

It's The Soldier

It's the Soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It's the Soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It's the Soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It's the Soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It's the Soldier who salutes the flag, serves under the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who gives the protestor the right to burn the flag.

Anonymous. Submitted by a reader.

Yankton's Rueb Named Market Leader

Brenda Rueb, senior business relationship manager, has been named market leader for Wells Fargo in Yankton. She is based at Wells Fargo's 200 Cedar St. store in Yankton.



Rueb

Rueb has more than 15 years of financial services experience. She began her career as a cost accountant for First Dakota National Bank in Yankton. She joined Wells Fargo in 2002 and worked as a personal banker, business banker and store manager for Wells Fargo in the Yankton and Vermillion markets. In 2012, she assumed her current role in Business Banking. Active in the community, Rueb has served as treasurer for the local Sack Pack Committee for the past five years. She also serves on the Business Development Committee for the Yankton Chamber of Commerce and on the United Way of Greater Yankton Board. Previously she served as a Junior Achievement board member and classroom volunteer, chair of the United Way campaign and United Way loaned executive, ambassador for the Chamber of Commerce, board member for Parents and Teachers and president of the Yankton Youth Wrestling Club.

A Yankton native, Rueb holds a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

Johnson Shines In SDPW Competition

South Dakota Press Women, a division of National Federation of Press Women (NAPW), announced its annual competition winners earlier this month. First-place winners qualify to compete nationally by categories in newspaper and other communication media. Male and female freelance writers in communication media are among members of this organization.

Brenda K Johnson, freelance correspondent for *Yankton Press & Dakotan* since 2006, was recognized for specialty articles and for "Plant Exchange" that appears the first Friday of each month. She often writes about plants of the region and people who grow them. Plant Exchange Blog is a way to read further and interact:

www.brendakjohnsonplantexchange.wordpress.com

First place honor was awarded for two 2013 Informational Column entries: Plant Exchange topics led with "Garden As You Like It" interview with Loretta Sorensen and her lasagna garden methods. In the second column, Plant Exchange led with "Making A Plan For Watering" with Randy Bylander and Sharon Auch who discussed their irrigation plan for flowerbeds and containers.

Johnson also received a first place honor for two Specialty Article entries: "Raising Pollinator Bees" interview discussed Dot Blaha's mason bee project to enhance pollination for her orchard. The second article "Nurseryman Shares About Spare Time With Plants" interview with Jay Gurney discussed succulents and cacti and how they grow differently than other plants.

Johnson was also awarded second place honors in General Columns and in Environmental Specialty articles.

In all cases with the writing, Johnson attributes reader interest in the stories to the skills of the individuals who share their stories before any skill to re-tell them.

Top 10 Agency



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Auto-Owners Insurance is pleased to announce M T & R C Smith Insurance of Yankton, South Dakota, has been named one of the Top 10 growth agencies for the Company in the Fargo Region for 2013. The agency was recognized at a luncheon meeting in Fargo, North Dakota and at a reception with all regional associates, where they and other recipients were presented with a plaque commemorating their accomplishment. M T & R C Smith Insurance has represented Auto-Owners since 1958. Katie Noiro, Executive Vice President of Auto-Owners, thanked the agency for its support and its business, stating, "Their growth and support only help to make the entire community stronger and more secure. We are grateful they choose to do business with us." Auto-Owners Insurance was founded in 1916 and has served South Dakota since 1952. Auto-Owners Insurance is a Fortune 500 company and is the 15th largest property/casualty insurance company in the nation, based on written premium. Auto-Owners Insurance Group is one of only ten groups of insurance companies in the United States to receive the highest rating possible, A++ Superior, by A.M. Best, which is a nationally recognized rating agency for insurance companies. Auto-Owners is headquartered in Lansing, Michigan, and serves policyholders in 26 states.

United Way

Summer Volunteer Work Available

BY LAUREN HANSON
United Way Yankton

Are you a young person who's thinking about getting involved and volunteering this summer? There are many good reasons to get involved in local volunteer and service learning opportunities. Here's a few to consider:

Volunteering can help you to explore your interests

Volunteering can be an opportunity to learn more about something you enjoy doing. If you enjoy the outdoors, you can lend a hand getting our community ready for big outdoor events like Rib Fest or Riverboat Days or volunteer to assist a neighbor with a beautification project. If you enjoy board or card games, you can help with activities at local assisted living homes or at The Center. Small children in the neighborhood may want a friendly organizer to play games or put on a puppet show. Do you love animals? Our local humane society may need help walking dogs or grooming cats. Look for opportunities that allow you to really explore areas that already interest you.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES ADD VALUE TO COLLEGE APPLICATIONS AND WORK RESUMES

College admission staffs want to know who you are as a person. They're looking for well-rounded individuals who will give it their all, both within and outside the classroom. Potential employers want to know if you show up on time, can take direction, are responsible, and work well with others. A good reference from a local agency you've volunteered with can help them decide that you'd be a good employee.

