

VETERANS DAY 2023 (Cont.)

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who also served as a U.S. senator (Alabama, 1981-87). He is best known for blinking, "T-O-R-T-U-R-E" in Morse Code while being "interviewed" for a North Vietnamese propaganda broadcast. His ordeal as a POW was chronicled in his book, "When Hell was in Session." In 1979, a television movie by the same name was based on the book and starred Hal Holbrook as Denton. Denton passed away in 2014 at the age of 89.

Fast-forward to May 24, 2023, at the Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, California. One-hundred-seventy of those aforementioned POWs attended the gala event that included a video appearance by 100-year-old Henry Kissinger, Richard Nixon's secretary of state who negotiated the Paris Peace Accords; and U.S. Sen. Tom Carper (Delaware), a former Air Force pilot and the last Vietnam vet to serve in the U.S. Senate. In his presentation, Carper told the story of what may be the longest-lasting ceremonial legacy to come out of the Vietnam War. As an Air Force pilot himself, he recalled from personal experience that, during the Vietnam conflict, pilots would attend tactical conferences at various bases in Southeast Asia. And ever cognizant of their brother pilots being held as prisoners of war, the custom grew and evolved to remember and recognize their plight.

That custom grew into the POW/MIA table that you now see at every formal military banquet and veterans post. During any formal function, there is a generally recognized script that is read to remind those in attendance of the sacrifices that were forced upon them and their families. Go to any VFW post or American Legion hall and you will see that POW/MIA table.



Never forgotten.

And now for Veterans Day: Nov. 11, 2023. It is the 105th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918, "the war to end all wars" was over. And we now recognize that same date to honor all veterans as Veterans Day.

In honor of this Veterans Day, VFW Post No. 313 invites the public to our annual ceremony at Veterans Park in Youngstown. Following that ceremony, the public is also invited to the annual Veterans Day Chiavetta's chicken barbecue, being held this year at the American Legion O. Leo Curtis Post No. 830, 2589 Youngstown-Lockport Road, Ransomville. The event runs from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15

at the door or can be ordered by calling Post 313 Cmdr. Ed Jackson at 716-531-6420. Eat in or takeout. Basket raffles and related events will be present. Proceeds go to support veterans' programs facilitated by the O. Leo Curtis Post No. 830 and VFW Post No. 313.

We also invite family members to honor their deceased veterans over the holidays by going to the website for Wreaths Across America (<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>). This is a program where holiday wreaths can be ordered and will then subsequently be placed at the veterans' gravesite.

And on a personal note: Happy 25th wedding anniversary to my lovely wife, Lynn.

VFW planning Veterans Day observance in Lewiston

Veterans of Foreign Wars Downriver Post 7487 will observe Veterans Day at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, at Academy Park in the Village of Lewiston.

A press release explained, "Originally known as Armistice Day to celebrate the end of World War I, in 1954, as a result of a yearlong campaign by World War II veteran Raymond Weeks, Armistice Day was changed to Veter-

ans Day. This day commemorates all veterans of all wars and eras - past, present and future, living or dead - making Veterans Day a day of celebration and gratitude.

"So, on this Veterans Day, join

us at the 'Circle of Honor' monument in Academy Park as we show our appreciation to not only those who are no longer with us, but also those who are still with us."

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