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# South Plainfield Observer

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VOL. 4, NO. 12

50 CENTS

NOVEMBER 17, 2000

## VETS HONORED

### Balloons Soar to Support World War II Monument

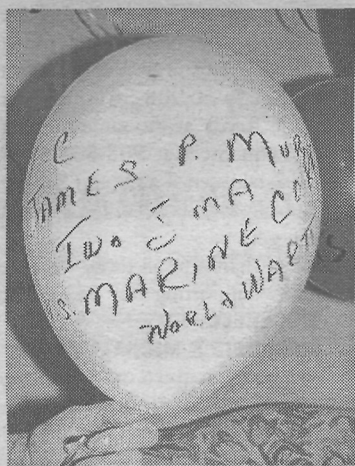
By Patricia Abbott

Veterans Day 2000 at McCriskin's Funeral Home was a grand celebration of life. The ceiling was covered with a mass of red, white and blue biodegradable helium balloons, 1500 of them. The normally somber rooms echoed with laughter and joy. The honorees on this particular Veteran's Day were

Association Balloon Release, a major fund-raiser for the World War II Memorial.

By 1 p.m. citizens of all ages began to fill the funeral home. Entrants filled out the necessary forms. Wide-eyed children gaped at the colorful floating sea and the mass of balloons quickly dwindled as they were plucked from the ceiling to bear tribute to a veteran. Each balloon was a gift of thanks, celebrating a veteran. Some people carefully held a single important balloon while others such as Dr. Kenneth May clutched a handful. Each balloon was a Veteran's day gift to a WW II veteran or homefront worker. The names of those who served were scrawled across the balloon.

Half a century has passed since WW II. The number of remaining veterans and homefront workers from this era grows smaller with each passing day. The memorial they have waited de-



McCriskin Funeral Home was the sight of an 800 balloon release last Saturday in support of the future World War II Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Family and friends of World War veterans and homefront workers were remembered by family and friends in the massive release.

WW II veterans. The atmosphere was one of remembrance, celebration and anticipation. The event was the Celebration of Freedom, the National Funeral Directors

cadres for took its first step toward becoming a reality. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in Washington D.C. at 2 p.m. on

*Continued on page 6*



VFW Post 6763 Auxiliary President Joan Jepson and Post Commander Rudy Poczak place a wreath in front of the post during the Veteran's Day services.

### Solemn Services Honor Veterans

Last Saturday morning, 11/11/00 at precisely 11 a.m., members of VFW Post 6763 and American Legion Chaumont Post 243, along with many veterans, their relatives and the community, gathered together to lay a wreath in

memory of all veterans, both past and present.

The services started outside of the VFW with a prayer, the placing of a wreath by Post Commander Rudy Poczak and Auxiliary President Joan Jepson and a

rifle salute by members of the VFW and the American Legion. The remainder of the services continued inside the VFW.

Commander Rudy Poczak, who served as master of cere-

*Continued on page 12*

### Billboard Hearings To Be Continued

The Board of Adjustment will continue hearing an application to erect three billboards along portions of Route 287 in South Plainfield at a special meeting scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 30.

Carole Media, the applicant for two of the three billboards, will continue their presentation. They are asking that a double sided billboard be placed on property located on Eastern Blvd. and Bedford Place. Tax records indicate the property is owned by John Risoli. According to the applicant's attorney, Ron Shimanowitz, a lease has already been signed between the property owner and the applicant. He added that the New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) has already issued a permit for the billboard. To receive a permit, an applicant only

has to prove that the sign conforms with NJ-DOT regulations, not the borough's. The applicant must now receive variances from the borough.

Carole Media is the same company responsible for the large billboard now in place on Route 287 in Bridgewater. The proposed billboard will be the same size.

The v-shaped, two-sided sign would be 50 feet tall and lighted with five 400 watt bulbs from dusk to dawn.

Only 1.8 miles of Route 287 pass through South Plainfield. If these three applications are granted we will have three v-shaped billboards in one small area of the borough.

The Nov. 30 meeting will take place in Borough Hall at 7 p.m. The public is invited and will be allowed to ask questions.

### Plans Set for Thanksgiving Worship Service

The South Plainfield Clergy Group has announced plans for the annual Community-wide Thanksgiving Worship Service. Each year, we come together to celebrate and give thanks for all that God has done for us and for all that God is doing in our community.

This year's service will be hosted by Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, 149 South Plainfield Ave. on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 7:00 p.m.

As with all our ecumenical worship services, we will be blessed by music from our combined choirs. Our music directors, Tom Baker, Cathy Davidson, Liz Harrington, Jim Horvath and Tony Orłowski have been preparing the choir. All are welcome to the worship service.

**Subscribers, please take note:**

**The Observer does not publish Thanksgiving Week, therefore there will not be a Nov. 24 issue.**

## mark your calendars

Log on to  
southplainfieldnj.com  
for the latest  
meeting agenda

### council meetings

Meets twice a month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-754-9000

AGENDA MEETING ..... PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, November 20

Monday, December 11 ..... Thursday, December 14

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

### planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

November 28, December 12, December 26

### zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

November 21, November 30 (special meeting) December 5, December 19

### taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall at 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m.

### siteplace sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

November (No Meeting), December (No Meeting)

### recycling commission

Meets Thursday, once a month

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-561-8280

December 28

### recreation commission

Meets once a month

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

Mon., December 4

### environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-561-8280

December 13

### board of education meetings

Board Conference Room at Administration Building, on Cromwell Place

\*Committee of the Whole, Nov. 21, 7 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg. 8 p.m., Nov. 28, 8 p.m.

Committee of the Whole, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg. 8 p.m., Dec. 19, 8 p.m.

Committee of the Whole, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg. 8 p.m., Jan. 16, 8 p.m.

\* Meeting dates were changed.

## Middlesex County Health Dept. Cancels Flu Vaccines

Flu immunizations, scheduled to be given on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at the PAL building, have been cancelled.

Due to the large volume of shots that have been given out, the Middlesex County Health Department has literally run out of the vaccine. A new supply is on order and scheduled to arrive in December. It is uncertain exactly what date they will reschedule the shots, but according to the Middlesex County Health Department, it will be some time around the middle of December.

Over 600 people stood in line at Borough Hall on Nov. 6 and got a free flu shot. The line wound out into hall and the parking lot. Many people left when they saw the long lines planning to get the scheduled shot.

## No Observer Next Week

We want to remind all of our readers that there will be no *Observer* next week. Thanksgiving week is the only week we don't publish a paper.

However, our offices will be open next week Monday through Wednesday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be closed on Thursday and Friday.

Residents can still drop off copy and photos for our Dec. 1 issue.

We want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving from the *South Plainfield Observer* staff.

## BOE Meeting Date Changes

Be advised of the following Board of Education meeting date changes:

The Committee of the Whole Meeting, originally scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m., has been changed to Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m., in the Grant School gymnasium.

The Regular Public Meeting, originally scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 21, has been changed to Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 8 p.m., in the Grant School gymnasium.

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A new flag pole at Franklin School, donated by members of VFW Post #6763 to show their appreciation to the school for the Veteran's Day Program they present each year, is dedicated. This flag pole is state-of-the-art, no rope is needed to raise or lower the flag.

## In My Opinion

### Letter to the Editor,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents that have helped the South Plainfield Music Boosters in supporting our monthly paper drive. We would also like to recognize several businesses in South Plainfield for recently signing-up for us to pick up their newspapers. Our thanks to Lynn Steel, The Corner Deli, David's Stationery, Paul's Stationery, Sunrise Food Stores and The Bagel Stop. Through the efforts of parents and residents, and now these businesses, we may be able to keep the paper drive going for our students of the music program at the High School.

For those who don't know of our program, the Music Boosters run a paper drive the first Saturday of every month for the entire year. We pick

up newspapers around town that people have saved for us and we have a container at the recycling center that we are trying to fill more often. The money generated by this paper drive goes directly to our students that sign up to work that first Saturday every month. They are able to use this money for trips and band camp or for any other music program. If there are any other businesses in town that would be able to help, please contact Mike Reedy at 908-561-3951 or Marjorie Reedy at the same number or at Lynn Steel at 908-561-5800 ext. 302 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

We really could use all the support we can get.

Again, thanks to all those who are currently supporting our program.

**SINCERELY,  
MARJORIE & MICHAEL REEDY**

### CORRECTIONS

In the Nov. 10 article "Local Student Set for New Challenge: Leadership Education," the doctor who contributed to her trip was reported incorrectly. He was Dr. Frank P. Licato Jr. of 2316 Plainfield Ave. in South Plainfield.

