

Remembered

Monument honors memory of soldiers

By Susan Steinmueller
staff writer

For Those Returned
Thank you God
For Those Who Died
Glory Forever God
For those still missing
Please God.

THAT INSCRIPTION is written on a plaque now part of a new memorial honoring Michigan's 84 servicemen listed as missing in action and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

The bronze and black granite memorial on the wall of a new chapel/mausoleum at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens in Novi, was unveiled 10 days ago in conjunction with the Prisoner of War Committee of Michigan in a dedication ceremony attended by state, county and city officials, and various veteran groups.

Also on the black granite, framed plaque is an engraving of an eagle with chained talons and outstretched wings and a guard tower with barbed wire. Listed below are each soldier's name, rank, branch of service, birth date, date of disappearance and return date. The return date remains blank for 75 of the names.

In the Observer and Eccentric coverage area, those names include Craig M. Dix of Livonia, Army, lost March 17, 1971; Dennis L. Gauthier of Rochester, Army, lost Oct. 31, 1969; Thomas F. Riggs of Farmington, Army, lost June 11, 1967; and Refugio T. Teran of Westland, Army, lost May 6, 1970.

"I think it's a reminder that there is still some unfinished business in Vietnam," said Sue Scott of Troy, immediate past president of the POW Committee of Union Lake.

The committee, which meets monthly in Southfield, fosters public awareness of the POW. It also issues and supports efforts to obtain an accounting of U.S. personnel still missing in Southeast Asia. "I think it's also a symbol of hope, because there is a place for a return date," Scott said.

THAT RETURN date is all-im-

portant to families seeking an accounting for their loved ones, she said, even if it means discovering they were killed in action.

"There is a sense of peace when people can say goodbye, finally," she said.

Refugio Teran and his wife, Anna, have been waiting for word of their son for 16 years. He disappeared in an early morning morning attack that killed 44.

"Hope will never die until they tell me there's evidence," Teran said. After the attack, he said, "They left everybody for dead, but my boy and this other fellow completely disappeared." No sign was found of him, "not his rifle melted down — nothing."

"This woman here is dying by inches," he said of his wife, referring to the years since then. But, he said, he and his wife appreciated the memorial. "It makes me feel that people care," Anna Teran said.

THE IDEA for the memorial, titled, "Michigan Remembers," was conceived by Jonathon Tobias of Walled Lake, pre-arrangement manager at the non-sectarian, Christian memorial garden, after a conversation with a former prisoner of war in South Vietnam, J.B. McKinney of Detroit.

"He just left me with such a tremendous impression that there was a void there. That not only me but a lot of others had forgotten these people," Tobias said.

The chance discovery of a Vietnam veteran's lighter, engraved with the words, "28th TCS Mountain of Vigilance, Monkey Mountain, Vietnam," motivated Tobias to action.

Now, two years later, his project is complete. Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens owner William Eldridge of Grosse Pointe funded the memorial. The POW Committee of Michigan was instrumental in making it a reality.

Tobias said he wanted the memorial to convey that its purpose "is not to mourn," but to pay tribute and to provide hope that the men will be accounted for.

"The date of return will hopefully lend these families and hopefully everyone else a sense of optimism. This is a memorial for the families to know that they are not alone," he said.

The memorial, in listing names



John Tobias listens as the names of the missing and captured are read before unveiling the memorial. The idea for a memorial dedicated to MIAs/POWs originated with Tobias.

and return dates, is the first of its kind.

"IT KEEPS the issue in front of the public of the men that are still missing and unaccounted for," said Walter Gooden of Southfield, Oakland County Council commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars. "We in the VFW have been actively supporting the issue."

Ann Collet of Farmington Hills, chairwoman of a VFW Auxiliary MIA committee, said of the ceremony, held in conjunction with National POW/MIA Recognition Day, "This will put it in everybody's mind. This is, I think, a very fitting way to observe the day."

Roy Knight of Livonia, president of the POW Committee of Michigan,

lost his father, Major Warren Knight Jr., in 1967. The Texas Air Force pilot was shot down over Laos.

"It's a public awareness thing, but also, it's a thing for the families," said his wife, Phyllis, of the memorial. She is a member of the committee's board of directors.

"You can't give up hope until you know for sure. It's not that we have false hope. It's just that it's possible, and we're not about to close the book until we know for sure."

After the ceremony, red roses and flags were left at the base of the memorial.

"This maybe gives family members a place to call their own," Phyllis Knight said.



photos by RANDY BORST/retail photographer

Dewitt Meadows holds his grandson, Kenny Thell, as he touches the name of Meadows' brother, Merl. Originally listed as an MIA, Merl's remains have been returned to the United States.

short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Short takes, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

• NAMED VP

Javon Bea was named executive vice president and chief operating officer at Providence Hospital, Southfield.

The 457-bed acute care facility is a member of the Daughters of Charity National Health System.

