

Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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Happy 98th Birthday, Jean Nienhuis. See page 10 to send her a card.

The Old Fence Rider Museum in Edmore is closing. If you have lent anything to the museum, see page 9 to find how to retrieve it.

Remember the National Vietnam Veterans Day activity in Morley this Saturday. See page 10 for more information.

Spring Forecast

Thu Mostly sunny, high 52. West wind 7 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph.

Thu Night Mostly cloudy, low 34.

Fri A 50 percent chance of showers after 8am. Mostly cloudy, high 54.

Fri Night Showers likely. Mostly cloudy, low 36.

Sat Showers. Mostly cloudy, high 46.

Sat Night Showers. Mostly cloudy, low 35.

Sun Showers likely. Mostly cloudy, high 51.

Sun Night A chance of rain and snow showers. Mostly cloudy, low 28.

Mon A chance of rain and snow showers. Partly sunny, high 41.



Honor Flight Dream Fulfilled for Paris Area Guardsman



Jim Johnson (left) and Chuck Hall visit the Iwo Jima Memorial during their Honor Flight tour of Washington, D.C.

By Bethel Larsen

Some heroes wear uniforms. Others quietly step up to help them receive the recognition they deserve. On Wednesday, March 19, this writer was privileged to meet both kinds. Last fall, we brought you a story about James "Jim" Johnson, a Paris area man who served 26 ½ years in the National Guard, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant E-6 while deployed to Panama in 1995 and also serving in Atlanta, Georgia during the 1996 Olympic Games. When the Honor Flight program, originally begun to honor veterans of World War II, was expanded to include those who had served in our military through the Vietnam era as well as National Guardsmen, Jim's 1974 enlistment qualified him to participate. His flight was already scheduled when his appointed Guardian (a traveling companion required for the program, since original participants were in advanced years) decided not to participate. Then the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 brought the entire program to a halt. Jim's opportunity appeared to have been lost forever.

As the pandemic eased and Honor Flights began again, Jim's neighbors Charles ("Chuck")

and Brenda Hall began to discuss the possibility of Chuck serving as Jim's Guardian so that he could be reinstated in the program. After all, Jim is known as the kind of neighbor who is always ready to help someone else. Chuck would participate at his own expense, though all expenses are covered for honorees. At first, they were told that Jim's name would be at the bottom of the list. However, an administrator who was made aware of the earlier cancellation moved him back to the top. After completing paperwork that included a doctor's report, Jim and Chuck were soon scheduled for an Honor Flight in October, 2024.

Very early on the morning of October 15, after a drive from Paris to Traverse City, the two boarded a chartered flight at Cherry Capital Airport to begin their unforgettable adventure in Washington, D.C. Most of their fellow honorees were Vietnam veterans, though one WWII veteran was among them.

(continued on page 2)

A Local Hero's Story



Mike Maxfield in the 1960s

With Vietnam Veterans Day approaching on March 29, the Lakeview Area News would like to acknowledge a local veteran who responded heroically during his tour in Vietnam. The following is a reprint of an article that was published in the Lakeview Enterprise in the 1960's, submitted by Vietnam Veterans Spec. 4 Mark

Maxfield and Spec. 5 Randal Huckins, U.S. Army Security Agency.

Local Soldier Wins Citation for Aid to Vietnamese

Corporal Michael John Maxfield of Lakeview, who recently completed his tour of duty with the Marine Corp. and returned here following his

discharge, was given a citation while in service. The citation was signed by John J. Hyland, Admiral U.S. Navy Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and reads as follows:

For heroism while serving in Company D. Ninth Engineer Battalion, First Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam.

On 30 September 1968, Corporal Maxfield's unit was repairing a section of National Route One when a Vietnamese bus that was proceeding along the roadway detonated a large enemy mine and immediately burst into flames. Disregarding his own safety, Corporal Maxfield unhesitatingly rushed to the scene to assist the injured passengers who were trapped inside the burning vehicle. Ignoring the intense heat, he repeatedly entered the vehicle and carried the Vietnamese civilians to safety. When all the passengers had been removed, he commenced to administer first aid and remained with the injured people until they were evacuated to a secure area.

Corporal Maxfield's courage, bold initiative and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Corporal Maxfield's citation was accompanied with the Navy and Marine Corps Medal in the name of the President of the United States.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Maxfield of Lakeview.

Editor's Note: Corporal Maxfield is now in his 70s and still living in Lakeview. Thank you, Corporal Maxfield and our other Vietnam Veterans. We appreciate your service and sacrifice.



Mike Maxfield (standing) with brother Mark and his mom

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