IT'S FUN!

People who volunteer

often say that they get more out of the experience than they give. Giving of your time and energy makes you feel good about yourself and raises your self-esteem. And working with other volunteers builds life-long friendships.

YOU'RE SHARING YOUR TALENTS AND KNOWLEDGE WITH OTHERS

You have skills, talents, experience, personality and passion. Each of us is unique and has something to share with others.

YOU'RE ADVANCING THE COMMON GOOD

Sometimes we look at the

way the world is and think, "This isn't the way things are supposed to be." By volunteering, you can help make a positive change in the world. Each of us wants to live in a community where families are healthy and strong, where children are given the help they need to succeed in school, where people with disabilities and the elderly are able to live as independently as possible, and where people live in safe, supportive neighborhoods. By volunteering, you help make your community a better place to live, and you become part of the solution.

Whether it is important to you to solve community or global problems, advance a worthy cause or to develop as a person, volunteering offers many benefits in appreciation for the gift of your time and talents.

Finding the right volunteer opportunity can seem difficult, but it's not! United Way & Volunteer Services is here to help you get started. There are a range of different opportunities for people of all ages, with different interests and different schedules. Call 665-6766 or email unitedway@w.net for more information. Or visit www.yanktonunitedway.org, to learn more about local volunteer opportunities and the agencies that utilize volunteers.

Recognizing Sacrifice On Memorial Day

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story was submitted anonymously in honor of Memorial Day.

Six hundred and fifty miles south of Tokyo, Japan is an island approximately two miles wide, four miles long and eight miles wide called Iwo Jima. In World War II, Iwo Jima was the first native Japanese soil to be invaded by the Americans.

The battle for Iwo Jima raged on for a month. Approximately 60,000 American and 20,000 Japanese participated in the battle. As the result of the battle, almost 7,000 Americans were killed in action with more than 20,000 American casualties.

Approximately one-third (6,821) of the marines killed in action in World War II were killed at Iwo Jima, making Iwo Jima the battle with the highest number of casualties in the Marine's history. Twenty-seven Congressional Medals of Honors were awarded. The American flag was raised on Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945, the fifth day of the battle. Three of the men who raised the flag in the first photo were killed before the battle was over. Where is this all leading to?

It was February 1970 and I was 20 years old. I had just come from the enlistment office of the U.S. Army. I stopped at the local Sunshine cafe and grocery store to have lunch. When I walked in, I saw my uncle Earl, my father's younger brother. He was alone at a table and he waved at me to come over and sit with him.

With his big smile and gentle voice he said, "How are you Gary and what have you been up to?" I immediately said to him, "I have just enlisted into the Army." His big smile disappeared. I remember the sober face of a 6'3, 150 pound man going into a slump. I suddenly remembered he had contracted malaria while he was in the jungle during World War II. Prior to going into the Marines, he was the same size as my dad, 6'3 tall and 300 plus pounds, and all muscle. His sober expression was soon understood by me; I was going to war in Vietnam. Every night on television, the news commentator would announce the death count of dozens of soldiers that perished in Vietnam. In 1968 alone, almost 12,000 soldiers gave their lives for their country.

My uncle Earl promptly started to give me advice. Of course I knew that he had been in WWII, but never could imagine what I was about to hear from him. The first advice I got from him was, "Keep your mouth shut!" second,

"Stay in the middle!" and last, "Don't, I repeat, don't volunteer for anything!"

As we talked, he began to open up and tell stories. I felt as if a history book had come alive and was talking to me. Then after about two hours of conversation, the story of Iwo Jima came out. He told me that his Sergeant had always told all of the men to wear their steel helmet, not just the helmet liner that was inside. The steel cover is very heavy and uncomfortable. Many soldiers only wore the fabric liner. Because my uncle was a huge man, the army chose him to carry the B.A.R., the Browning automatic rifle. This is equal to today's lightning machine guns. They weighed about 40 pounds with a 20 round box fed magazine with no interchangeable barrel. The other soldiers only carried M-1's with seven round clips. The Japanese always tried to take out the B.A.R. guy first. And why not, he had the most firepower. U.S. statistics show that life expectancy in a firefight was about 17 minutes for guys who carried B.A.R.'s.

My uncle and several others were ordered to a hill on the island during the day. They were told to hold the hill at any cost. There was only one way up, a narrow corridor with walls going straight up, 12 to 14 feet on each side. The path was also about that wide.

He said, "We positioned ourselves in strategic locations and dug fox holes. We were told that the Japanese would not attack until dark. Sure enough, the first attack came about 10 p.m. Hundreds of Japanese soldiers attacked, trying to get up the narrow corridor. Flares were sent up by our troops with small parachutes, about 18 inches in diameter, to light up the area. It looked like ants on the move, but these ants had rifles and were shooting back."

The first attack lasted about 20 minutes and it was repelled. Then all night long every hour on the hour, the Japanese would attack, but were beaten back each time. My uncle said, "Each attack seemed more savage than the last."