In the Oct. 27 article, "Friends of the Wood Announce Website," the web address for Highland Avenue Woods was published incorrectly. The correct address is: <http://community.nj.com/cc/friendsofthewoods>. The Veterans Park address was correct: <http://community.nj.com/cc/veteranspark>. We regret the errors.



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### SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The *South Plainfield Observer* is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: Editorial Department  
South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us on our web page at [spobserver.com](mailto:spobserver.com) or [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com) or [ngrennie@ix.netcom.com](mailto:ngrennie@ix.netcom.com). Include your name, address, telephone number.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at [spobserver.com](mailto:spobserver.com) or faxed to 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer.

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# Around Town

## AARP #4414 Meeting to have Guest Speaker November 17

The next General Membership meeting of AARP #4144 of South Plainfield will be held on Nov. 17, at 12:30 p.m. at the PAL Building.

Our guest speaker will be Paul Comiskey, a retired high school history teacher, who still continues, in his retirement, as a substitute teacher and also gives presentations on various events in history. He will present a program drawing on his Irish heritage, telling jokes and stories of people he met during his long career as an educator.

## VFW 6763 To Host Italian Night November 17

Memorial Post 6763 VFW, 155 Front Street, South Plainfield, will host an Italian Night, with Chicken Cacciatore.

Donations are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and younger.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon on weekends.

## American Legion Chapter Meeting November 17, December 1, 9

The 101st Airborne Division will be meeting on Friday, Nov. 17, at the American Legion on Oak Tree Ave. On December 1-3 we will be going to the Chatcau Resort and Conference Center in Tannersville, Pa. for our Bastogne Dinner.

On Dec. 9 we will hold services for the 248 men and women that went down in Newfoundland in 1985 in front of McCriscin Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave., at 11 a.m.

This service is an annual event.

## Columbiettes Sponsoring Events November 18, December 2

South Plainfield Columbiettes are sponsoring the following events:

- Country Western Dinner Dance

## Submit your Events for Around Town:

South Plainfield Observer,  
1110 Hamilton Blvd., South  
Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax  
(908)668-8819; email  
ggnan@aol.com or ngre  
nnie@ix.netcom.net



Friends and family of Georgeann DiGrazia gave her a surprise party on the occasion of her 50th birthday. More than 130 guests turned out for the celebration. A special book of memories was compiled, with each guest writing a memory they recalled about Georgeann and the book was presented to her by her daughter, Georgeann Larsen (above). Pictured right is Georgeann with her mom.



on Nov. 18 at Bobby & Mary's in Piscataway.

- Christmas Show and Dinner at the Spinning Wheel in Conn. on Dec. 2. Cost is \$50.

Events are open to the public. For info, call (908) 226-1222.

## Athletic Boosters Plan Sports Raffle Auction November 18

The South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club will hold a Sports Raffle Auction on Saturday, Nov. 18. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Auction starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$7 if purchased in advance and \$10 at the door. Admission includes 25 auction tickets.

Prizes include Devils tickets, autographed balls, sports theme baskets, Rutgers tickets, a bicycle and Television.

For tickets or more information call. The Diaz's at (908) 561-5359 or The Celentano's at (908) 757-5691 or the South Plainfield PAL at 226-226-7713.

## Bake Sale at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin November 21

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church is having its Annual Bake Sale on the Tuesday

before Thanksgiving, Nov. 21. All items are home baked and delicious. Available will be pies, cakes, cupcakes, Khrusciki, brownies, breads and much more!

The sale will run from 2 to 8 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and purchase some baked goods for Thanksgiving.

The church is located in South Plainfield at the corner of Belmont and Delmore Avenues.

## Rec Dept. Sponsoring HS Basketball League Starting November 21

The Rec Dept. is sponsoring a high school basketball league. Join as an individual or a team, ten member roster. Games begin on Nov. 21. The times are 6, 7, 8 and 9 p.m. The fee is \$40 per person. Participants must be high school students living in South Plainfield.

Register until Nov. 2 at the PAL. Questions? Call 226-7714.

## SPHS Class of 1980 Reunion Slated for Nov. November 25

South Plainfield High School Class of 1980 will hold a 20 year reunion on Sat., Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. at The Martinsville Inn in Martinsville.

Contact Jim Insel at (908) 713-0193 or Susan Graves Metz at susan metz@worldnet.att.net.

Holiday Craft Show at  
John E. Riley School  
December 1

## Happy 50th Birthday Cathy Reilly

FROM ALL  
YOUR FRIENDS

The John E. Riley School Stokes Committee will host a Holiday Craft Show on Friday, Dec. 1. Hours are 5 to 9 p.m.

The show will feature new and handcrafted merchandise. Refreshments will be available. Come do your shopping at Riley School.

For vendor information, please call (908) 756-9257.

## Rec Sponsors Trip to Riverdance February 8, 2000

The South Plainfield Recreation Dept. is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see the best show on Broadway today, "Riverdance," on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2001. Orchestra seats are \$65 per person. Bus leaves the PAL at 4:30 p.m. Only 45 tickets are available. Tickets are available at the PAL between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

## Multi-Class Reunion Planned

An invitation has been extended to all SPHS graduates from Sandi Spisso Connelly and Bobby Cobb, SPHS Class of 1969.

The 1969 alumni are planning a special "Golden 50th Birthday" Class Reunion for May of 2001, to be held as an all day outdoor event at Forest Lodge in Warren. Many people from a diverse range of graduating classes find the idea of a *multi-class* reunion appealing. It offers an excellent way to renew old friendships. Some classes lack either reunion coordinators, sufficient number of alumni or both.

In view of this interest, we, of the Class of 1969, have opened the invitation for the event to *all* SPHS alumni. The 60's Boardwalk theme will not only celebrate the class of 1969, but all those who once walked the halls of South Plainfield High School.

Please pass the word to any and all alumni you have contact with. If they have an interest, please contact either Sandy Spisso Connelly or Bobby Cobb at the following email addresses: spdcon@aol.com or racobb@cpix.net.

## Events In Surrounding Towns

## Culinary Seductions—Cooking Class for Singles November 18

Classic Thyme Cooking School located on East Broad Street in Westfield will be the location of a special "Culinary Seductions" cooking class designed specifically for area singles on Saturday, Nov. 18 beginning at 7 p.m. David Martone, C.P.P., co-owner of the school and kitchen shop by the same name, will dazzle audiences with his knowledge,

skill and passion for food.

The cooking class, sponsored by Kismet, a Westfield-based networking organization for Central New Jersey singles, is a natural and comfortable way for area singles to meet and get acquainted. Unlike other types of events held for today's busy single adult, "Culinary Seductions" provides a warm, relaxed, fun way to meet as singles, prepare and then feast on a four-course meal of their own making. Conversation comes easy as small groups of five or six make culinary decisions together and prepare their portion of the gourmet meal.

For more information, contact the Westfield based singles organization, Kismet, at (908) 232-8827 or visit [www.thatskismet.com](http://www.thatskismet.com).

## Holiday Craft Show to be Held November 18

The Second Annual Holiday craft Show will be held at the Auten Road Elementary School, located on Auten Rd. in Hillsborough, on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be over 30 crafters and baked good for sale.

## Tourette Syndrome Support Group to Sponsor Fundraiser November 19

The Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey Family Support Group will sponsor a fundraiser at Menlo Park Mall in Edison on Sunday, Nov. 19, from 7-10 p.m.

The mall is closed to the public after 6 p.m., unless you purchase a ticket at \$7 per person to gain admission. There will be open shopping, sales at 10-40% off, prizes, raffles and lots of fun.

For tickets, call Debbie at (732) 283-1439 or Marilyn at (908) 757-5074.

## Adoption Support Group To Meet November 27

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support), will meet from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 27, at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave. in North Plainfield. Young adults adopted abroad will discuss their growing-up years, their successes and failures at finding birth parents, etc. We will meet with a group of adoptive parents with children from China. Open sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments.

Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or contact <http://community.nj.com/cc/chats> for information.

