

Trauma Intervention Program To Hold Training

The Trauma Intervention Program of Merrimack Valley (TIP) will be holding an April-May training academy to expand our trauma response team.

TIP consists of an 18 member volunteer team that responds on scene at the request of police, fire and hospital personnel in our community and provides emotional and practical support to those in need. The first New England chapter is entering it's 14th year of service.

Anyone interested may call the office to request an application 978 975 8471.

City of Methuen Receives E-Government Award



(State House) –Methuen State Representative Linda Dean Campbell (D), accepted an award from Common Cause Mass on behalf of the City of Methuen.

The City received the award along with 71 cities and towns from across the Commonwealth for its outstanding web site which promotes open government.

In order to be eligible, the communities' website must include : the community governing body's agenda, the governing body's minutes, fiscal year 2007 budget information, the municipality's by-laws, code or ordinances, and if

applicable, city meeting agenda's and minutes.

According to Rep Campbell, Common Cause launched the Massachusetts Campaign for Open Government last year and since then Methuen has received very high marks, not only for providing a wealth of information regarding issues affecting the city and public meetings but also for providing a vehicle to contact city officials directly. The website is one of the most informative in the Commonwealth.

Rep. Campbell can be reached at the State House @ 617-722-2060 or through her Legislative Aide, Chris Dwelley at Christopher.Dwelley@state.ma.us

Rep. Campbell serves the 15th Essex District, comprising of the City of Methuen.

Hi, I'm Betty Tavares
I'm a member of Team Zingales
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Tom Petrillo - Valley Patriot of the Month, From Previous Page

for rescue. Suddenly, late in the day, they saw ships approaching on the horizon. At first they were jubilant, but then someone said they might be Japanese and fear spread throughout the survivors. Fortunately, however, the ships turned out to be Taffey 3's destroyers coming to the rescue.

Tom was eventually picked up by the Destroyer USS Raymond. As Tom lay in a stretcher on the deck, he will never forget watching the burial at sea of four fellow sailors who died after being brought on board. The captain said a prayer and made a few remarks, the bugler played taps, and the four bodies draped by the Stars and Stripes slipped into the sea. A total of 128 men were lost when the St. Lo went down.

Tom was finally brought below deck where a Navy corpsman administered morphine and marked his forehead. The destroyer headed for Leyte Harbor as Tom slept that night and the next morning he was transferred to a hospital ship. He was still in his wet and oil-soaked clothes when he remembers the doctors and nurses cutting off his uniform and administering anesthesia. When he woke up later, he was in a full body cast from his ankles to his chest. There was also a bar holding his leg casts apart so that his hip could heal in the proper position.

Another hospital ship, the USS Comfort, would eventually take Tom to a field hospital on New Guinea where he spent two months in a Quonset hut. Later on, the SS Lurline, a converted luxury liner, would bring Tom

back to San Francisco after picking up additional wounded in Australia. Following a brief stay at the Oakland Naval Hospital, Tom was put on a train to Boston by way of Chicago. Because of the body cast, Tom could not enter the train through the narrow doorway. A window had to be removed and he was passed through it to a special area the train crew had prepared for him. The trip to Boston required three different trains and each time a window had to be removed to transfer him in and out.

On New Year's day 1945 Tom arrived at South Station in Boston and was taken by

ambulance to the Chelsea Naval Hospital. On January 19th he had his third or fourth operation – Tom had lost count at this point. It wasn't until March that the doctors finally removed his body cast and allowed him to use crutches. On 19 July 1945, Tom Petrillo was discharged simultaneously from the hospital and the Navy. He was judged 60 percent disabled.

Tom returned to Methuen and, after a long recovery period, briefly worked at the Rockingham Race Track followed by the Arlington Shoe Factory. Then he got a job as a carpenter at Hanscom Field in Bedford

and would spend the next 20 years helping to maintain the infrastructure of the base. When he retired, he started the Petrillo Construction Company which his son, Kevin, now runs.

In the late 1940s, Tom was filling out some insurance paperwork at the Clover Hill Hospital in Methuen when he met Margarite Fitzpatrick and asked her out to lunch. One thing led to another and the two were married in September of 1949. The Petrillos have four children: Kevin, Carrol, Susan, and Kathleen; 12 grandchildren; and 12 great grandchildren.

Tom Petrillo is a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans Post 2 in Lawrence (Methuen) and a member of VFW Post 8546 in Salem, N.H.