"At about 4:58 a.m., I looked at my watch and suddenly, I heard a "click." It was the sound of metal hitting on metal, and then all hell broke loose. I felt like I was in the twilight zone. I couldn't hear and could only see out of one of my eyes. I looked over and saw the man to my left was dead. This poor soldier only had his helmet liner on. As I looked around, I saw all the other men firing their weapons. Then after a few moments, I came to my senses. What had happened was a

Japanese soldier had thrown a grenade just prior to the attack. A grenade had hit my steel helmet and then bounced off back toward the enemy. It exploded in mid-air!"

He immediately started firing his B.A.R. The man on his right told him later that the barrel of the B.A.R. was red hot. He could actually see the bullets passing through the barrel as he fired on the enemy. The battle raged on until the sun came up and the entire enemy had been killed. His squad was relieved at about noon that day. As they tried to walk down the 12-14 foot wide corridor, they found it was filled to the top with Japanese soldier's bodies. They had to walk over the top of them to get off the hill.

After a few moments of silence, my uncle looked at me and said, "You know that was in 1945, 25 years ago. You're the first person I've ever told this story to."

He also told me he saw the American flag go up both times. He said, "I was on the hill next to it."

I asked him, "Is it true about the stories that I have heard about the blood running like rain water down the hills?" He said, "Yes, it was true. The hills ran red with blood, just as if it was raining."

My uncle came home after the war and started farming only one mile from my father's farm. He farmed until his death at age 59. He suffered all his life from the malaria he contracted while he was on combat duty in the Pacific. I remember he never went hunting, he never owned a gun and he never regained the weight he lost serving in the war. But he didn't lose his smile and his laugh. Yes, his laugh, I will always remember it. It came from deep down in his stomach.

There is a quote from the Bible: "Suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope and hope does not disappoint us." But, I ask the Almighty why do some of us have to suffer so much? I will always remember my uncle Earl, not just for his bravery, but for his strength and humility. I always wondered why he picked that time to share his secret war stories with me. Maybe it was because I would listen or maybe we may have had something in common, being soldiers. I have never forgotten him or his stories he shared personally with me that day. What a horrific price past generations have paid throughout our history to maintain our freedom for us all.

MEETINGS

KEYSTONE CHAPTER NO. 33, OES

Keystone Chapter #33, OES, met Thursday, May 15, at the Masonic Temple, Yankton. Chris Bryan, Worthy Matron, presided.

Names of 50- and 60-year members were read. The altar was draped in memory of those who died this past year.

All Masons attending the meeting were honored by being presented and introduced. The Worthy Matron presented a reading in their honor.

Bud and Marilyn Kratz hosted the social hour following the meeting.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, June 19, at the Masonic Temple in

Yankton. The evening will begin with a potluck supper at 6:15 p.m.

YANKTON REGIONAL AVIATION ASSOCIATION

Forty-one members and guests of the Yankton Regional Aviation Association held a potluck meeting on May 18 at 6 p.m. in the terminal at Chan Gurney Airport. Participants came from Menno, Mission Hill, North Sioux City, Tyndall, Utica, Yankton, Allen, Crofton, Hartington, Norfolk, Randolph, and Lakeland, Florida.

John Lillevoid held a short safety seminar 5:30 p.m. to demonstrate flight planning capabilities using the iPad. President Lillevoid

welcomed everyone to the potluck meeting. Jacob Hoffner reported that 27 kids were flown during the Big Friend/Little Friend Young Eagles Rally at the airport on May 6. Steve Hamilton asked members to look for candidates for the Bud Becker Memorial Scholarship, which was established to help fund basic flight training for a young person. Hamilton also reported that eighteen members of the YRAA picked up litter around the airport on May 17. Petra Wilson talked briefly about her hot air balloon. Due to gusty winds, the Fly-a-Member activity was delayed until the next YRAA meeting.

The next YRAA meeting will be on June 15 with a

short safety seminar at 5:30 p.m., and the potluck meeting at 6 p.m. in the terminal at the Chan Gurney Airport. For more information about the YRAA, contact Steve Hamilton at 605-665-8448.

INTERCHANGE

Interchange met on Monday, May 19, at Minervas for their weekly meeting. Ann Clough, Interchange Vice-President, called the meeting to order with the flag pledge. Member Kathy Jacobs, Yankton Community Library, announced that the Library has kicked off their summer reading program. She also announced that the Library is joining with Yankton Area Arts, the Cramer-Kenyon

Home, Yankton College and the Dakota Territorial Museum to host "A Night at the Museums" on June 19.

Kathy Gerstner, Gerstner Oil, reminded members of the Mead Open House on Sunday afternoon, May 25, from 1-3 p.m.

Mary Lou Anderson, Anderson Construction, introduced the speaker, Larry Rupiper, co-owner of Rupiper Travel. Larry took members on a slide tour of the world. There will be no meeting on May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.



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