Bea comes to Providence from Saint Mary Hospital, Rochester, Minn., where he was a member of the administrative staff since 1978. Saint Mary's is a 1,158-bed tertiary care teaching hospital affiliated with the Mayo Clinic.

One of Bea's primary duties was serving as St. Mary's liaison to the Mayo Clinic, handling medical and administrative relations between the two.

Bea holds a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's of hospital and health care administration degree from the University of Minnesota. He also has a degree in physical therapy from the Mayo Clinic.

Bea is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Mayo Clinic Alumni Association. He will live in Farmington Hills.

• SEAT BELTS

Safe-Strap, which pioneered shopping cart seat belts, reports that 1 million shopping cart seat belts are in use throughout the United States. It reports that the reaction from consumers and supermarkets has been positive.

Safe-Strap is a relatively new venture started by two men in their 20s. During September, the National Supermarket Child Safety Committee and concerned supermarkets are making parents aware that using seat belts in supermarket shopping carts makes good sense.

The committee will present awards and commend supermarkets

all over the United States that have taken a voluntary step to improve safety for small children.

• ATTENDS SEMINAR

Dr. Stuart Firsten of Farmington Hills attended a professional training program presented by the Michigan Chiropractic Council in Novi.

Firsten participated in the "Hospital Procedures and Protocol" seminar, a program preparing chiropractors to join hospital staffs.

Chiropractors in hospitals is a new national trend. Dr. John Cowan, Michigan Chiropractic Council president, described economic motivations for this new interest in chiropractic on the part of hospitals.

"Today," he said, "the buzzword in the health arena is marketshare. Traditionally, medicine and chiropractic have been viewed as adversaries in the health care marketplace. But today, with the fast-paced changes that are occurring, the health care industry is being forced to take a new look at this position."

"Small hospitals, traditionally controlled by small physician groups, are now fighting for existence."

"Chiropractic in Michigan represents a patient base of more than 1 1/2 million people, and this number is growing by 250,000 annually. This has started to make chiropractic more attractive to statewide hospitals."

New Center Hospital in Detroit was the first Michigan hospital to establish a chiropractic staff. Leaders of the New Center program were prominent in the seminar.

Firsten also participated in workshops with New Center's chief administrator, James Polonia, and its director of nursing, Kathy Rudy Novak. He received preparation in hospital systems from Dr. James Gregg, chief of the chiropractic staff at New Center.

Firsten is director of a chiropractic clinic in Southfield and a member of the American Chiropractic Association.

• MOVING UP

Former Farmington-area resident Anthony Livorine was appointed to the new position of vice president of sales, Townsend Division of Tectron Inc., Charlotte, N.C.

Livorine will be responsible for all United States and Canadian sales. He will coordinate the efforts of the director of field sales, marketing manager-fastening and assembly

systems and eight regional sales managers.

Creation of this new position is part of Townsend Tectron's continuing effort to strengthen its marketing department.

Employed with the company for 36 years, Livorine started in the order entry department. During his career, he was promoted to sales positions, including general sales manager for custom-formed parts at the company's Elmwood City operation. He later became corporate vice president of marketing.

He recently was appointed a board member of the Industrial Fasteners Institute.

Townsend Division of Tectron Inc. is the corporate headquarters for six North American operations. Townsend manufactures rivet nut inserts and custom-engineered, precision cold-formed parts, solid and semi-tubular rivets, automatic and robotic assembly systems, construction fasteners and fastening systems, and saw chain and accessories, all for the chainsaw industry.

• MILLER PROMOTED

Barton-Malow Co. of Southfield has appointed Richard Miller to vice president in the Constructors Division.

The Farmington resident is a 20-year veteran of the building and design environment with national health facility construction experience.

He served as project administrator on the former Childrens Hospital expansion and with the current renovation at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn.

• INTERIOR REMODELING

Design Fabrications Inc. of Troy has completed a major interior remodeling project creating specialized service areas in nine outlets of the Detroit-based Allied Supermarkets Great Scott retail grocery chain, including Farmington Hills.

The project involved the design, development and fabrication of contemporary customer service facilities.

Working from data supplied by Allied regarding merchandising, traffic-flow and department size, the Design Fabrications team created a contemporary presentation theme. It employed Great Scott's traditional, corporate red to accent a modern motif of ceramic tile, chrome, neon, backlit nylon awnings and space frames.

New from Jockey For Her®



"ICICLES" BRIEF

AND CAMISOLE

This fall, Jockey For Her® has combined soft comfort and high quality with something new, delicate, feminine lace. "Icicles," the French cut brief and camisole, look pretty while giving you the same outstanding features that you've used to. High cut legs and waist mean no panty lines. The camisole fits gently, and will be a comforting layer of warmth as it gets colder outside. And the 100% combed cotton fabric is lightweight and absorbent. Both in white. Made in U.S.A. Camisole, S.M.L. \$10; Brief, 5.67, 7.50. Intimate Apparel, Eastland, Oakland.

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