Gunners Mate 3/c Tom Petrillo, we thank you for your service to our country.

Final Note: Last summer Tom got a phone call from a former shipmate that he had never spoken with before. It was that of Shipfitter and Seaman 2/c Louis Casiami, the last injured sailor Tom had put a life jacket on and helped over the side on that fateful day in 1944. The sailor and his wife had finally tracked him down after 62 years to personally thank him for what he had done so heroically, so long ago.

Photo Courtesy Bosamar.com



Final minutes of the USS St. Lo before she sinks off Samar Island

To nominate a veteran to be honored as a "Valley Patriot of the Month," please email us at valleypatriot@aol.com, or call us at (978) 557-5413.

Benefits for Our Veterans

Susan Piazza, Commander, DAV

It is important to note that with over one thousand World War II veterans dying every day, not to mention the death rate of veterans from other wars, how vital it is for spouses and/or family members to understand the benefits veterans and their families are entitled to after death, as opposed to those they are entitled to prior to death.

The deceased veteran is entitled to several benefits: 1) interment in a veterans' cemetery, 2) a military funeral, and 3) grave markers. Funeral directors are aware of these benefits and will assist you in this process, so be prepared to discuss them.

Benefits require that the next of kin prove the veteran's eligibility by producing a copy of the veteran's discharge papers. These are needed to determine the length and branch of service, and type of discharge. Veterans: you must make sure that your next of kin has access to your discharge papers and any award letters that the VA has granted you. The award letter will show if you have a disability, if it is service connected, and the rating of your disability.

Never, never send an original document, or an only copy. Always keep a copy of any correspondence and related documents sent with your correspondence in a safe place that your family knows of and can easily access.

A veteran does not have to pre-decease a spouse or dependent child (children) to have them buried with the veteran in a government facility. Surviving spouses, after 2000, who remarry can still be interred with the veteran if the remarriage is terminated by annulment, divorce, or death. However, certain burial conditions apply to national cemeteries.

Not all national cemeteries are still open. The funeral director or the next of kin must make arrangements at time of need. Under a prior program, reservations were taken but this is no longer the case; though the government will honor requests made under that prior program.

A funeral director normally coordinates the elements that comprise a military burial. These honors consist of the playing of "Taps," the folding of the United States flag, and an honor guard detail (by law, this detail must have at least two uniformed military members, one from the veteran's branch of service). The folded flag is then presented to the spouse or next of kin. A Presidential Memorial Citation is awarded to the family and/or friends upon request. Again, a copy of the discharge papers and death certificate are needed. Information and a sample document can be found at www.cem.va.gov/pmc.htm.

Funeral and burial for service-connected deaths. A death is considered service connected if the veteran died as a result of his service-connected disability or if, in the opinion of the VA, the service-connected disability contributed to the death of the veteran. The payer of a veteran's funeral expenses may be entitled to reimbursement of up to \$2,000. This sum cannot be combined with the \$300 funeral and burial allotment or the \$300 plot allotment. There is no time limit for filing service-connected claims. The government, in some cases, will pay to transport remains to the nearest open national cemetery.

Non-service-connected deaths. Claims for reimbursement of non-service-connected deaths must be filed within two years.

Reimbursement of \$300 for funeral and burial expense will occur if the veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation payments (or would have been, had it not been that he was receiving military retirement pay), was in a VA facility (hospital or domicile) at the time of death or was in a facility (hospital or domicile) being paid for by the VA at time of death, or was being transported to a VA facility



for authorized treatment or evaluation at the time of death. Costs associated with transporting the deceased from a VA facility (hospital or domicile) may be reimbursable under certain situations, also.

Plot allowances of \$300 are authorized if the veteran meets the requirements for the \$300 funeral and burial expense reimbursement. Plot is defined to mean a casket burial, a columbarium, or in-ground niches for cremated remains.

Total reimbursements will not exceed \$300 for funeral and burial and \$300 for plot expenses. If burial is in a government cemetery or a government section of a private cemetery, the state or government receives the reimbursement, if there was no charge for the veteran.

Headstones and markers for veterans are inscribed for free, and delivered free of charge to either a government or civilian cemetery anywhere in the world. But spouses or dependent children are entitled to this benefit only if burial is at a national or state veterans' cemetery. And, grave markers must be consistent with those at the chosen government cemetery. Private cemeteries may charge a placement fee, which is not reimbursable. The VA will not pay for plots or for placement of any headstone, marker or memorial. So, check with your own cemetery about requirements and fees for placement prior to procuring.