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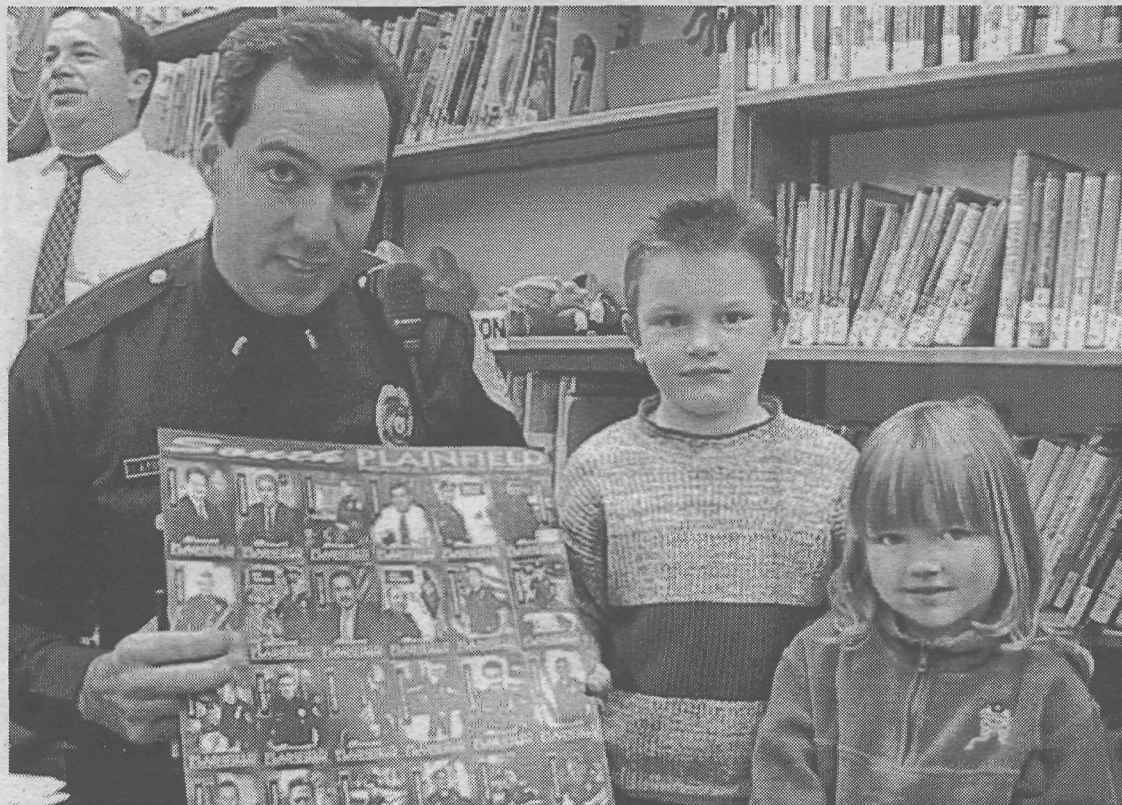
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Lt. John Ferraro who was the program coordinator for the Trading Card Program.

## Kids Get Last Chance for Trading Cards

By Patricia Abbott

Before the South Plainfield Police Trading Card program concluded, students were offered one last chance to have cards autographed and to complete their card sets. Nine of the participating police officers spent two hours at the South Plainfield Library signing cards and talking to the children.

A steady flow of youngsters arrived throughout the autograph session. Some needed cards signed and others were trying to gather missing cards.

Program coordinator, Lt. John

Ferraro, sat at the end of the table surrounded by boxes containing cards of officers who weren't present. He also had the pleasure of handing out posters to those who had completed their sets. On hand signing cards were Chief Steve Merkler, Captain Robert Merkler, Lt. John Ferraro, Sgt. John Alles, Det. Gene Bataille, Det. James Darby, Officer Allen LaMonda, Officer Gary Muccigrossi and Officer Michael Piro.

Thirty-three youths collected the complete set of cards. Kyle Junge was the first to show a complete signed set of cards.

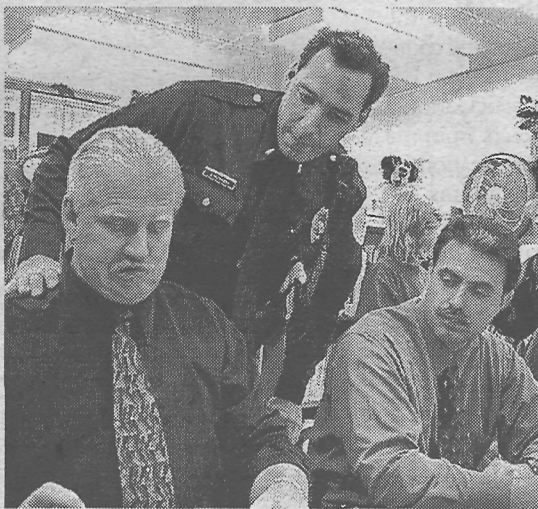
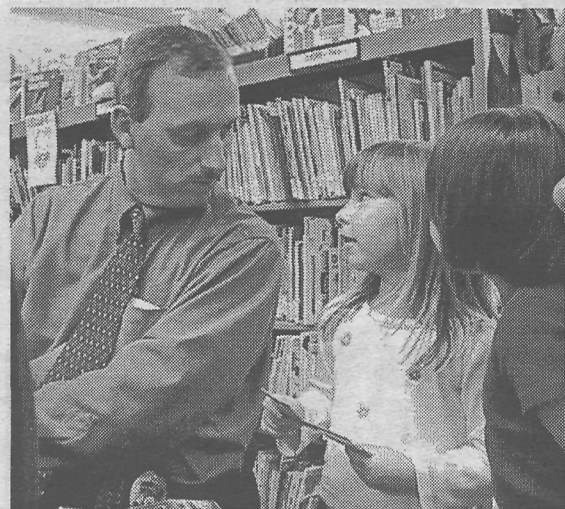
Distribution of the cards began in

June and ended in October. Lt. Ferraro said DARE officers Joe Papa and Allen LaMonda discussed the trading cards program with their DARE classes and thus the fifth grade students anticipated the distribution of the cards at the end of the school year.

The cards are a way to help introduce the police to the students. Many received their cards when officers visited the recreation programs this past summer. Some children may be afraid to talk to a police officer and trading cards provided a way to break the ice.

By requiring children to ask for a

*Continued on page 10*



From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

Kenneth Morgan

As we wind down from Election season (assuming Election season has truly ended by now) and gear up for the Holiday season, here's news from South Plainfield Library:

Let's check on our Children's programs. As of this writing, there's still some room in today's Kidcraft program. It starts at 4:00 and is for children age 6 and over. But, space is limited, so sign up right away. As for our Storytime programs, we'll only be holding our Tuesday program next week. (See the next paragraph for why.) That program is for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is needed. It starts at 10:30 a.m. and runs for about an hour. For more information, check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

The Library will close at 6 p.m. on Wednesday and will be closed all day on Thursday in observance of Thanksgiving.

This month's Homeschooler's meeting, previously scheduled for Friday, November 24, has been cancelled due to the aforementioned Thanksgiving holiday. The December meeting is set for Friday, Dec. 1.

We'll be accepting donations for the Books to Keep program until mid-December. This program provides books for disadvantaged children. You can donate new children's books or make a monetary contribution. The collection box for the books is near the door to the Children's Room; the donation envelopes are at the Circulation Desk.

Are you having trouble finding just the right book in a particular genre? As always, we're here to help. We've added a number of pamphlets listing book suggestions of various subjects and types, including mysteries, religious books and, appropriately for

this time of year, Thanksgiving books. You'll find the pamphlets at the Circulation Desk. If you need more help, ask at Reference.

Recently, we had a slight problem, publicity-wise. At the last minute, just before this column was to go to press, we learned that the library would be closed on Election Day. We were able to get our column changed in time, but sometimes this sort of thing just isn't possible. If you'd like the latest details about library news or programs, don't hesitate to call and ask us. Our number is (908) 754-7885.

We've also had a problem of a more annoying type. The parking lot behind the library has several spaces that are clearly marked, "Library Staff Only". Those signs mean exactly what they say; only those on staff may park there. Make no mistake, the police will ticket any unauthorized vehicles in Library Staff spaces. Please take this into account, particularly on days when the lot is sure to be crowded, like Court day on Wednesdays.

Finally, with Thanksgiving only a few days away, we'd like to help you with the preparations for the holiday meal. Feel free to check out our pretty big collection of cookbooks and cooking videos for tips on how to get everything prepared. And, for the day after Thanksgiving, you can check out our exercise books and tapes for tips on how to shed those extra pounds the holiday meal will bring about. Ask a librarian for help in finding just which items you're looking for.

That's about all for now. Thanks for your attention; we'll see you next week for more.

## Body Found Ruled a Suicide

Last Sunday, a group of children walking in the wooded section behind Calderone Street discovered the body of a man who apparently had committed suicide by hanging himself.

Police are not sure how long the 24-year-old South Plainfield resident had been there.

According to police reports, no indications of foul play were found at the scene. Autopsy results also revealed no indications of foul play. Toxicological and other studies are currently being conducted. The investigation is being continued by Det. James Parker.

