

# PRESS & DAKOTAN

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## Sturgis

From Page 1

numbers. It kind of all plays together." He added that the collaboration also helps bridge the distance gap between the

## IMAT

From Page 1

Stewart said. "Sturgis the town itself can only hold — Main Street Sturgis — can only physically hold so many. But, as an area, it is still going to be probably double what it was last year."

The South Dakota Highway Patrol and Sturgis Police Department plan to add several extra officers to respond to accidents, deal with crowds and address parking issues, among other things.

Regional Health officials have added 30 people to work each day in Rapid City during the rally. They expect to spend about \$100,000 per day in additional operating costs during the event.

As for the ROC, Stewart said it isn't just the state's emergency managers.

"It isn't just Emergency Managers on IMAT," he said. "It is comprised of individuals from all the different aspects of emergency response. I want to say there will be 40 of us on the team. There will be military personnel there. There will be Department of Transportation (DOT) people involved. It is interesting to see how much effort the DOT puts into this, just for road

communities. "It builds relationships, so if we have something where we need to bring other folks in, they're more willing to come our way to help us out," he said.

Follow @RobNielsenPandD on Twitter.

Stewart explained the IMAT team is there to assist should Meade County officials need help.

"All the calls (911) will be handled through the Sturgis dispatch center however they normally do business," he said. "Where I will be working is a separate entity to all of that, we are there to support their people and help them make things run as smooth as possible. If the county has a situation that they can't handle by themselves, they will give IMAT a call. We wouldn't take over the incident — just give a hand, helping them out."

Stewart noted he is very curious to watch the flow pattern of all the people who will be attending the rally. "I am curious to see what it actually flows like," he said. "You can almost picture it as a mall, there is going to be a flow pattern. I am curious to see how that works. My shift is evenings and nights so, I am just curious because I have never been on Main Street during Sturgis. Where I have been the last few years was pretty calm."

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## Reunion

From Page 3

beer, so one of the soldiers made potato beer," Ray said, chuckling at the anecdote.

This year's reunion took time to pay tribute to the fallen soldiers and others who have since passed away. Friday's memorial service at Sacred Heart Cemetery was held at Joe Goeden's graveside, but the short ceremony remembered all of the men.

For some of the group, it was an emotional moment. For others, it was a time for quiet reflection.

The Goeden family gathered for a photo in front of Joe's grave. Other 818th Tank Destroyer descendants grouped together for a photo under the United States flag.

### SHARING THEIR STORIES

For John Cannon Sr., the scene reminded him of his many departed buddies. He represents the rapidly dwindling number of World War II survivors.

"It was mostly friends when I started (coming to these reunions), and now many of my real good friends have died," he said. "I still come because I've met the relatives. Most of them here were children when I first came to these reunions."

Cannon was part of the second wave that landed on Utah Beach in July 1944. He trained stateside with the 8th Armored Division and was later transferred to the 818th. He fought five major battles with the unit — Normandy, Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), Central Europe, northern France and Rhineland (Germany).

He received one Purple Heart for the Battle of the Bulge on Jan. 3, 1945. He received five battle stars and medals as well.

"The Battle of the Bulge was one helluva mess," he said.

When the war in Europe ended, he was located in Czechoslovakia — the furthest unit east of any American unit.

"Their unit was going to be shipped to Japan, but then the atom bomb was dropped (leading to Japan's surrender), so they were shipped straight to New York City," Scott Cannon said. "They were one of the

first units to arrive home."

John Cannon Sr. talks about his war experiences only with Scott Cannon and has given many of his war souvenirs to the grandson. The collection includes swords, knives and daggers, mostly from surrendering German soldiers.

Scott Cannon said his grandfather took more than 40 years to talk about World War II experiences and still can't discuss or watch some things related to the war.

"He can't watch footage or movies about it. It's painful for him," Scott said. "He shares the lighter memories with us."

Scott Cannon said he has conducted a great deal of World War II research, which makes it easier for his grandfather to talk about his experiences with him.