A veteran may be entitled to an "In Memory Of" marker. These are normally granted to those whose remains have not been located, are still unidentified, were donated to science, were buried at sea, or whose cremated remains were scattered. Some national cemeteries have "scatter areas" where one may actually release the veteran's ashes. To apply for a grave marker or headstone, call: (800) 697-6947 or go to: www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-1330.pdf.

The information in this article was derived from two sources: 1) Department of Veterans Affairs "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents," 2006 edition, and 2) Disabled American Veterans "Information on Death Benefits for Survivors of Deceased Veterans," July 2006 edition.

The above article is meant as a guide. As one can clearly see, sometimes eligibility and/or requirements can become a bit confusing. It is therefore always wise, even if this article implies you may not be eligible, to check with a VA representative, or a veterans' agent. Requirements constantly change and what is true today may change tomorrow.

Chapter 2 of the DAV will be restocking city halls in Methuen and Lawrence, as well as senior centers in both cities, with the DAV booklet. It will also be available upon request at (978) 685-0046. This particular booklet includes a section for people to record their vital information (i.e., insurance, financial, burial wishes, etc.).

Additional information may be obtained at the following: 1) Arlington National Cemetery. This facility has higher eligibility requirements than other national cemeteries. The Department of the Army handles this cemetery. For more information, go to www.arlingtoncemetery.org/, 2) State Veterans Cemeteries. Some require residency, some may require a fee for dependents. For more information, go to www.cem.va.gov/lsvc.htm, and 3) Department of the Interior handles two open national cemeteries, one in Georgia and the other in Tennessee.

Susan Piazza is the first female commander of the DAV in 75 years, and its current commander. She has been involved with the DAV over twenty five (25) years. She is also Past Commander of the American Legion Post 417, Methuen.

Taking Care of Our Veterans

John Lenotte
American Legion



History Keeps Repeating Itself

The axiom "History repeats itself" continues to hold true today as much as it ever has in the past. We all see the news daily about the debates in the halls of Congress and protests by citizens and students. And now we continue to have funding legislation for the troops being passed with pork barrel amendments and even worse, a timeline for the troops to leave Iraq.

We can debate forever whether or not we should have gone into Iraq. The fact is that we did and now we have to help the Iraqi people stabilize their country or we will have larger problems later on. This is so very much a reminder of what we went through during the Vietnam War. Yes, the protests were larger and the number of deaths were much higher. But we are heading down the same path.

We are not letting the commanders and their troops do their job. We don't see much in the news about some of the good things that are getting accomplished in building the infrastructure. Now we want to broadcast to our troops that whatever sacrifices they make, it does not really matter. The enemy will just wait us out until the troops leave and then create more havoc. They probably watch the news channels more closely than most of us do.

They studied what happened in Vietnam and figure that enough bad frontpage news will make the public begin to doubt and falter, that politicians will take over and, in the long run, that victory will be theirs. Except this is a very different conflict in that there is no regard for human life from the enemy and they have vowed to destroy us and our way of living. If you doubt me, think back to the events of September 11. It is hard to maintain the same intense passion for our country. But this is going to be what it takes or surely we will be struck again. I, like my fellow veterans, do not like war. It was not easy to see our own generation (mine was Vietnam) lose so many friends and family members.

And now it is our sons and daughters who carry on the fight. A much more difficult position when it is our own children in harm's way. Thank goodness we did learn some lessons and have shown incredible support for the troops. We cannot let them down now. To do so is to give in to the enemy and create more disaster for not only our children, but for their children as well. In speaking with both active duty military members and their families, they need and want our support. They cannot do it alone. Remember, they are on the front lines defending us and the freedoms we enjoy. Keep them in your prayers to come home safely.

As a follow up to my article last month, we continue to see the problems in government health facilities, both military and the Veterans Administration. This is something the American Legion and other veterans' groups have been pointing out for years. The only way we will get a positive, long-term solution is to let our congressional delegates know how we feel. And remember to let them know the Veterans Administration should have mandatory funding in the budget. We have sent this latest generation to do battle for our way of life. They need our support, our respect and the best that modern medicine can provide for those who need it. Remember this as we look ahead to the fall elections.