## Summer Drama Wants Your Input

The SP Summer Drama Workshop is considering a variety of musicals for its 30th production in August 2001. A list of the shows they are looking at can be seen on our website: [www.spsdw.com](http://www.spsdw.com). If you are interested in joining us next summer, either in the cast or in the audience please check out our website and let us know your views on these shows.

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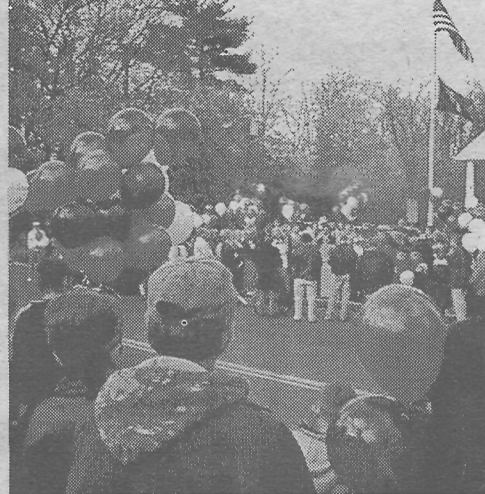
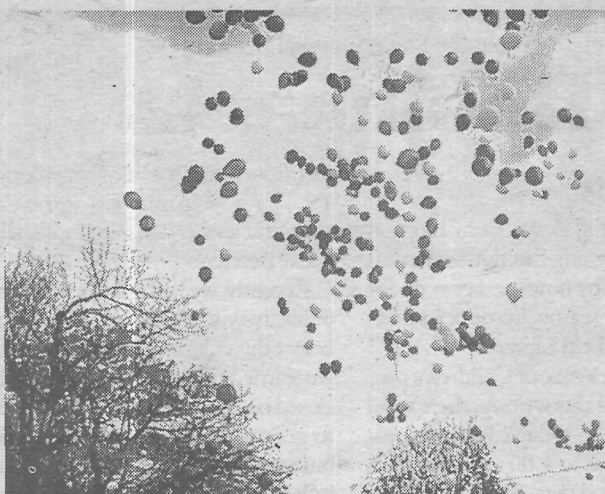
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The Annual Percentage Yields (APYs) are available as of publication date. The minimum balance to obtain the APY is \$500. For CDs with maturities of less than 12 months, the APY is calculated on the assumption that the funds could be reinvested at maturity at the same rate. For CDs with maturities of 12 months or more, funds must remain on deposit until maturity to earn the APY. Rates are subject to change and may be discontinued without prior notice. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal.

\*The APY shown for the 5-month, 14-month and 18-month CDs includes .15%, .10% and .15% bonus interest respectively, payable if you have a Columbia Savings Bank Advantage PLUS Checking Account. If at any time during the term of your CD, your checking account is not maintained, you will earn the regular CD Annual Percentage Yield.

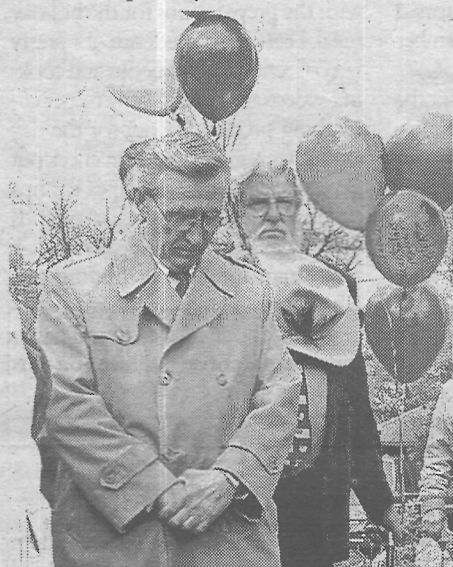


# Balloons Soar to Support

Continued from page 1

Veteran's Day. Despite the start on the long-awaited memorial, there are still much needed funds to be raised in order to see the memorial through to completion.

The National Funeral Director's Association has pledged to raise \$5 million of the \$25 that is still needed. McCrisky Funeral Home can proudly claim a role in this his-



toric event. A donation of \$10 gave citizens the chance to remember and honor loved ones who fought or worked for the war effort. The ten dollars bought a red, white or blue balloon that could be embellished with the name of a veteran or home front worker. Three hundred people attended the event and over 800 balloons were purchased. The sidewalk and curbs of McCrisky's became a sea of balloons and faces. During a brief ceremony, James A. Gustafson, director of McCrisky's, welcomed everyone to the celebration. Mayor Dan

Gallagher spoke and said the lack of a WWII memorial was a fact far too few people, including himself, had been aware of. Sacred Heart Pastor John Alvarado offered a blessing. Eighth grade student Pam Janizak, Miss Middlesex County Pre-Teen America, sang the National Anthem. The synchronized national balloon release coincided with the Washington ground breaking of the memorial.

Gustafson declared the day a huge success with a tremendous turnout, which included Police Captain Robert Merkler, Mayor Gallagher and the borough council. The event raised \$5,900 and donations are still coming in. Gustafson noted that some people forwarded their donation directly to the memorial fund.

Gustafson had this to say about the day, "I am very proud to have been born and raised and to live and work in South Plainfield. Saturday was an excellent display of how this town comes together to support worthy causes, showing me again why it is a great place to live and work. I cannot express how thankful I am for the support and cooperation that I received from the township, the schools and administration, mayor and council, and mostly the VFW and American Legion for their support and participation." James commended the volunteers from the funeral home. In addition to preparations at the home, they spent Saturday morning, inflating balloons."

Residents also had the opportunity on Saturday to enter a name into the World War II Registry of Remembrances, which will list the names of individual Americans who participated in the war effort. The registry will be on public display in Washington, DC so that future generations may remember the sacrifices of the World War II generation.

## High School Students Contribute to Balloon Release Success

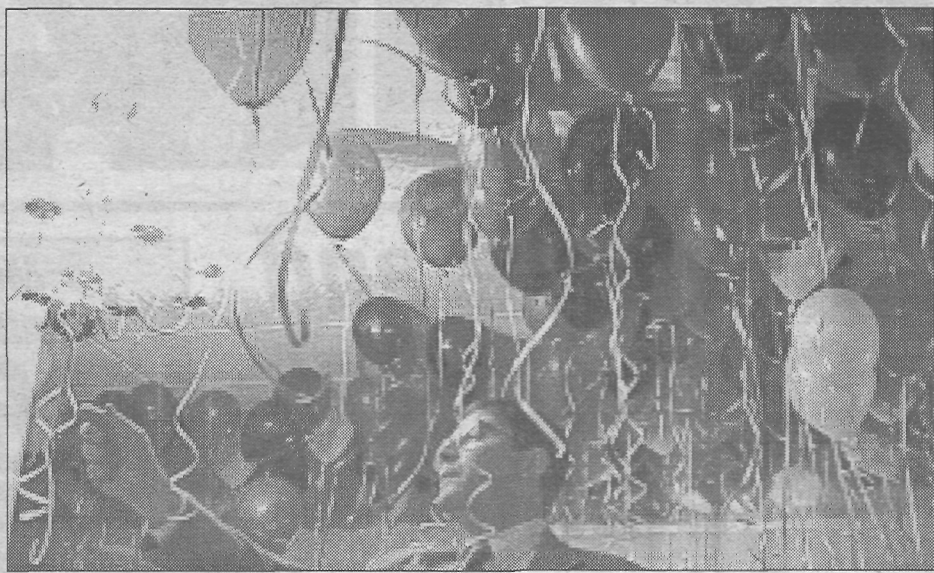
Putting in your two cents worth *can* make a difference today. Every little bit counts when it comes to a major effort such as the long awaited creation of a memorial to honor World War II veterans. On Veteran's Day McCrisky's Funeral Home participated in *Celebration of Freedom*, National Funeral Director's Balloon Release.



SPHS Assistant Principal Dr. Kenneth May proudly holds the 50 balloons sponsored by the high school students.

South Plainfield High School Jersey Club Advisors Tony Barca and Fran Flannery and the members of the history club can proudly say they had a part in making this long awaited memorial a reality. Together they organized a campaign to make students and faculty aware of the local fundraiser for the memorial and extended the fundraising effort to include the school. They asked each homeroom to purchase two balloons. A total of fifty balloons was sponsored by SPHS students, raising \$500 towards the total of the \$100 million needed.

Assistant Principal Dr. Kenneth May was on hand Saturday at the celebration to proudly release the high school's balloons. A form will be sent to Washington, DC recording the SPHS contribution.



