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## GI school nurses get Zonta Yellow Rose award

BY JOANNE KUD

### ZONTA CLUB OF GRAND ISLAND

For Zonta women worldwide, March 8 is not only International Women's Day, it is also Zonta Yellow Rose Day. On this day, countries all over the world celebrate the achievements of women, while also acknowledging their ongoing quest for gender equality. In many countries, this day is also a national holiday. March 8 was designated Yellow Rose Day, by Zonta International in 1999 to celebrate women's achievements through the beauty of a yellow rose.

The pandemic has been a time to reflect on the acts of courage, selflessness and service by extraordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of our country and community.

This year the Zonta Club of Grand Island acknowledged the significant impact the women in health care have had throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In observance of Yellow Rose Day, they are proud to honor eight school nurses for their services to our community. Even before COVID, being a school nurse had been more than distributing bandages and ice packs or helping students manage their insulin pumps or inhalers. This year, in between screenings for vision and hearing, school nurses have been called upon to help calm some of the students' fears and anxieties over COVID-19. During this

nation's health crisis, they have exhibited compassion, dedication and determination in fostering and maintaining the health, well-being and safety of our youth.

"The Grand Island School District nurses have been, and continue to be, highly regarded professionals," said Nurse Coordinator Cheryl Cardone, who also is the district's assistant superintendent of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services. Cardone said the nurses are responsible for the health, safety and wellness of the district's faculty, staff and students.

"They are caring, compassionate and knowledgeable of each and every student. Most recently, due to the pandemic, they have adapted to the daily changes and challenges."

"I am very proud to be working with each and every one of our nurses," she said.

**Zonta Club of Grand Island awarded yellow roses to the following school nurses:**

- AnnMarie Stewart, RN, BSN
- Tara Kowalik RN, BSN
- Dawn Frosolone, RN
- Darlene A. Rine, RN, BSN
- Dana DeLuke, RN
- Mary M. Evert, RN
- Lori Brown, RN
- Suzanne Savage, LPN

**AnnMarie Stewart**

For almost 29 years, the Grand Island



The Zonta Club of Grand Island's 2021 winners of the Yellow Rose Award stand front and center with their flowers and certificates on Wednesday. This year, Zonta chose the nurses of the Grand Island School District as award recipients in honor of their service and leadership during the pandemic. They are (from left, bottom row): Dawn Frosolone, Tara Kowalik, AnneMarie Stewart and Darlene Rine; in the back row (from left), are: Lori Brown, Dana DeLuke and Mary Evert. Missing from the photo is Suzanne Savage. (Photo by Donna Monaco)

School District has been extremely fortunate to have Stewart as its school nurse at Kaegebein Elementary School. Throughout those years, she has supported students and their families with their health

concerns, which she says range from minor complaints to serious health conditions, illness or injury.

*See COMPASSIONATE continued on Page 10*

## Scout's DeGlopper Memorial artwork shows impassioned dedication to veterans causes

BY MICHAEL J. BILLONI

Morgan Schaefer of Girl Scout Troop 30970 in Williamsville wanted her Gold Award project to involve military veterans. Lucky for Grand Island, a family friend introduced her to Keith Wegrzyn of the DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee. "The focus of my project was to honor and bring recognition to the sacrifices that the men and women who serve our country make every day," Schaefer said about her plan for Girl Scouts' highest honor. Wegrzyn, who led the team to design the DeGlopper Memorial, which will be unveiled on June 5, gave Schaefer a tour of the property and history of the project two years ago. "During my own research and of Charles DeGlopper, I envisioned a wonderful way to honor veterans of past and present in a



drawing I would create," explained Schaefer, a Girl Scout since second grade. She graduated from Williamsville South last year and is a 19-year-old freshman at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston.

Her art piece consists of two halves: a black-and-white portrayal of soldiers on Normandy Beach in 1944, and on the right side, a colored portrayal of soldiers now in the Middle East. "The two sides are joined by an American flag in the sky above them," she said.

"The black-and-white side pays homage to World War II hero Charles N. DeGlopper, after whom the park is named, and who gave his life for this country in the Battle of Normandy. That side also serves to honor and remember those who served and gave their lives for the U.S. in any past conflicts.

The colored side is a pair of boots, a rifle, and a helmet arranged in a way as to customarily memorialize fallen soldiers. "This symbol is a solemn reminder of the men and women who have given their lives in defense of this country since its foundation. By joining the two sides together under a faint American flag, the piece unites every generation of American soldier under one cause. It is a reminder that our freedom is never free, and that those who have stood for centuries to protect it will stand for centuries more, regardless of the sacrifices they must honorably make," explained Schaefer in a telephone interview.

Wegrzyn said the committee was so impressed with her final drawing that it will be mounted just like the 18 Killed in Action stantions at the southern end of the park. Her panel will be titled, "The Unknown Soldier," which will signify all the soldiers'

*See GOLD continued on Page 2*



Morgan Schaefer with her drawing

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