Liberty Church of Christ



Bryant Perkins, Minister

Join us this Sunday for Bible Classes for all ages at 9 a.m. and stay for Worship at 10 a.m.

We meet Sunday night at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

We meet at 3201 North Main Street and have a parking space just for you.

We'd love to see you soon. We've saved you a seat!

3201 N. Main St., Liberty • 936.336.2213 • libertycofc.org

OBITUARY

• ***NAOMI TAYLOR***

DAYTON - Graveside services for Naomi Taylor, 93, of Dayton, were held Tuesday, November 10, at 11 a.m., at the Holly Grove Cemetery in Livingston with Greg Turner officiating. She was born November 14, 1932, in Monticello, Arkansas and passed away November 3, 2026, in Dayton. She is preceded in death by her parents, Oran Vickers and Willie (Knobloch) Vickers, and husband, J.A. Taylor. She is survived by her son, Mike Taylor of Liberty; daughter, Pam Turner and Greg of Dayton; Kerry Wood and Regan of Houston; grandchildren, Kyle Taylor, Kevin Taylor, Kristi Zeller and Mike, Adam Krustchinsky, Kelly Lepicovsky and Jan, Abby Lutostanski and Nick, Trevor Wood, and Kaitlin Neira and Walter; numerous great-grandchildren; sister, Bonnie McPherson of Arlington, Texas; sister, Lou Livermore and Deville of Altus, Arkansas; and sister, Linda Zolliecoffer of Altus, Arkansas; along with numerous other relatives and friends. Cochran Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements. Please sign the online guestbook at cochranfh.com.

Order smoked turkeys, hams by Fri., Nov. 20

DAYTON - Let the Dayton Masonic Lodge help out with your holiday dinner. Place your order before Fri., Nov. 20, at 5 p.m. to have a delicious smoked turkey ($60) or smoked ham ($70) as a holiday dinner centerpiece. These smoked-to-perfection holiday turkeys and hams will be ready for pick up Tues., Nov. 24, (time to be announced) at the Masonic Lodge located at 1590 FM 1960. To order, contact John at 281-770-7438, Eric at 936-346-6695, Jakie at 936-334-2414 or Michael at 832-256-1044. Your support of this fundraising effort is greatly appreciated.



(L-R): Rotarian Dr. Luke Chachere, Suzanne Chachere, Debbie Martin, Calvary Baptist Church Pastor Ken Davis.

Rotarians focus on The Bethlehem Experience

DAYTON - The Dayton Rotary Club and guests were warmly welcomed by President Elizabeth Robertson. Pastor Ken Davis opened the meeting with prayer, followed by the pledges led by Rotarian Ken DeFoor. The program focused on an upcoming Christmas event called The Bethlehem Experience. Suzanne Chachere, the director and organizer, along with co-director Debbie Martin, shared their vision for bringing local churches together to create a meaningful experience for area families.

Chachere explained that the idea began after she and her husband visited a live nativity in Lingleville, Texas, where their granddaughter, Hallie Chachere, participated. Inspired by that experience, she returned home determined to create something similar for Dayton. What started as a simple idea, "The Bethlehem Experience: Walk Through the Life of Jesus" has grown into a major community project involving five local churches, numerous volunteers, and local businesses.

The Bethlehem Experience will take visitors through several important moments in the life of Jesus Christ. The journey will begin with the angel appearing to Mary and continue through the birth of Jesus, the bustling Bethlehem marketplace, Jesus' childhood, His ministry and the healing of blind Bartimaeus, the crucifixion, and ultimately the empty tomb and resurrection. The experience will feature live actors, animals, authentic-looking marketplace scenes, biblical narration, music, and special effects designed to transport visitors back in time.

Suzanne and Rob Chachere's granddaughter Hallie Chachere participated in Lingleville's Live Nativity, which inspired The Bethlehem Experience.

The co-directors gave a grateful recognition to the five local churches: Calvary Baptist Church, Journey Fellowship, Dayton Christian Center, Kenefick Southern Baptist Church, and Trinity Baptist Church. They expressed appreciation for the generosity of local businesses and individuals. The hope is that The Bethlehem Experience will become a beloved annual tradition in Dayton.

The event will take place December 11-13, from around 6-8:30 p.m. each evening at Calvary Baptist Church in Dayton. Admission is free. Refreshments and children's activities will be available before groups begin their guided journey. The experience will last roughly 30 minutes. The organizers are arranging overflow parking, transportation assistance, and golf cart accommodations to help visitors with mobility challenges.

For additional information or volunteer opportunities regarding The Bethlehem Experience, contact Suzanne Chachere at 936-334-5598.

The Rotary Club of Dayton meets Thursdays at noon at the Dayton Community Center. The club remains committed to its motto, Service Above Self, through community service, fellowship, and projects that make a lasting difference in Dayton and the surrounding area.