John Lenotte, the American Legion District 8/Essex County Commander and Post 4 Haverhill Adjutant. You can Email him at JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net

I'm Teresa Zingales
I'm a Member of
Team Zingales

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Join Our Upcoming Series on Women



**Methuen Councilor,
Debbie Quinn**

Focus on Females and our goal is to

A new committee has been assembled in Methuen called The Advancement of Young Woman in Methuen.

Our purpose is to have a

highlight strong intelligent woman across the Merrimack Valley.

Because today's teens have all the stress of school, work, peer pressure and the ever growing pressure of diets, teen pregnancy's drugs alcohol, it is important to help young women in the community to find positive role models and understand their options in the working world.

Together with my committee, Superintendent Jeanne Whitten, Methuen High School vice principal Jane Obchackan, Janice Hersfeld, the high school head of guidance and Presentation of Mary

Academy Principal Rosemaria Redmond. We hope to showcase different aspects of chosen careers and how they impact our families and our community.

Our first series is on journalism with a wonderful guest speaker, Karen Andreas, vice president of the Lawrence Eagle-Tribune. She will discuss her role as a head of a newspaper and her journey to the top of a male dominated profession.

Future presentations will include a series on Law with the help of Paula Porten a lawyer in the Merrimack Valley and part owner of The Valley Patriot.

We hope to attract a woman judge and a social worker to show young women the choices available to them in each profession and to teach them to strive towards these kinds of high level jobs.

Our teaching series will showcase the wide variety of opportunities in the field of education such as classroom teaching, guidance counseling, administrative opportunities and even superintendents of schools.

Criminal justice is an ever growing field many young woman are interested in so we are planning to have a female police officer, crime scene investigator, parole officer and other career levels providing young women valuable information to help fill to them in their college choice.

Woman considering working in trades such as automotive, electrical, and plumbing can benefit greatly from talking to women who are already in those fields to help them decide what field is right for them if they are more hands on.

Our children are a 100% of our future and it is vital to our community to give them the best information possible so that they choose the direction of their best pathway to achieve their individual goals.

Ladies of 11th and 12 grades will be invited to attend these series to help them with their college decisions.

Anyone interested in sharing an educational experiences that has helped them to achieve positive goals for young woman please call me Councilor Deborah Quinn, chairperson, Committee for the Advancement of Young Woman in Methuen. 978-390-5003 Or e-mail drq270@yahoo.com

Debbie Quinn is a West End District city councilor in Methuen. She is in her first term and can be reached at drq270@yahoo.com



Methuen Awarded Grant for "Safe and Supporting Learning Environments"

The city of Methuen and the town of Amesbury were honored at the State House as recipients of a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for promoting "Safe and Supporting Learning Environments" in their respective school systems. These grants allow communities to provide learning environments which help students that are affected by violence in their homes and neighborhoods.

According to Representative Campbell, comprehensive planning, coordination and action by state and local agencies to help children impacted by violence is critical. These children experience threats and challenges that are totally unimaginable to most of us — we must work effectively to ensure that they are adequately nurtured. The commitment displayed by our teachers and school administrators in reaching out to these children is most laudable — the right thing to do and of great benefit to us all.

For additional, detailed information about the grant, please contact both Dr. Maryellen D. Rancourt, director, Curriculum And Grantsmanship, Methuen Public Schools, 978-681-1329, mnrancourt@methuen.k12.ma.us; and Donna J Georges, principal, Academy of Strategic Learning Charter School, 9 Water Street, Amesbury, MA 01913, 978-388-8037, academy.amesbury@verizon.net.

Merrimack Valley Mayors Coalition is Formed

Mayors Support Municipal Partnership Act



LOWELL – Methuen Mayor William Manzi, III and Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan joined with over 20 mayors from cities across Massachusetts to call for swift passage of the Municipal Partnership Act filed by Governor Deval Patrick and Lt. Governor Timothy Murray.

The mayors voiced their resounding support for the legislation, which would provide communities with resources and tools to reduce the local property tax burden on homeowners, diversify local tax revenues, and achieve important cost savings to help balance city budgets and protect local services.

The mayors rallied to support the Municipal Partnership Act at a meeting of the Massachusetts Mayors' Association, a member group of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, held on March 28 in the city of Lowell. "The mayors of Massachusetts applaud Governor Patrick and Lt. Governor Murray for their commitment to our communities," the mayors said in a joint statement. "There are serious fiscal problems ahead for our cities and for the state, and the Municipal

Partnership Act must be passed by the Legislature so we can have the real reform that is needed to face these challenges effectively, allowing us to protect local property taxpayers, provide essential services, and grow our economy," they added.