"He would go into details with me, not so much with other people," Scott said. "That's because I can carry on a two-way conversation, and he's trying to educate me."

Scott noted that many Army divisions credit the 818th with playing a major part in the European theater.

"You look at their websites, and a lot of divisions give credit to the 818th for saving them. There were certain divisions where the 818th bailed them out for several battles," he said. "(The 818th members) were a pretty notorious group, and they saw a lot of action."

Scott initially shot some video of his talks with his grandfather, but John didn't care for it. However, Scott has taken extensive handwritten notes about their conversations.

"If I was more of a writer, I would write a book. I plan to pass it along to my children and keep it in the family," Scott said. "When my grandpa, all this (information) will go with him, unless someone is there to pass it on to our children."

### KEEPING MEMORIES ALIVE

For many of the same reasons, Theresa Mahoney of Waterloo, Iowa, continues to attend the reunions. Her parents, Oscar and Geneva Gingrich, attended the reunions every year. Oscar was elected the permanent secretary for the reunion in 1978 and served in that role until he died in 2010.

Mahoney attended her first 818th reunion in 1975 but doesn't remember much — she was 3 years old. "I was told they had a dance, and I fell

asleep in front of the band and speakers," she said with a laugh.

The 818th veterans didn't talk much about the battles they saw during the war, Mahoney said.

"My dad told me, I saw things no man should ever see — and that was it," she said. "But he did talk about the good times. He would talk about being in England while on leave and bunking with an English family. He would talk about their meals and tea. It was the kind of things he didn't do as an Iowa farm boy."

The reunions provided an opportunity for the veterans to maintain strong bonds, Mahoney said.

"They had fun and came from all over the country," she said. "These men loved each other enough to keep seeing each other every year. They didn't have a lot of money, but they made it a priority to go to these reunions."

The bond extended to the families, she said.

"Their tie between each other as veterans was so strong that their tentacles grew out to the rest of us," she said. "They focused on making it a family event and got everyone involved. We had the tours (offered during reunions), and the fun was being in the bus together, talking and getting to know each other. We talked about births, marriages — and now, deaths."

The connection wasn't limited to reunions. The Gingrichs and Goedens attended each other's birthdays, graduations and other special events.

Even those who don't attend the reunions ask to receive notices so they remain in touch, Mahoney said.

The number of veterans attending the reunions has dropped dramatically because of death or inability to travel, she said. However, their descendants have pledged to keep the reunions alive.

"I think back to all the people we don't have anymore, which is sad, but in a good way because you got to know them," she said. "Now, you see the next generation attending. They are so proud of their dads and granddads, and they keep coming to the reunions to honor (the veterans) memoirs. As long as someone is interested in these reunions, I'm going to go."

### SHARING A BOND

Two women share a special bond at this year's reunion. Ethel Goeden of Yankton and Irene Ritter of Michigan are the only widows of 818th members in attendance.

Ethel's husband, Joe, died

in 2007, while Irene's husband, Harold, died in 1996. The women have remained friends since Irene attended her first reunion in 1969.

"Ethel took me under her wing," Ritter said. "The people here (at the reunion) are just like family. The ones I have met through the years are just outstanding."

In the same way, Scott Cannon has found warm acceptance at the three reunions he has attended. He plans to make it an annual affair and wants to bring other family members with him.

"This has become an extended family," he said. "Some children of veterans have married each other because they met at the reunion."

Scott has already added a family member to the reunion — his wife, Tina.

"We're on our honeymoon. We got married June 6 — D-Day. It just worked out that way, but it was a perfect weekend," he said. "We postponed our honeymoon so it would coincide with this reunion."

Scott expressed tremendous admiration for John and his military service.

"I spend every moment I can with my grandfather," Scott said. "These reunions have tightened our bond more than ever. He's my hero."

Robert Bowles of Tennessee, who has become the historian at the 818th reunions, agrees with the description of the 818th veterans as heroes.

"They were drafted and left their family and jobs. They didn't know how long they would be (in combat). It could be until the war was over," he said. "It wasn't anything they asked for, but they went and did whatever was asked of them."