Frankly Speaking –

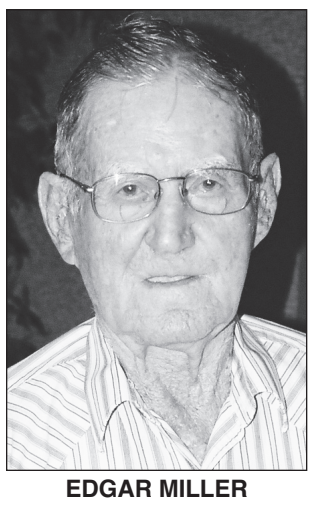
Veterans – Remembered for Valor in Defense of Freedom

by Frank Jordan

Veterans' Day in the United States is celebrated annually on November 11 honoring the anniversary of the signing of the armistice, which ended the World War I hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany in 1918. Veterans who have and are serving are recognized and thanked for their services to the United States.

Annually veteran Bob Ford, now deceased, organized a Liberty Rotary Club event that brought together not only veterans who served, but their stories in their own words of those challenging times. Many from our area were involved in some of the most important moments in World War II, including the victory at Iwo Jima.

One was Edgar Miller from Hull. Edgar served in a special Navy communications unit and was there 81 years ago at Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945. That was the day Joe Rosenthal snapped the world-famous photograph "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima," depicting five U.S. Marines and one Navy Corpsman raising the American flag over Mount Suribachi. The Pulitzer Prize winning Rosenthal photograph was the image utilized by Felix de Weldon in his sculpture at the USMC War Memorial adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery.



EDGAR MILLER

Edgar Miller was part of a forward Naval landing party charged with the incredibly dangerous mission of setting up communications on the beach of Iwo Jima the night before the invasion to alert landing troops of ever-changing conditions. The critical battle to take Iwo Jima, while a U.S. victory, eventually cost the lives of more than 7,000 U.S. troops and 18,000 Japanese.

This was the sad reality of the invasion that produced the U.S. victory which Edgar Miller survived to tell us about in 2010, from poignant personal battlefield recollections never to be forgotten. We were saddened to hear Edgar Miller, a proud Navy veteran, passed away at age 91 in January of 2014.

But was there an earlier U.S. flag raising and flag-raising photograph on Iwo Jima that day that preceded the one in the Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima? In fact, the U.S. Flag in the famous photo was not the original U.S. flag raised over Iwo Jima! The Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal had landed on the beach of Iwo Jima and wanted the U.S. flag raised in victory for a souvenir.

On hearing of Forrestal's request, Colonel Chandler Johnson sent Sergeant Mike Strank back up the mountain with a second, larger, U.S. flag and it was this second flag that was actually in the famous photo and presented to Secretary Forrestal. Sergeant Mike Strank was ironically one of the five Marines in the Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima photograph.

Colonel Johnson, in charge of the sector on which the U.S. flag was raised, reasoned the original small flag should belong to his 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, who had the honor of raising that first U.S. flag signifying victory at Iwo Jima. Thus the first and original smaller U.S. flag had already been lowered and stowed that historic day before the famous photo of the 2nd U.S. flag given to Secretary James Forrestal.

That small U.S. flag was distinguished to be the first foreign flag ever raised in Japanese territories by an occupying force. The photo Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima also was not the first flag-raising photo on the taking of Iwo Jima. The first, now obscure, of the first U.S. flag raising was taken by Louis R. Lowery.

Our neighbor, Edgar Miller, was an individual hero in a famous moment in history. But the most impacting realization from the salute to these U.S. military veterans is the awareness of those thousands who served in both combat and support positions who created a military force arguably unequaled in the history of mankind in dedication, perseverance, sacrifice and patriotism. We are free today because of their bravery and sacrifice, with Veterans' Day being a day to reflect our gratitude for their service. I pray we don't attempt to rewrite these precious moments in history bought with the blood and sacrifice of our veterans.

Frankly speaking, may we hope the essence of these heroes will remain the fabric of America and not a thread being pulled to create irreparable damage to this garment of freedom we call the United States. A garment defended proudly by our veterans, men and women both gone and remaining, to be saluted and honored as bright stars for preserving through sacrifice our American heritage of freedom today.

Lights In Liberty begins Thurs., Nov. 19

LIBERTY - During the holiday season downtown Liberty comes alive with Lights In Liberty – a community celebration created to bring neighbors, families, churches, local businesses, first responders, and visitors together to experience the joy of the holidays in the heart of Liberty. The downtown area will shine beneath more than 110,000 twinkling lights and holiday decorations on November 19 and 21, and December 3 and 10. On Thursdays, activities will take place from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday hours are from noon until 8 p.m.

This year, Lights in Liberty is celebrating the heroes who serve our community with a special theme featuring our very own first responders. The community is encouraged to be part of honoring those who protect and serve our community while celebrating the traditions that make our small town so special. The beloved old fire truck is making its return, bringing a little nostalgia, hometown pride, and Christmas joy to downtown Liberty.