The Municipal Partnership Act would reduce reliance on the property tax by allowing cities and towns to levy a local option meals tax of up to 2%, increase the local option lodging tax by 1%, close the gaping telecommunications property tax loophole that costs homeowners and businesses \$80 million a year, make it easier for communities to join the state employee health insurance pool if that would yield savings, have the state invest pension assets for about one-third of the local pension systems to increase investment returns, provide important relief for 13 communities facing a state-mandated classification shift that would place a greater burden on residential taxpayers, and grant additional management powers in some key fiscal and program areas.

**Amsi Morales Scholarship Fund
Second Annual Scholarship Fundraiser
Lowell Elks Lodge, 40 Old Ferry Road, Lowell.
Friday April 20th, 6:00 - 10:00 pm. Tickets \$10.00.
Speakers, Food, Raffles, Entertainment. Established in 2005 for
Lowell High School Hispanics. For information call 978-423-6197.**

**The Methuen Board of Trade has named this year's PERSON OF THE YEAR as
Methuen High Principal, Arthur Nicholson.**

**April 12, 2007
Guesthouse Suites, Pelham Street, Methuen, MA
5:30 PM Cocktails - 6:00 PM Dinner
Cost= \$35.00 per person
Call the Methuen Board of Trade
for tickets (978)686-8889**

Making Adult Literacy Count Network Looks for a Hole in One

For a golfer, it's never too early to think about spring. On Monday, June 18th at 8 AM, the Methuen Community Network hopes that at least 144 golfers- double the number from last year- will tee off at the Merrimack Golf Course in Methuen for the second annual Golf Tournament in support of adult education in Methuen. Themed "Making Adult Literacy Count," the tournament goal is to raise the \$20,000 needed to sponsor additional evening classes of English as a Second Language at the Methuen Adult Learning Center (MALC) for area residents. MALC administers classes to over 200 residents a year. Yet over 250 are still on waiting lists. "I can't do anything here until I learn English," says Hilario, an immigrant from West Africa. "I need a good job. My children need to eat." Area businesses are stepping up to the tee, providing numerous raffle prizes, sponsoring tees and holes, and even paying for foursomes to participate. One lucky golfer will win the grand-prize if he or she can manage a hole-in-one. Other prizes wait for the longest drive and closest to the pin.



Anyone interested in participating in the tournament, or otherwise getting involved, should call Dr. Shirley Callan, Program Director, at (978) 681-1347.

Dunkin' Donuts holds "Air Force Day"

Dunkin' Donuts Employees wear Air Force uniform during promotion to support Methuen man's decision to join the U.S. Air Force

James Moore
Staff Sergeant, USAF

The Windham New Hampshire Dunkin' Donuts implemented an Air Force theme day to be incorporated with a promotional "free iced coffee all day" event last month.

Methuen resident Josh Liversidge, (at right, third from left) a member of the United States Air Force's Delayed Entry Program and current employee of Dunkin' Donuts, proposed the idea of having an Air Force theme as their "theme of the day."

Liversidge brought the idea to my attention (and the attention of the store manager) of having the employees of the store wear Air Force uniforms as a show of support during their promotion.



Joshua Liversidge of Methuen, (third from left) with Sgt James Moore (far right) and Airman Basic Michael Dreyer, (far left) a 2006 Graduate of Haverhill High School, who was home for the Recruiting Assistance Program and is stationed at Spangdahlem AB, Germany with the staff and management of Dunkin' Donuts in Windham New Hampshire.



The Dunkin Donuts store manager, Adrianna Vasquez, was more than enthusiastic of the thought of the theme being an "Air Force Day".

This idea was accepted with great enthusiasm by everyone involved! The store manager, Adrianna Vasquez, was more than enthusiastic and implemented the Air Force theme for the day.

As they did last month, management, along with Vasquez, are going to show their support of Joshua's decision to serve his country in the United States Air Force by wearing their "Air Force uniforms" a second time, which is scheduled for 11 April 2007.

Josh has been a valuable team member for the staff at Dunkin' Donuts

and will be a terrific addition the United States Air Force.

Joshua Liversidge is twenty-four years old and is a 2001 graduate of the Greater Lawrence Technical High School, and will be leaving for San Antonio, Texas, to attend Air Force Basic Military Training on May 1st.

