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# *The Saratoga Sun's* Salute to our Veterans 2018

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# Veterans Day events and activities

*By Keith McLendon*

Schools and organiza-  
tions around the area are  
planning to observe Veter-  
ans Day in various ways.  
Here are the observances  
we found:

**American Legion  
Post No. 54**

**Saturday Dinner**  
The Saratoga American  
Legion Auxiliary will be  
holding a Veterans Day  
dinner on Saturday, Nov.  
10 at their 403 Bridge Ave.  
location. A social hour with  
a cash bar will kick off the  
event and run from 5 to  
6 p.m. Toward the end of  
the social hour, the flag  
will be posted and the  
Pledge of Allegiance will  
be performed. To begin the  
dinner at 6 p.m., Master  
of Ceremonies Steve Wil-  
coxson will make a small  
Veterans Day speech. Din-  
ner, from 6 to 8 p.m., will  
feature sirloin roast, baked  
potatoes, vegetables, salad,  
rolls and more.  
Everyone is invited to  
come pay respect to veter-  
ans and join in the dinner.  
Cost for the dinner is \$15  
for individuals or \$25 per  
couple.  
The post would appreci-  
ate an RSVP which can be  
made by calling 326-9600.

**Sunday Buffet**  
The American Legion  
will also be doing a Veter-  
ans buffet Nov. 11 at 3 p.m.  
During the dinner a  
drawing will be held for a  
Henry .22 long rifle.  
Cost is by donation or a  
non-perishable food item  
that will be donated to the  
food bank.

**Encampment VFW**  
Members of Platte Valley  
VFW 6125 will be selling  
poppies around Veterans  
Day. Proceeds from poppy  
sales are used to aid Platte  
Valley veterans in need.

**Medicine Bow  
Eastern Star**  
The Medicine Bow chap-  
ter of the Eastern Star will

be holding a Turkey Shoot  
from 11 a.m. until the tur-  
keys are gone on Sunday,  
Nov. 11 at the Medicine  
Bow Community Hall.  
Entrants can win a fro-  
zen turkey supplied by  
Valley Foods in Saratoga  
in one of three ways.  
The first way is to be the  
top shooter in the target  
shooting event using a sup-  
plied rifle and ammunition.  
The second path to a tur-  
key is to have a high roll in  
a dice roll-off.  
The third turkey will be  
given to the low roller in  
the dice roll-off.

**Saratoga Middle/  
High School**  
SM/HS will be holding  
their Veterans Day as-  
sembly at 3 p.m. on Mon-  
day, Nov. 12. The school  
is planning on having SES  
counselor and Vietnam  
veteran Ron Hoopes speak  
at the assembly but would  
appreciate any other veter-  
ans who may be interested  
to show up. The school  
band will also be perform-  
ing patriotic songs for the  
presentation.

**Saratoga  
Elementary School**  
SES is planning a Veter-  
ans Day assembly at 8:30  
a.m. Monday, Nov. 12. SES  
counselor and Vietnam  
veteran Ron Hoopes will  
speak at the assembly and  
the entire student body will  
sing patriotic songs for the  
event.  
Darren Jennings, prin-  
cipal for both Saratoga  
schools, said he feels these  
assemblies are important  
for our students and to  
honor our veterans.

**Encampment  
K-12 School**  
Encampment School will  
be holding their Veterans  
Day assembly at 2:30 p.m.  
on Thursday, Nov. 9. Local  
VFW members also plan to  
speak at the assembly.

**Medicine Bow  
Eastern Star**  
The Medicine Bow chap-  
ter of the Eastern Star will

**Hanna, Elk Mountain,  
Medicine Bow High  
School**  
**Hanna Elementary**  
**Medicine Bow  
Elementary**  
**Elk Mountain  
Elementary**  
HEM will be serving a  
Veterans Day breakfast  
starting at 8 a.m. on Fri-  
day, Nov. 16 in the school's  
multipurpose room.  
After the breakfast, the  
school will be holding a  
commemorative assembly  
which is expected to fea-  
ture a guest speaker from  
F.E. Warren Air Force Base  
in Cheyenne.  
Students from Hanna  
Elementary, Elk Mountain  
Elementary and Medicine  
Bow Elementary will be  
coming to the high school  
in Hanna to find out the  
winners of several projects  
the elementary students  
have been involved with.  
Kindergarten through  
second graders were tasked  
with a patriotically-themed  
coloring project, third and  
fourth graders are creating  
patriotic posters. Those  
creations will be on display  
at the veterans breakfast.  
Fifth and sixth graders  
were assigned patriotic es-  
says and the best of those  
essays will be read at the  
assembly.  
Grades 7 through 12 have  
been assigned visual dis-  
plays with a "patriotism"  
theme. These displays may  
be anything from a Pow-  
erpoint presentation to  
posters or dioramas. These  
will also be presented at  
the breakfast.  
HEM coordinator for this  
event, Crystal Clark, said,  
"Getting kids involved in  
these types of research  
and projects help them  
respect the veterans when  
they arrive." Clark added,  
"That bit of background  
information helps kids  
realize veterans day is not  
just another day on the  
calendar."