Wayne Grenier  
Sales Associate



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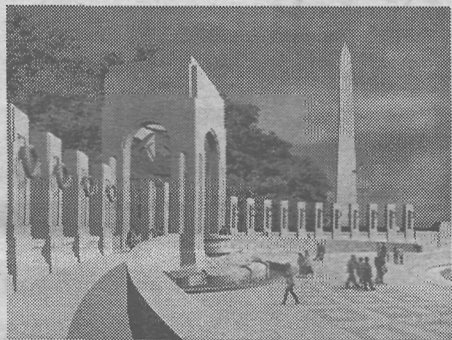
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# World War II Monument

Years of work on the part of veteran and civilian organizations throughout the country paid off when President Clinton dedicated the World War II Memorial site on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11. The design for the memorial was created by Architect Friedrich St. Florian. The memorial is funded almost entirely by private contributions. The goal is set at \$100 million. The proposed National World War II Memorial



is unique in that it will honor all who served during WW II. The memorial will support not only the military veterans but citizens on the home front, and the country as a whole who believed in the USA's response to the call to arms.

The memorial will be located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. at the Rainbow Pool site at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.



John Sheldon



Michael Sheldon



William Sheldon



George Sheldon



Edward Sheldon



Anthony Sheldon

## Marge Sheldon Honors Her Husband and Six Brothers

By Patricia Abbott

Veteran's Day 2000 marked the passing of more than 50 years since World War II. The Celebration of Freedom National Funeral Directors Association Balloon release brought lifelong resident Margaret Sheldon to McCriskin's Funeral Home to honor her family's service during World War II. She spent more than a few minutes filling out forms. Sheldon had six brothers to consider, as well as her husband Wayne Sheldon.

A single picture frame on the table with the applications spoke of the half dozen men who served our country during WWII. The many balloons in Margaret Sheldon's hands represented those lives. A newspaper article from a Plainfield paper dated Monday, March 1, 1943 was entitled, "Six Staats Brothers Serve Uncle Sam." The story began with the pride and apprehension of South Plainfield residents Alex and Mary Staats. Six of their nine children were members of the U.S. military. At

the time of the article Alex and Mary Staats, residents of 67 Front Street, were described as anxious about their fourth son Michael who had enlisted in the Navy. It had been more than three months since they had heard from him. Natives of Czechoslovakia, the Staats came to the USA three decades earlier and were proud to call America and South Plainfield their home. Seven of the nine children were born in the US. Five of the six Staats boys opted for the Army, but one enlisted in the Navy. Between March 31 and August 29, 1942 the Staats boys left to serve in World War II. They ranged in age from 20 to 31.

Margaret Sheldon smiled as she held the balloons prior to release time. One balloon was held up separately for our camera, this balloon was a tribute to her husband Wayne Sheldon. Her simple helium filled balloons represented seven men and memories from many years. Margaret released a multitude of tributes in the balloons bearing the Staats/ Sheldon name.



### Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.  
South Plainfield, NJ

Very Rev. John Paul  
Alvarado, Pastor

#### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:45 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 a.m.

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

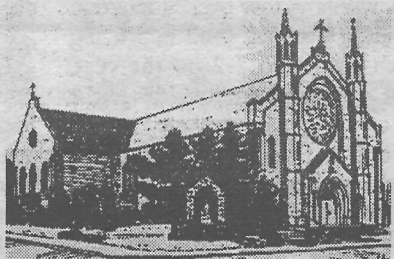
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m.

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11 a.m. - 12 noon, 5:15 - 5:45 p.m.

and after 5:45 p.m. Vigil Mass



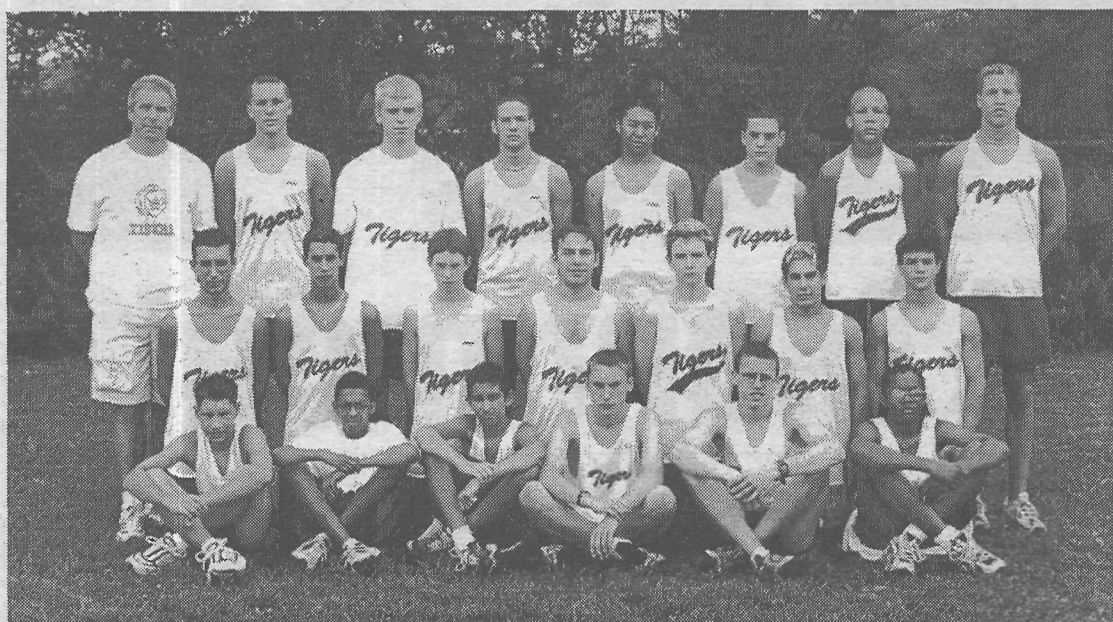
### Attention Veterans:

If you did not receive a copy of the **Observer's Special Veteran's Day** issue at McCriskin's Balloon release last Saturday please feel free to drop by our office at 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield and pick up complimentary copies.

If you would like to purchase any photos that you see in the paper as well as those that were not published, proof sheets are available for viewing at our office.

*The Observer*

# Sports



The team roster includes: Seniors Mike DeSimone, Rich Gebauer, Joe Nappe and Mike Edgecoonb; Juniors Joe Dezmin, Ryan Gianneshi, Tim Morgan, Anthony Nappe, Bill Olson and Martin Seiz; Sophomores Jeff Williams and John Wickowski; Freshmen Andrew Allegne, Jon Chiang, Randy Gemender, James Katjiafcaj, Tom Holowka, Galen Johnson, Kyle Kazmir and Calvin Seay; Coach Mike Capizola.

## SPHS Cross Country Team Ends Season 9-2

The SPHS Cross Country Team had a great season this year. With a 9-2 record, they finished seventh out of eight teams at the State Sectionals and 10th out of 26 teams in the Shore Coaches Invitational.

Last season, the ambitious team had a 9-1 record, finished fourth in the Sectionals, to which they advanced to the Groups and finished seventh in the Shore Coaches. In the Groups, they placed seventh out of 20 teams, falling short of advancing again.

Last year, the Tigers won the Blue Division, topping 11-year-reigning champ, Metuchen. It was the best season that they ever had.

This year, the Tigers missed out on recapturing the Blue Division, narrowly being defeated by rival Metuchen. However, in the GMC's, they placed fourth out of 19 teams, their best finish ever. Last season, they placed fifth.

There were other feats for the Tigers this season, despite some setbacks. Tim Morgan set the record for the most amount of

'Green Lightnings' ever on the team with 25. A 'Green Lightning' is a time of under 18 minutes on a 5K course. Mike DeSimone followed behind with 14, then Rich Gebauer with 13, Joe Dezmin with three and Galen Johnson with two.

Another big accomplishment was that Tim Morgan, Mike DeSimone, Rich Gebauer and Joe Dezmin were all named for Divisional Honors. Coach Mike Capizola was awarded Divisional Coach of the Year for the teams' dynamic performance in the GMC's.

**Results of Meets This Season**  
So. Plainfield 26-Middlesex 29  
Metuchen 24-So. Plainfield 31  
So. Plainfield 16-St. Mary's 47  
So. Plainfield 15-St. Peter's 49  
So. Plainfield 15-Monroe 47  
So. Plainfield 15-Dunellen 50  
Edison 23-So. Plainfield 34  
So. Plainfield 22-Highland Pk. 33  
So. Plainfield 15-South Amboy 49  
So. Plainfield 17-South River 46  
So. Plfd. 16-N. Brunswick 43  
GMC'S - fourth out of 19 teams

Out of 158 runners, Tim Morgan finished 12th with a time of 17:02, Mike DeSimone finished 15th at 17:13, Rich Gebauer finished 23rd at 17:42, Joe Dezmin finished 37th at 18:05 and Galen Johnson finished 69th at 18:57.