Liversidge will be enrolled in the Community College of the Air Force, working toward his Associate's Degree in Aviation Technology as well as his Baccalaureate's degree.



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Tuskegee Airman Luther McIlwain Honored In Washington, D.C.

Ted Tripp

WASHINGTON - On March 29, 2007 a grateful nation honored its black airmen of World War II with the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal. The medal is the highest civilian award presented by Congress and was first given to George Washington in 1776. The presentation ceremony was held in front of approximately 130 remaining Tuskegee Airmen who came from all parts of the country. Many of the aged veterans walked with canes or were in wheelchairs, but they made the effort to attend on behalf of their fellow airmen who are no longer alive.

Methuen's Luther McIlwain (Valley Patriot of the Month in the April and May issues of 2006) attended the presentation with his sister Glendora McIlwain Putnam of Boston. Kathleen Corey Rahme, city councilor in Methuen, also flew down to Washington to attend the reception following the ceremony.

Congressman Marty Meehan's office took care of all the travel and hotel arrangements for Luther and his sister. Brad MacDougal, an aide to the congressman, also went along to make sure that everything went smoothly without a problem.

The day started with a breakfast for the Airmen and their guests at the Renaissance Hotel and then they boarded a bus to the Capitol to prepare for the 1:00 p.m. presentation. The Airmen were first placed in a holding room where several congressmen came through to visit. Luther got a chance to speak with Congressman James Clyburn (D-S.C.), the majority whip and the highest-ranking African-American in Congress.

After the Airmen and their guests were seated in the Rotunda, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi called the gathering to order. This was followed by a presentation of the colors, singing of the national anthem and an invocation by the House chaplain. Senator Carl Levin and Representative Charles Rangel, sponsors of the original bill authorizing the award, then spoke on the merits of the medal and the exploits of the Tuskegee Airmen. Former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell also spoke to the group. Luther

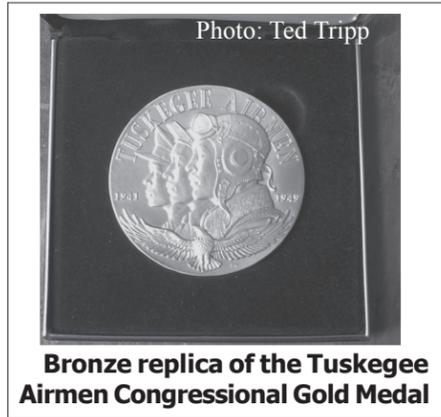


Photo: Ted Tripp
Bronze replica of the Tuskegee Airmen Congressional Gold Medal

McIlwain remembers one memorable moment of his speech. Powell looked directly at the Tuskegee Airmen and then expressed something along the lines of... I never would have become what I did if you had failed.

There were other speakers and then President George Bush went to the podium. He thanked the Airmen for their service and at the end he raised his hand and offered a military salute as Commander in Chief to all the Tuskegee Airmen who had passed on as well as those still alive today. He said, "For all the unreturned salutes, and unforgivable indignities... on behalf of the office I hold and a country that honors you, I salute you for your service to the United States of America." Almost immediately you could see the old veterans rise from their seats to return the salute. Even many of those in the wheelchairs struggled to stand, if even for a brief moment, to salute the president. Luther McIlwain was proud to return the salute. It was the emotional highlight of the ceremony.

Each Tuskegee Airman was given a bronze replica of the Congressional Gold Medal. On the front it says "Tuskegee Airmen 1941-1949" with a relief showing three Tuskegee Airmen and an eagle. On the back is inscribed "Act of Congress 2006 / Outstanding Combat Record / Inspired Revolutionary Reform in the Armed Forces."

Luther McIlwain was a second lieutenant in the all-black 477th B-25 Bomber Group and earned his wings as a bombardier and navigator. He was also a rated weather observer.

