

Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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As of June 2025, the Hough/Pontius VFW 3701 in Lakeview has a new post commander. Congratulations to Ken Yabbez. Former Commander Stacey Roberts has accepted the office of Senior Vice Commander.

We also welcome Lakeview Community School's new band director, Doug Nanzer.

Summer Forecast

Thu Rain possible before 8am, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm between 8am and 2pm, then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2pm. Partly sunny, high 70. W wind 7 to 10 becoming NNW in the afternoon. Gust as high as 20. Precipitation 60%.

Thu Night Mostly clear, low 44.

Fri Sunny, high 69.

Fri Night Mostly clear, low 45.

Sat Mostly sunny, high 72.

Sat Night Partly cloudy, low 48.

Sun Sunny, high 77.

Sunday Night Mostly clear, low 52.

Labor Day Sunny, high 79.



Lakeview Sports Team Issue



Lakeview High School Cheer Team 2025. For more sports team picture, turn to page 2.

Final Honors for Old Glory



VFW 3701 Quartermaster Jessica Wright attended the fire at the flag burning ceremony.

By Linda Huckins

The Hough / Pontius VFW 3701 in Lakeview held its bi-annual Flag Retirement Ceremony on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at the home of Ryan and Laura Tonning.

Throughout the year, the VFW collects used and battered American flags from people in the community. Then, twice a year, they respectfully "retire" the old flags based on the U.S. Flag Code that states, "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

There were over 200 flags that were "retired" at

Tuesday's ceremony, which was led by VFW Senior Vice Commander Stacy Roberts with the help of other post and auxiliary members.

Roberts said that they were gathered there to lay to rest these flags that have been deemed no longer serviceable, adding that they have served well.

"Our flag has inspired those who desired the taste of freedom," Roberts said. "It has represented hope to the oppressed by tyranny and has welcomed all in the name of liberty."

VFW 3701 Auxiliary President, R.J. Poulk, read the following: "I am your flag. I was born on June 14, 1777. I am more than just a piece of cloth shaped into a

colorful design. I am the silent sentinel of freedom. I am the inspiration for which American patriots give their lives and fortunes. I have flown through peace and war, strived for prosperity and amidst it all, I have always been respected. I am the emblem of America, the greatest nation on earth."

Roberts then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

VFW 3701 Quartermaster, Jessica Wright, explained that the it is custom that the American flag is retired by cutting and burning the stripes individually to separate the field of blue. The field of blue is burned last as the final and most important part of the flag. This is usually done

only to the first flag chosen for retirement.

The cutting began at the bottom with a red stripe.

VFW 3701 Auxiliary Senior Vice, Linda Huckins, and Auxiliary Junior Vice, Jamie Hillard, held the flag while Hillard and Wright did the cutting.

As each stripe was cut and put into the fire, Poulk read the following:

* The first stripe we cut represents the 13 original colonies.

* The white stands for purity.

* The red stands for courage.

* Give me liberty or give me death.

* From every mountain-side, let freedom ring.

* This nation will remain the land of the free so long as it is the home of the brave.

* Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or press.

* If our country is worth dying for in time of war, let us resolve that it is truly worth living for in time of peace.

* The right of citizens of the United States to vote, shall not be denied.

* Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.

* All we have of freedom, all we use or know, this our fathers bought for us, long long ago.

* The American Creed

states, "It is my duty to my country to love it, to respect its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

* Therefore, we retire flags with dignity and respect when they become worn, torn, faded, or badly soiled.

After the stripes were cut and put into the fire, Wright said, "The soul of America, her field of blue, we save for last to put to rest. We leave the blue field intact because no one should ever let the union be broken."

Huckins put the field of blue into the fire, and Roberts asked for a moment of silence. That was followed by a three-rifle salute and the playing of Taps.

It is custom that after the first flag is cut and burned, the other flags are burned. The other flags don't have to be cut. Attendees took turns putting the flags into the flames. When the fire dies out and the ashes have turned cold, they will be collected and buried in a place of honor.

The Flag Retirement Ceremony is open to the public. If you have never attended a Flag Retirement Ceremony, consider going to the next one. It is a moving experience.

If you have a flag or flags that are ripped, torn, battered or soiled, put them into the Flag Box.



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