Fyffe scored on runs of 16, 7, and 10 yards, as well as a pair of one yard plunges, to account for all the South Plainfield scoring.

The Tigers were able to sustain drives with a good mix of Fyffe on the ground and the scorching aerial tandem of quarterback Matt Rennie (7 of 12- for 124 yard) and Senior captain John Foscolo (5 catches for 121 yards).

The Tigers finished the season 2-8. Even though the Tigers lose nine seniors to graduation, the roster is filled with many promising underclassmen.

### Football

## Tigers End Season on High Note

By Brian Cochrane

The South Plainfield high school football season came to a close last weekend and the Tigers did not go quietly.

The team traveled to Princeton for their consolation game and before it was over two Tigers had their best game of the season. Junior Andrew Fyffe and Junior Matt Rennie, along with the dominance of the offensive line, picked apart an overmatched Princeton Tigers squad to win going away 33-14.

### Soccer

## United Quiets Demons 4-1

This past Saturday, United once again hit the road. The team ventured to Edison to face a team that has caused the boys problems in the past. However this time our kids would not allow history to repeat itself.

The South Plainfield boys came out gunning from the opening whistle, with total domination and control of the ball, as well as the game.

With only six minutes into the game they had taken a two nil lead, with the usual leadership from the midfield from Vinnie Padula, Kevin Bolivar and Josue Llerena and the superb crossing from wingers, Chris Herbster and Justin Basilone.

The goals came fast and early from forward John Lopez. The first half was about to come to an end, but not before Vinnie Padula put a through ball to Lopez and

he outwitted the Edison keeper, left him in the dust and shot at an open net.

The second half was a bit sluggish with Edison scoring early. However this was all that Trevor Rastelli, Nicky Baldassarre, Steve Dvorak and keeper Anthony Moretti—the stingiest defense in the division—was going to allow, even though the Edison Demons had monopolized the ball in the second half.

The final nail in the Demons coffin came with a little over a minute left in the game when Kevin Bolivar dribbled through the Edison defense and buried the ball deep into the net.

By far this was the most exciting game of the season, the boys close out the season in Millburn next Sunday.

GOOD LUCK UNITED!!!!

## Blaze U-12 Girls Burn Montgomery Sparks 4-0

With a commanding performance from our defense, the South Plainfield U-12 girls traveling soccer team blanked Montgomery Sparks 4-nil this past Sunday.

Outstanding performances from defensive fullbacks, Tiffany Smith on the left and Ashleigh Gaspari on the right, sweepers Elizabeth Flannery, Jackie Miller and stopper Jenna DeLillo, led the way in shutting down all threats in our defensive third.

In the halfback positions Lauren Fry, Megan Boyle, Katelyn Conrad and Ashley Little did a great job handling all balls wide, while in the center mid position Dorian Bishop, Jennifer Copeland and Joy Maszczak dominated the middle. Crossed balls and relentless attacks from forwards Kate Hardy and Denise Lopez set the tempo of the game.

Finding the back of the net for the first two scores came from midfielder Jennifer Copeland in the 24th minute and right forward Denise Lopez in the 43rd minute. Each score was from two well-

placed passes from our talented center midfielder Dorian Bishop. The third tally of the game came from the aggressive play of Megan Boyle who in the 58th minute recorded her first unassisted goal of the season.

The fourth score in the 63rd minute came in spectacular style. After numerous saves which produced the eighth shut out of the season for goalkeeper Becky (Boomer) Keller, she broke loose. A 3-0 lead in the game allowed for a goalkeeper change, giving Becky Keller a chance in the center midfield position and in a dazzling and dramatic style she scored her first unassisted goal of the season putting the game out of reach for Montgomery. Final score South Plainfield Blaze 4 Montgomery Sparks 0.

Excellent team work girls! This win puts our record at a very impressive 7-1-1, with our season finale at home at Riley field this Sunday. Visit the South Plainfield Soccer Club at [www.soplfdsoccerclub.com](http://www.soplfdsoccerclub.com).

Submitted by Coach Hardy

## Typhoons Dismantle United

The boys U11 Typhoons kept their spot atop the division Sunday with a victory over Hunterdon United X-treme, 2-nil, improving their record to 7-2 on the year. The Typhoons, anchored by goalie Grey Coppi, displayed their strong defense by shutting out their opponent for the fifth time in the last seven games.

Every X-treme threat was met by the solid play of fullbacks Keith Heckel, J.R. Licato and Chris Pennisi and disrupted by the speed and aggressiveness of halfbacks, Brandon Ullom and Matt Helgesen. Amid some controversy at the 22-minute mark of the first half,

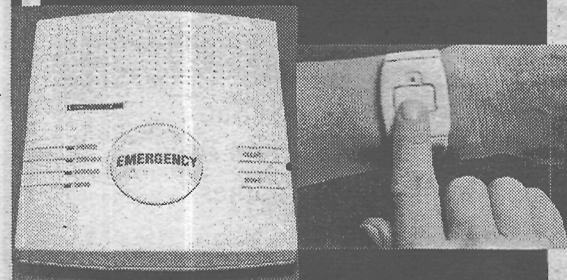
Brendan O'Shea scored an unassisted goal, while an X-treme player was injured on the field, to go up 1-0.

Play became a little more aggressive in the second half when Steven Guevara took a pass from John Polizzano through two defenders and scored his first goal of the season, which proved to be the final tally of the game.

Now the Typhoons will seek to avenge an early loss to the second place North Hunterdon Thunder and stake their claim to the division title this Sunday at Riley School at 1:30 p.m. Good Luck Boys!

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# Sports



## Middle School Hockey Team Ends Their Season Undeafeated

The Middle School Field Hockey Team completed their season undefeated, with a record of 9-0-2.

The team consists of 22 eighth graders and 13 seventh graders. The team was coached by Joanne Haus and Cheryl Hughes.

The 2000 team members are:

**Eighth Grade:** Rachel Cupido, Cassandra D'Urso, Melanie Foscolo, Kim Gaub, Allia Ghanim, Lauren Haus, Eva Humber, Jamie Jakubik, Katie Kelliher, Alyssa Maiorino, Christine Manfredo, Jessica Manning,

Jessica Miller, Stefanie Miller, Kathleen Morgan, Jacqueline Muglia, Kristen Penkunas, Cristina Sa, Jessica Senz, Alisha Stasenke, Nicole Sutherland and Kelly Thomas.

**Seventh Grade:** Dana Chepulis,

Kristen Dabrio, Samantha Defler, Courtney Eustice, Breanne Fore, Katie Koury, Brittany Patrusевич, Courtney Sacco, Laurie Sobel, Melissa Szeliga, Amanda Veinott, Morgan Walter and Megan Wilson.

**If you are a student, athlete or parent and would like to see your sports events in the Observer, we would like to hear from you! Call 908-668-0010.**

## Free Photography Contest Open to Residents

The International Library of Photography is pleased to announce that over \$60,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Amateur Photography Contest. Photographers, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 1,300 prizes. The deadline for the contest is Jan. 31, 2001. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free.

"Everyone has at least one memorable photo that captures a special moment in time," stated Christina Babylon, contest director. "When people learn about our free photography contest, they suddenly realize that their own favorite photos can win cash prizes, as well as gain national exposure," continued Babylon.

To enter, send one photograph in only one of the following categories: people, travel, pets, chil-

dren, sports, nature, action, humor, portraiture, or other. The photo must be a color or black and white print (unmounted), 8"x10" or smaller. All entries must include the photographer's name and address on the back, as well as the category and the title of the photo. Photographs should be sent to: The International Library of Photography, Suite 101-9009, 3600 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 31, 2001. You may also submit your photo directly online at [www.picture.com](http://www.picture.com).

The International Library of Photography is an organization dedicated to bringing the work of amateur photographers to the public's attention. You can view the work of over 1.1 million amateur photographers at their website, [www.picture.com](http://www.picture.com).

## From Sacred Heart School...



Some of the winners at the Sacred Heart School Halloween contest (above). Parish priests (below) Fathers John Alvarado, Thomas Ganley and John Primich came in costume to the Halloween celebration.