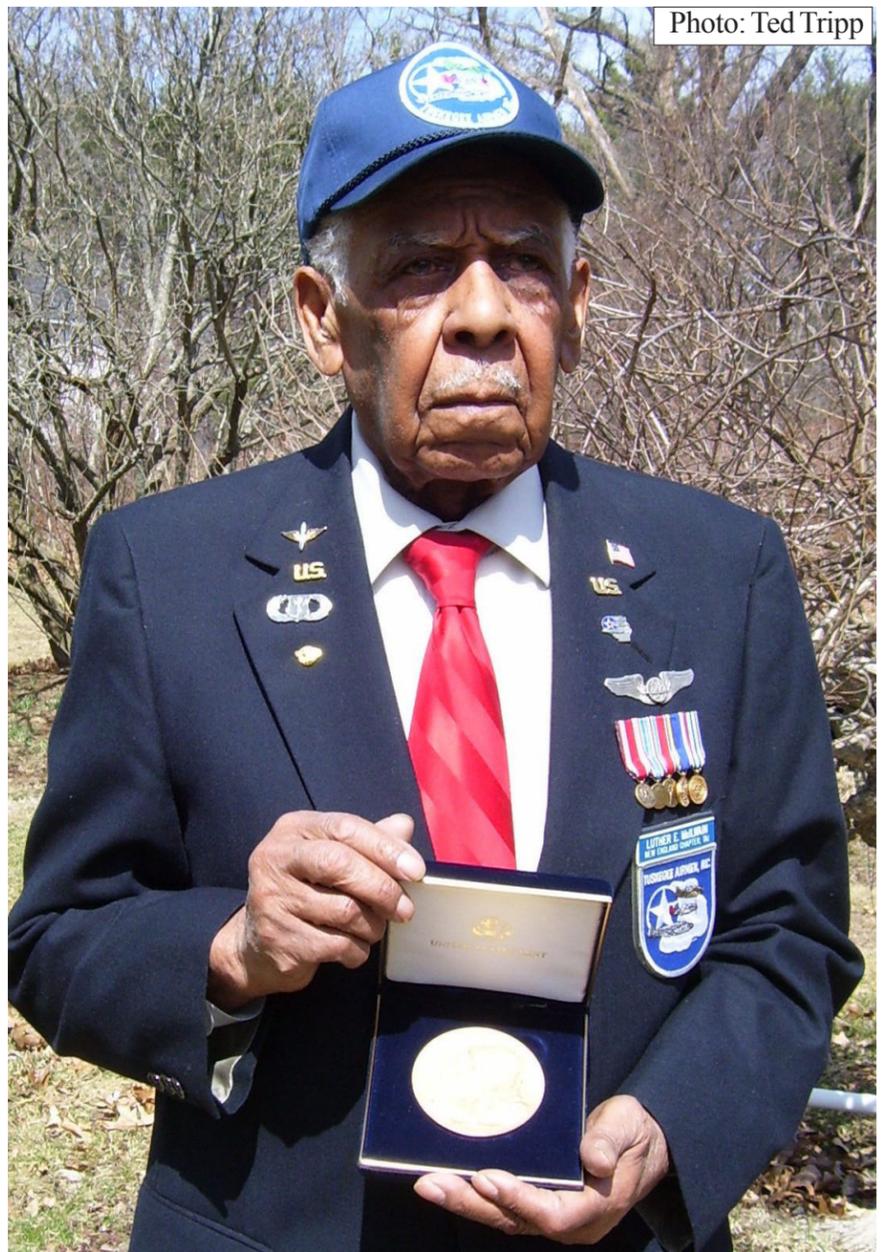


Photo: Ted Tripp

World War II Tuskegee Airman and Methuen native Luther McIlwain displays his bronze replica of the Congressional Gold Medal received last month in Washington, D.C. McIlwain was honored last year as "Valley Patriot of the Month" for both April and May of 2006. To Read more about Luther, visit www.valleypatriot.com/VP040406patriot.html and www.valleypatriot.com/VP050406hero.html. To read about other Valley Patriot "Heroes in our Midst" visit www.valleypatriot.com/patriotindex.html.

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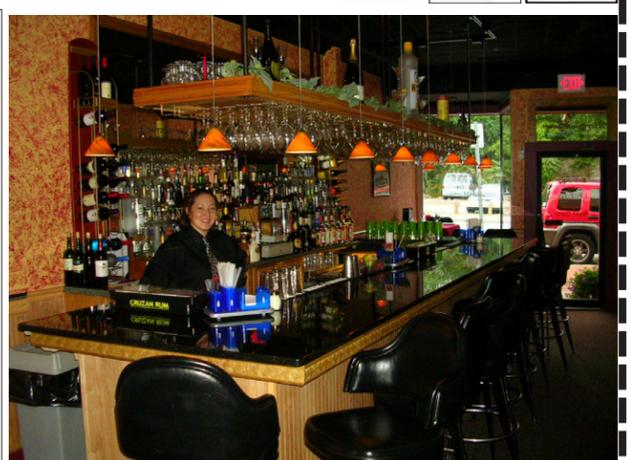


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Ziti & Chicken Cutlet	\$26.00
Ziti & Veal Cutlets	\$30.00



College Club of Gr. Lawrence

It's that time of year again. The college applications are in and now it's time to apply for those scholarships. With the costs of higher education being what they are, every little bit counts. The College Club of Greater Lawrence is offering eighteen, \$1,500 scholarships this year to deserving students.