The 818th veteran's families are showing their appreciation while their loved ones are still alive, Bowles said. "There aren't many of them left. We get together every year to remember what they did and how they did it," he said.

The 818th veterans deserve the nation's continued gratitude, Bowles said.

"None of these (veterans) consider themselves heroes. They say the heroes are the ones who are still over there (buried in the battlefields)," he said. "They don't consider themselves heroes, although the rest of us do."

For more information on the 818th, visit online at www.818tdbn.net.

Follow @RDockendorf on Twitter.

### Lillian Mueller

Lillian Marie (Duplic) Mueller, age 102, passed away on Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton, SD. Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m., Monday, August 3 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton with Rev. Dave Gunderson officiating. Burial will be approximately at 1:30 p.m. at Rosehill Cemetery in Scotland, SD.



Mueller

Visitations will be 6:00 p.m., Sunday, August 2 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton with a 7 p.m. prayer service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church. Online condolences can be sent at www.opsahl-kostel-funeralhome.com.

Lillian Marie Mueller was born in Avon, SD on July 26, 1913 to George and Etta Kelley Duplic. She was baptized March 31, 1929 at City Temple Baptist, Sioux Falls, SD. She was confirmed at Private Class, Yankton, SD in 1939 by Pastor Rehwald. She attended Washington High School in Sioux Falls, SD before moving to

Lesterville, SD where she graduated from Lesterville High School. After graduation she worked at Gurney's in Yankton, SD for several years. She then married Oscar Mueller on October 25, 1932 in Scotland, SD. They belonged to the Martinus Lutheran Church in Utica, SD. Oscar and Lillian moved to a farm outside of Lesterville, SD until Oscar's passing in 1970. Lillian moved into Yankton, SD where she again began working at Gurney's in the mailroom. After living in her own home for several years, she moved into the Sunrise Apartments where she lived for a number of years before moving to Walnut Village and lastly moving

to Avera Sister James Care Center. She had many hobbies which included playing cards, especially bridge and pinochle. She loved to dance, including line dancing at the center.

Lillian is survived by her son, Gerald (Jerry) and Deanna Mueller of Yankton, SD; daughter-in-law, Helen Mueller of Fresno, CA; her sister-in-law, Marge Duplic of Sioux City, IA; grandchildren: Richard Mueller, Rita Lester, Deb Davis, Mike Mueller, Tami Moran, Sandi Larsen and spouses; great-grandchildren: Kaitlynn Kool, Samantha Mueller, Keegan Moran, Tara Moran, Chad Lester, Matthew Mueller, Zachary Mueller, Candice, Alethia

and Nathaniel; step grandchildren, Jeffrey Moran and Kendall Moran and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Lillian was preceded in death by her husband, Oscar; her son, Harold; her parents, George and Etta Duplic; siblings: Grace (Herb) Bierle, Vera (Ed) Pullman, Russell (Aletta) Duplic, Kenneth Duplic and Robert Duplic.

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### Roger Copper

Roger Copper, age 82, of Yankton, South Dakota, died Friday, July 31, 2015 at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Arrangements are pending with the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton.

### Roy Glenmore Anderson

Roy Glenmore Anderson, age 82, of Yankton, South Dakota died on Friday, July 31, 2015 at the Good Samaritan Center in Scotland, South Dakota.

Funeral services are 10:30 a.m., on Tuesday, August 4 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Yankton with Reverend Steve Weispfennig officiating. Burial will be in the Martinus Lutheran Cemetery in rural Utica, South

Dakota with military honors provided by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post No. 791.

Visitation is from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., on Monday, August 3, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Visitation continues one hour prior to the funeral at church.

To send an online message to the family, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

### Andrea Huapapi

Andrea Lynn Huapapi, 48, of Wagner, died Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at the Mayo Hospital in Rochester, MN after a short illness. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Monday, August 3 at the National Guard Armory in Wagner. Burial is in the Holy Fellowship Episcopal Cemetery, rural Greenwood. Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner is in charge of arrangements. She was born April 17, 1967.

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