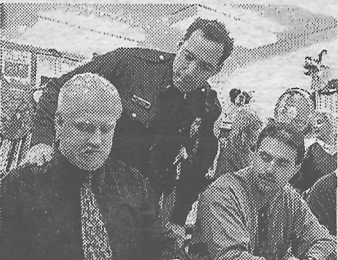
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## Obituaries

### Robert R. Wingert, 68

Robert R. Wingert died Tuesday, Nov. 7 at his home. Born in Elizabeth, NJ, Mr. Wingert had resided in Cranford before moving to South Plainfield in 1960. He had resided there before settling in Quakertown, Pa. six years ago.

He was a veteran of the United States Navy where he served in the Korean War. He served from 1951 to 1955 as an aviation store keeper. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Mr. Wingert was employed as a draftsman for Henderson Construction Co. of Raritan for 17 years before his semi-retirement in 1993. He returned to work part time in 1995, again as a draftsman, for St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, Pa.

He is a former communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield where he was active with many of the church's groups and functions. He was a member of their Holy Name Society, where he served as president and as a Eucharistic Minister for the church, as well as being active with the annual Funstival and FISH drives.

He was a member of the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203, as well as a fourth degree Knight with the Bishop Charles P. Greco Assembly #2147. In addition, he was a member of the Wallace Willard Keller American Legion Post #242 in Quakertown, Pa.

Surviving are his wife, Estelle H. (Henning) Wingert; two daughters and son-in-laws, Linda and Steve Turiak of Middlesex and Estelle and Allen Amate of Quakertown, Pa; two sisters, Peggy Boyle of Point Pleasant and Nan Herman of Boca Raton, Fla.

Also surviving are his two grandchildren, Amanda and Allen E. Amate.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his name may be made to the

American Heart Association, 2550 Route 1, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 or the American Diabetes Association, 200 Cotton-tail Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873.

### Mildred (Sutphin) McClary, 93

Mildred (Sutphin) McClary died on Wednesday, Nov. 8 in Genesis Elder Care Center, The Woodlands, in Plainfield.

Born in Reaville, NJ, she had resided in the Hunterdon County area and Scotch Plains for 58 years, before moving to South Plainfield in 1996.

Mrs. McClary was a homemaker and an avid gardener.

Her husband, James P. McClary died in 1968.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Della and Joseph Varga of Sunset Beach, NC and Mildred Ann McClary of Riverview, Fla.; three sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Joan McClary of South Plainfield, James and Nancy McClary of Punta Gorda, Fla., Richard and Ruthann McClary of Jackson, NJ; and her sister, Catherine Marshall of Reaville, NJ.

Also surviving are 16 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren and one great great granddaughter.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Vincent Callea, 79

Vincent Callea of South Plainfield died on Friday, Nov. 10, in JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Italy, he came to the United States in 1938. Mr. Callea had resided in Olyphant, Pa. and Trenton before moving to South Plainfield in 1956.

He was employed as a production line worker for the Celanese Corp. of Newark for 24 years before his retirement in 1974.

Mr. Callea was a member of Sacred Heart Church and the Knights of Columbus Council #6203, both of South Plainfield. He had served in the United States Army during WWII in the Motor Transport Command.

His sister, Rosa Vullo died in 1989.

Surviving are his wife Julia M. (Benedict) Callea; one son, Carmello P. Callea of Philadelphia, Pa.; two brothers, Michael of Trenton and Al of New Port Richie, Fla.; his grandchildren, Mary, Lisa and Onya, and his great grandchildren, Alexis and Keith, Jr. Also surviving are

many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Maria "Tessi" (Taddei) Campagna, 87

Maria "Tessi" (Taddei) Campagna died on Saturday, Nov. 11, in Wayne Memorial Hospital in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Mrs. Campagna was born in Italy and came to the U.S. in 1931, settling in New York City. She has resided in South Plainfield since 1933.

For a brief time, she had worked as a seamstress in the former Bruno Dress Co. in South Plainfield.


She was a member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield and a member of the church's Senior Citizens. She was also a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens.

Her husband, Joseph Campagna, died in 1992. She was also predeceased by her sister Nancy Valuzzi and two brothers, Nicola Taddei and Carmen Taddei.

Surviving are daughter Maria A. "Toni" Moleski of Goldsboro, NC; two sons, Joseph N. Campagna, Jr. of Missoula, Montana and Phillip Campagna of South Plainfield and a brother, Victor Taddei in Italy. Also surviving are 11 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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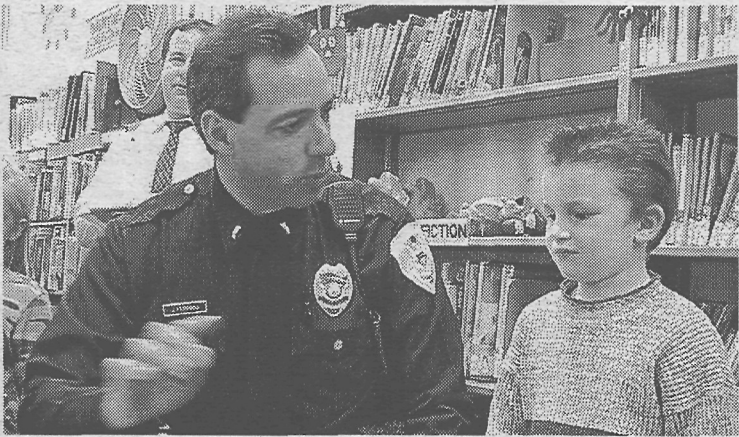
  
by Robert Hunter

### MARCHING TO A DIFFERENT BEAT

Jazz funerals in New Orleans, a curious mix of solemnity and exuberance, are an example of cultural differentiation of a universal event. Traditionally, the band meets at the church or funeral home and, after the service, leads the procession slowly through the neighborhood. The mood is generally somber and the musicians indulge in virtually no improvisation. At the cemetery, after the interment ceremony, the band leads the procession from the graveside without playing. At a respectful distance from the site, the lead trumpeter sounds two preparatory notes to alert fellow musicians. Then, the drummers begin to play the "second line beat." Solemnity is now shed in favor of more lively music, and something bordering on a public celebration ensues.

Every culture influences the way in which the passing of a dear friend or family member is observed, and while grief is a universal aspect in all, each funeral is unique in that it reflects the life and legacy of an individual. At the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue, in South Plainfield, we offer a wide range of end-of-life services, and will adhere to your specific wishes and beliefs in regards to memorial services, cremation, or burial arrangements. To schedule a consultation, please call 756-2800.

"Most of the people who will walk after me will be children, so make the beat keep time with short steps."  
—Hans Christian Andersen



## Trading Cards

Continued from page 5

card, they can establish a rapport. The child meets the officer and they are no longer strangers. They have a face and a name that children recognize and can greet in the future.

Ferraro, who saw a successful card program run in Middlesex, volunteered to coordinate South Plainfield's first program in 1997. Thirty officers signed up for the second card program. Each officer was responsible for obtaining a sponsor. Most of the sponsors were local businesses. Most of the photos were taken by Ferraro. He noted that it was easier to organize and run the program the second time around.

Thirty-three youngsters collected full sets of cards and many had most of their cards signed.

In addition to Kyle Junge, full sets were collected by Willi Hartman, Megan Hartman, Michael Mocharski, John Marcharski, Adam Flynn, Eric White, Joseph Ifrach, Anthony Muccigrossi, Allison White, Brian Billich, Jamie Parello, Lauren Parello, Mark Benak, Keith Horvath, Alex Rocco, Michael Krusinowski, Amanda Joe, Rebecca Joe, Jason McConnell, Tyler Darby, Danielle Pisano, Anthony Pisano, Shane Cosick, Elizabeth Maseczczak, Samantha Hunteerton, Sara Hunteerton, Julie Garbowski, Alex Horn, Nicole Cosma, Elisabeth Scoda, Ursula Buice and Nina Trujillo.

Congratulations to all those who participated. The program received a great response this year, earning praise from educators and parents.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

November 13, 2000

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on November 9, 2000.

Case #35-00/S—St. Stephen the Protomartyr—Block 177, Lots 13 & 15; 609 Lane Ave.—Applicant's request for a portion of the basement for a childcare facility was hereby DISMISSED, without prejudice.

Case #48-00—Timothy & Kathleen McGovern—Block 85; Lot 4; 2532 Audobon Ave.—Applicant's request for a side yard variance was hereby GRANTED to erect a front porch and attached garage.

Case #45-00—Charles Dimenno—Block 318; Lot 9; 437 Pitt St.—Applicant's request for a front yard setback variance to allow an existing pool and a

side yard variance to allow an existing shed, were hereby GRANTED.

