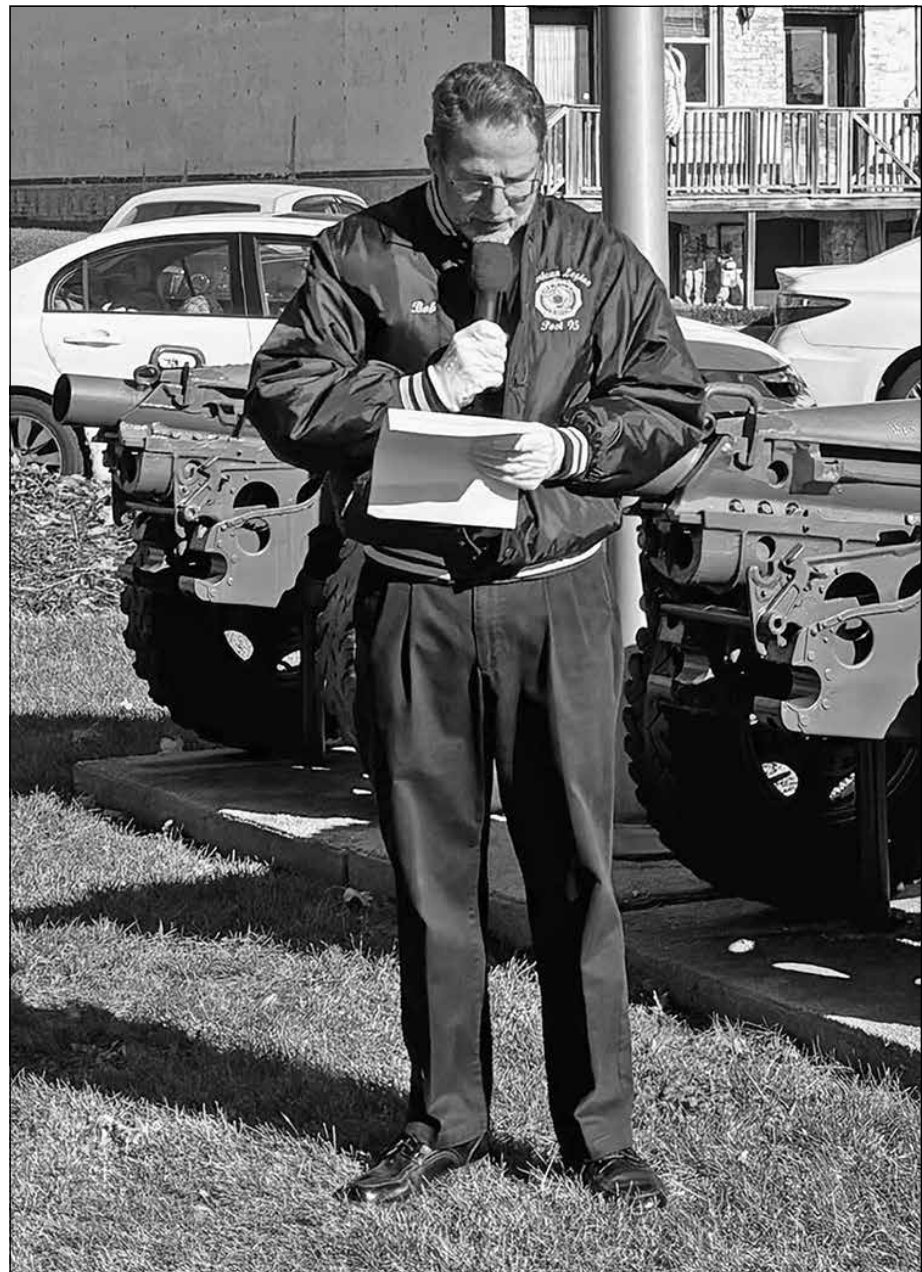




In their honor

American Legion Post 95 in Delavan hosted the annual Veterans Day ceremony in November, which included the tolling of the bells to honor the "Bells of Peace" from World War I. Below: Len Hahn handles bugling duties for the playing of "Taps" and reads the invocation. A 21-gun salute was fired as part of the ceremony. After the ceremony, those gathered were invited to the legion hall where refreshments were served.

JENNIFER EISENBART
Fascinating Folks

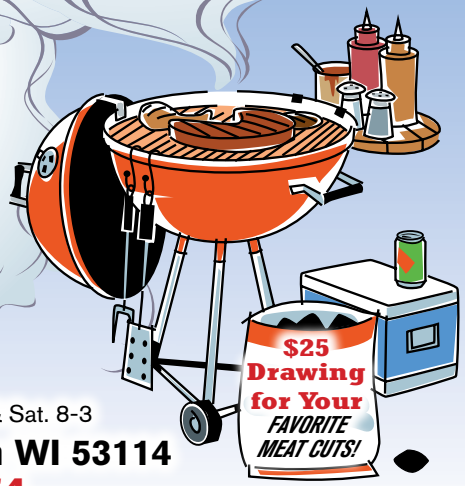


Locally Raised & Processed Here To Ensure Quality & Freshness!

- Fresh Meats
- Homemade Sausage
- Wisconsin Cheeses
- Wide Selection of Frozen Fish
- Custom Butchering by Appointment

GRILL SPECIALS ALL WEEKEND/FRI&SAT
Award-Winning Brats, Hot Dogs, Patties, & Much More

**FARM FRESH
PRODUCE**



**\$25
Drawing
for Your
FAVORITE
MEAT CUTS!**

OPEN Monday - Friday 8-5 & Sat. 8-3
N4290 Hwy. 14, Darien WI 53114
262-724-5554

**OPEN Monday - Friday 8-5 & Sat. 8-3
N4290 Hwy. 14, Darien WI 53114
262-724-5554**

455208

central printing & media solutions *A Meridian Company*

We are a direct extension of your brand.

We do a little bit of everything to help manage your brand, look, and messaging across a variety of mediums.

Ready to Start Your Project? Contact Us!

Central Printing

735 Sugar Creek Road, Delavan, WI 53115
262.728.4231 meridian-direct.com

455039



**Korey
Kuehni,**
Proprietor/
Technician

*Locally
Owned &
Operated*

**Hours:
M-F 8 A.M.
to 5 P.M.**

Complete Bumper to Bumper Auto Repair

**416 S. 7th St.
Delavan, WI 53115
(262) 728-2886**

korey@koreysautokare.com
www.koreysautokare.com

454854