The applications can be obtained from the guidance departments of local schools and are due on Tuesday, April 24, 2007. A scholarship committee is responsible for reading and reviewing each application and they carefully select the winners based on academic performance, leadership, community service and financial need. Students who are planning to attend a four-year college or university are eligible. There is an essay component where students must write about their personal and career goals. Residents of Andover, North Andover, Methuen, and Lawrence are eligible. Graduating seniors from Andover High School, Central Catholic, Greater Lawrence Regional Vocational Technical High School, Brooks, Lawrence High School, Methuen High School, North Andover High School, Presentation of Mary Academy and Phillips Academy are eligible to apply. Winners will be notified by May 11, 2007, and there will be a scholarship dinner on June 5, 2007 to honor the recipients.

What is the College Club of Greater Lawrence? Eighty-six years ago, a group of women interested in promoting friendship among female college graduates and in providing scholarships to students graduating from Greater Lawrence high schools, formed the College Club of Greater Lawrence. Since its inception, hundreds of local students have benefited from the benevolence of this club as recipients of thousands of dollars in scholarship money.

In the early years, the club relied on bake sales and other fund raiser to provide scholarships. In the early years, \$50 scholarships were given. In 1942, a \$100 scholarship was awarded to Miss Georgia McHugh who graduated Salutatorian from Searles High School in Methuen. She went

to the University of Massachusetts and later became an executive at Fireman's Fund Insurance Company in California. She died a millionaire at the age of 63. To demonstrate her appreciation of the club's generosity, she bequeathed a sum of money to the College Club of Greater Lawrence to be used specifically for scholarships.

have included pediatric thoracic surgeons, educators, and photojournalists. The membership is quite diverse in age and career paths. Members include educators, business women, retirees, and other professionals. Some women are currently out of the work force and raising their families.

The common thread is a desire to promote scholarship among educated women.

The College Club of Greater Lawrence is always looking for new members. If you are a female, graduate of a four-year college and are interested in meeting other women who share your background, this club is for you. The College Club is currently seeking new members who are interested in supporting local, college bound students. Yearly dues are only \$20 and there are only four meetings a year, as well the scholarship dinner. The meetings are always quite entertaining and would satisfy a variety of interests. Some past programs include story tellers, politicians, published authors, an origami master, interior designer, student and professional musicians, antique appraiser, and motivational speakers.

Club President, Linda Friel acknowledged that the club is eager to promote its scholarships as well as its networking and social potentials. One hundred thirty-six women are members. "Our students are our future, and the College Club of Greater Lawrence continues to provide them with assistance as they leave high school and move into higher education," said Friel.

I would like to thank President Linda Friel for her assistance in writing this column. If you would like to join this club, call Friel at 978-372-1027 or email her at lafriel@comcast.net.



Methuen News
Kathleen Corey Rahme
 Methuen City Council, At-Large, Methuen Youth Corps Founder



2005 College Club Graduates at the Wyndham in Andover

It is through prudent investing that the College Club has been able to continue and expand its scholarship program. Fluctuations in the market dictate the award amount and numbers given. It is because of the wise investments of the funds from the generosity of Georgia McHugh that the club has been able to promote college work and provide scholarships.

Every year the members are able to meet the recipients at the scholarship dinner. As a member for the past nine years, the students continue to impress me. I have heard their testimonials regarding their desired career paths and they

Kathleen Corey Rahme is the former Central District Councilor in Methuen and was elected as a city councilor "at large" last year. She is also the founder of the Methuen Youth Corps and hosts "Call to Serve." You can email her at kcoreyrahme@comcast.net

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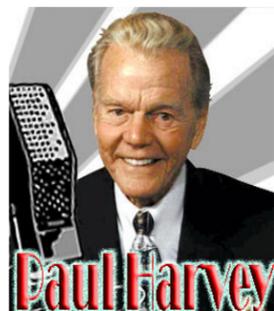
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