Case #49-00—Henry Tempe—Block 58; Lot 21; 237 Fairmont Ave.—Applicant's request for a front and side yard variance to construct a porch was hereby GRANTED.

Case #44-00—Steve Littrean—Block 365; Lot 10; 05; 578 Arlington Ave.—Applicant's request for a rear yard variance for the construction of a wood deck was hereby GRANTED.

Case #34-00/S—AT&T Wireless PCS, LCC—Block 550; Lot 4.01; M-1 Zone—Applicant's request for a use and height variance to allow the installation of 12 antennae & equipment cabinets on the roof was hereby GRANTED.

Janice Muccilli  
Secretary, Zoning Board

\$33.00

November 17, 2000

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## South Plainfield Flashback

By Patricia Abbott

From the message board of *Classmates.com*. The topic—“South Plainfield Places You Remember.”

While reminiscing, SPHS alumni Joe Finnerty, Class of '72, shared this memory from his youth. He was employed by Haisch's Bakery when it was still located on Front Street, next to a grocery store, where Closeout Corner now stands (near Drug Fair.)

Joe recalled, “Joe Beck was a very old German baker who ran the bakery for many years. He hired my mom, who was Austrian, around 1960 or so. Another German bought him out and he almost killed the business. Eventually Dieter Haisch bought it from him.

He was really quite an amazing baker. I remember running the cash register on Sunday mornings and the people couldn't believe some of the

pastries he would make.

My brother and I were working there one morning. Our job was to fill the jelly donuts. Being the bored devilish creatures we were, we decided to see how much jelly we could squeeze into one donut before it would burst. Dieter was a very cheap guy, so he gave us strict instructions to put no more than two pumps in each donut. We managed to get about eight pumps into one without it bursting. Of course, we put it into the case to see who would buy it.

In walks a business-looking guy in a suit. He orders a lot of stuff and like so many other customers, he starts to eat “the” donut right in the store. PLAT, the jelly came bursting out with the first bite. My brother and I cracked-up laughing behind the glass door. My mom heard us and started cursing at us in German!

South Plainfield High School SADD Executive Board Officers accept the proclamation from Mayor Dan Gallagher at a ceremony held last month. Red Ribbon Week was a part of South Plainfield's week-long support against drunken driving. Pictured (l-r): Kayo Daimo, SADD Advisor Danielle Harris-Lacasale, Stephanie Prybella, Leo Campos, Mayor Daniel Gallagher and Nicole Luthman.



## police report

- A Morris Ave. construction site reported the theft of a modular aluminum shoring system panel and lifting straps. The unit was disassembled and weighed 200 lbs. The property is valued at \$1,800.

- A Plainfield Ave. resident turned in a handgun to police. She found it in the master bedroom of her home. She believes it may belong to her ex-boyfriend Alex Ortiz, aka Alex Abdella. There were six bullets in the magazine. The serial number on the hand gun had been ground off.

- A Maple Ave. resident reported the theft of his bike from PAL. He had placed it in some bushes. When he returned his bike was missing and other bikes had not been touched.

- Air Borne Express reported the theft of two laptop computers. Both had been scanned inbound but not scanned for de-

livery. Thirty trucks had access to the computers. There are four suspects. Police will view the security tapes.

- Ferraro Foods, Hadley Rd. report the theft of 11 money bags from the safe. The bags contained \$4,300-\$7,700 in check payments. The safe had not been tampered with or damaged. Four employees have keys. All are managers.

- Acme Supermarket on Park Ave. reported a shoplifter removed a \$70 aluminum scooter from the store. The suspect hid it under his jacket then fled on a bike.

- A Matis Ave. resident reported his mailbox was damaged and a plastic bird statue was missing from his front yard. The statue was found in a neighbor's yard. Another neighbor also reported damage to his mailbox. Juveniles are suspected.

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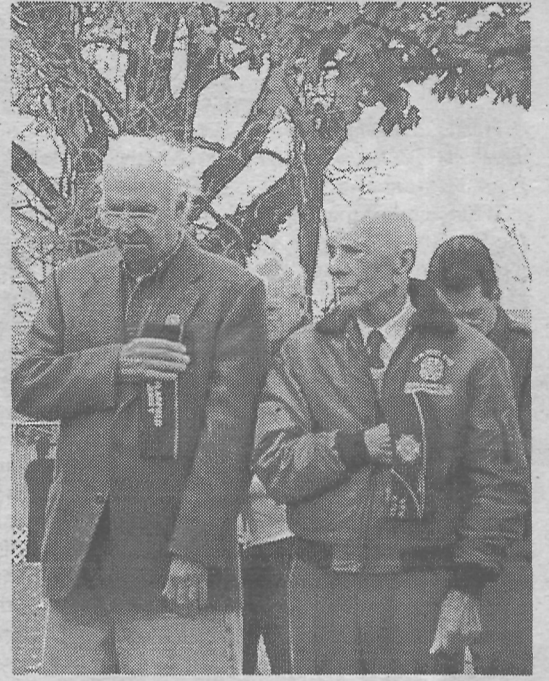
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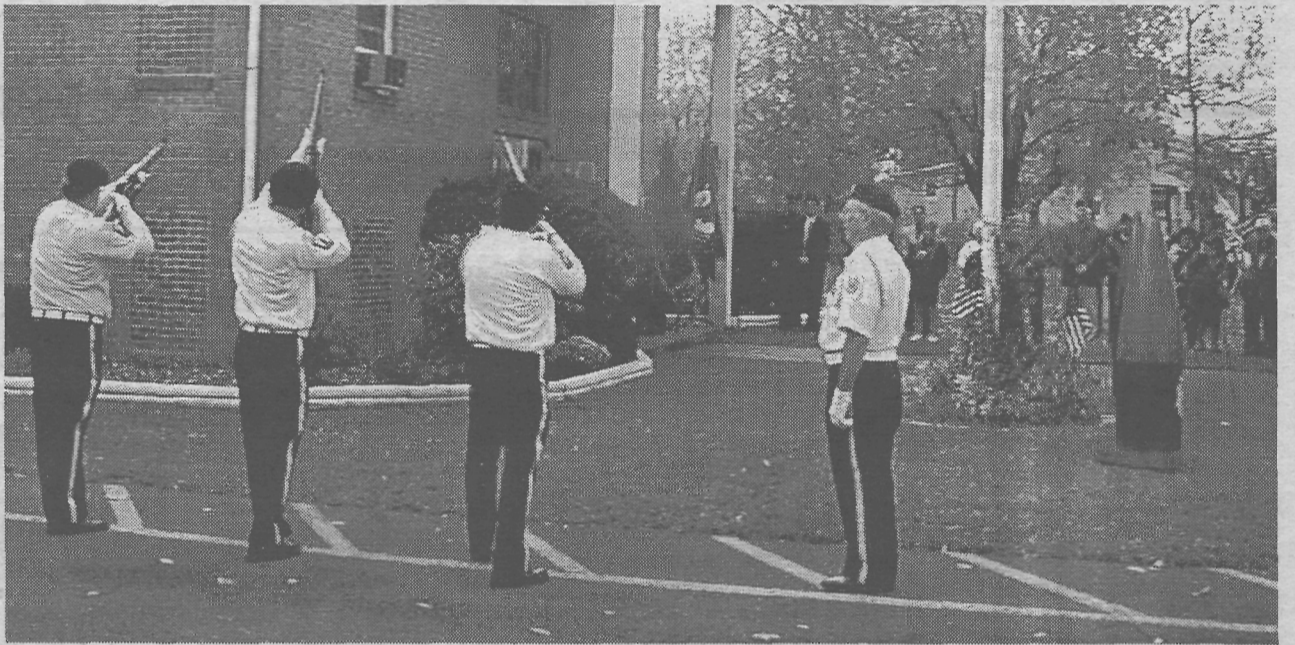
## Services Honor Veterans

*Continued from page 1*

monies for the services, explained that the VFW was formed to "represent the dead, by serving the living." Pam Janisak, a student at the Middle School, sang a stirring rendition of the *Star Spangled Banner* and was joined by the audience. She also sang the *Lord's Prayer*.

Attending the services were Councilmen Ed Kubala and Ray Petronko and Councilman-elect Bob Cusick and Captain Bob Merkler. Kubala spoke about his brother, Bob, who was killed in action during the war and how his family was notified by telegram. Kubala said it all came back recently when he went to see the movie *Private Ryan*. He had a hard time watching the scene of the car pulling up at Mrs. Ryan's house to inform her that her sons were killed in action.

Each speaker gave a special thanks to the veterans present and those who are no longer with us, for all they sacrificed to keep our country free.



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