On Thurs., Nov. 19, the holiday merriment gets underway with a synthetic ice rink, a live nativity at Cornerstone Church and Make & Take Christmas crafts. The five-piece band The Royal Dukes will perform live. The Lighting on the Square, presided over by Mayor John Hebert, will take place at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 21, will begin with the Light in Liberty Christmas Market, which opens at noon. The Street Rally Old Time Car Show, and a chili cookoff with youth and adult competitors will also be held. Caleb Martin will perform live and will meet and greet the public from 4:30-5:30 p.m. The evening will conclude with Make & Take Christmas crafts.

There is still more to come ***December 3 and 10*** with things unique and special to the season, including a illuminated Christmas parade, live entertainment, Santa, children's crafts, food trucks, free food sponsors, local vendors and so much more.

Come stroll beneath the lights, enjoy the festivities, support our community, and make a few new holiday memories along the way.

Register online at lightsinliberty.org.

DPOA planning Movie Night Sat., Nov. 21

DAYTON - The Dayton Police Officers Association (DPOA) will host its first-ever Dayton Movie Night on Sat., Nov. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dayton Community Center. The feature film will be Toy Story 5. Watch as Buzz, Woody, Jessie, and the rest of the toys face a new challenge when they find themselves competing with modern technology for attention.

The event will bring the community together for a fun-filled evening of movies, food, free popcorn, and fellowship. Additional food vendors will be on-site ready to serve you and local vendors will have plenty of goods and services to offer. It'll be a great night of family fun and community spirit.

An event like this wouldn't be possible without the incredible support of the following sponsors: Luxe Prints and Cuts, Muraca Fiber, Magnolia Roots, Mike Wolf Construction, and LoneStar Luxury Bathrooms.

So, spread the word, invite your friends, load up the car and bring the whole family. The Dayton Community Center is located at 801 S. Cleveland.

LIBERTY GAZETTE
936-336-6416

Dayton Senior Olympics Sat., Nov. 14

DAYTON - In partnership with GRACE Initiative Meals on Wheels of South Liberty County and Universal Agape Love, the City of Dayton will host the upcoming 2026 Senior Olympics. The games will be held Sat., Nov. 14, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Dayton Community Center. Lunch will follow the games.

The Olympics are open to seniors ages 55 and over who are living within Liberty County. This event promises fun-filled days of friendly competition and community spirit. Seniors can sign up by calling 936-258-6630.

Dayton's Christmas Tree program begins

DAYTON - Grab your tinsel and ornaments and help enhance the festive atmosphere of the Dayton Community Center this holiday season by participating in the 16th annual Christmas Tree program. Tree set-up is now open.

Local businesses, churches, organizations, service clubs, and community members are invited to take part in this holiday event that showcases holiday creativity, spreads festive cheer all while competing for trophies and community recognition. Participation is free but an optional donation in any amount can be made to the Dayton Police Officers Association as a holiday gesture.

Trees can be natural or artificial with a maximum height of seven feet and should be fully decorated in traditional, unique, distinct or as one-of-a-kind originals. You decide. Tree placement will be in a designated, approved location; please coordinate with the community center staff for specifics. A sign must identify the organization, business, group or individual displaying the tree. A panel of judges will determine the winners. Deadline to enter is Thurs., December 3 at 5 p.m.

For additional information, contact the community center at 936-258-6630 or email: communitycenter@daytontx.org.

Toys for Tots needs your help!

LIBERTY COUNTY - Christmas is a time of joy, happiness and goodwill. It is a time of giving and helping those who are less fortunate. For over half a century the U.S. Marine Corps is the unchallenged leader in looking after America's less fortunate children at Christmas through the Toys for Tots campaign.

You can help bring holiday joy to the children of Liberty County by joining Luxe Prints and Cuts and the Dayton Police Officers Association for this year's Toys for Tots toy drive. The goal is to bring toys to 4,000 kids in Liberty County. The gift of a new toy helps bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to area children.

Families in all areas of the county including Liberty, Dayton, Hardin, Hull, Raywood, Daisetta, Ames, Devers and the Cleveland area can apply for toys for their children by using the QR code or by visiting the Toys for Tots website at toysfortots.org.

Your toy donations make a major impact in the success of the campaign. Donations of new, unwrapped toys will ensure that children experience the joy of play and the power of imagination. Visit toysfortots.org for donation information.

The event will be held December 12, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the TVE Fairgrounds, 321 Wallisville Road in Liberty. Volunteers are needed to help with toy collection, sorting, organization and distribution of the toys on the day of the event.

To reach the area coordinator for Liberty County with questions, to volunteer, place a toy donation box at your business or location, or to request toys, email liberty.tx@toysfortots.org or call 936-346-2862.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity which was created at the behest of the U.S. Marine Corps in 1991. 97% of every donation goes directly to providing toys to children.