**Hanna area schools**

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UNITED STATES ARMY

Job learned becomes career

Army trains Howe in mechanics who brings skills home for lifelong employment

**By Keith McLendon**

Edmund “Ed” Howe, Jr. had just graduated high school in 1968 and was waiting on the draft when he decided to join the military.

Having made the decision, Howe joined two of his friends, Mack Miller and Tommy Westring, in going down to Denver to take their physicals.

After the physicals, the trio came home to await result notifications.

While waiting for that notice, Howe decided to talk to the Navy recruiter. At the time the Navy recruiter was busy with someone else so Howe said he walked down the street and visited the Army recruiter.

Howe said during that conversation the “down-to-Earth” recruiter tried to convince Howe to wait to be drafted saying that he would “hate the Army.”

Despite the recruiter advising waiting to be drafted because “you can do your two years and you’re done,” Howe made the choice to join anyway.

Said Howe, “ I didn’t have anything going on, so I went ahead and joined up.” After that, Howe called Miller who in turn contacted Westring.

The upshot was that the three friends joined the Army together and ended up completing their basic training together at Fort Lewis, Wash.

After basic Miller and Westring were sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. and private first class Howe was sent to West Virginia to learn how to repair heavy equipment.

After mechanic’s school, Howe was sent to a base in Karlsruhe, Germany. Howe spent nearly a year there working in the motor pool when he was transferred to Balock, Vietnam.

Balock is located about halfway between Cam Ranh Bay on the southeast bend of Vietnam and the inland base at Long Binh.

While there Howe was at-



Ed Howe today.

Photo by Keith McLendon

tached to the motor pool for a road construction crew. In his time there, Howe maintained and repaired equipment as the crew worked on a 20-mile supply route that began as a single-lane highway with construction continuing until the road was a “nice double-lane highway.”

Howe and two others then

**“You can get training for anything you want to do in the military. Somehow it’s related to something in civilian life.”**

Ed Howe  
Army Veteran


took part in decommissioning the unit before Howe got an early out from the service.

Howe was discharged from the Army as a Specialist 5th class and returned to Wyoming where he worked in Rawlins on road construction and railroad rail bed work. Howe also helped working on heavy equipment when the Laramie lagoons were redone.

Asked about the training he received, Howe commented, “You can get training for anything you want to do in the military. Somehow it’s related to something in civilian life,” and continued, “It doesn’t hurt anyone to get it. It could do a lot of kids some good.”

When asked about the discipline in the service Howe said, “That’s the part the recruiter was getting at; ‘You won’t like the discipline. You have to get up. You have to do this you have to do that.’” Howe said that didn’t bother him because he was used to that kind of regimen at home in Wyoming.






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UNITED STATES NAVY



# Hills on the sea



Photo courtesy Howard Hill

Wyatt Hill poses with his F18 at Able Air Station in Norfolk, Va. before being assigned to the aircraft carrier the U.S.S. Harry Truman.

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## Hill in the cold

Naval Academy graduate now deployed in the Arctic

By Keith McLendon

Wyatt Hill graduated from the Naval Academy in 2014 and trained at Able Air Station in Norfolk, Va. in the "Red Rippers," the oldest air squadron in the Navy. Hill is now deployed on the carrier U.S.S. Harry Truman which is currently positioned in the Arctic off the coast of Iceland. This positioning marks the first time in 30 years the United States Navy has had a presence in the Arctic. Hill now holds the rank of Lieutenant and serves as a Naval flight Officer on an F18F Super Hornet fighter jet.

## Hill in the top dozen

Marshall Hill set to graduate NROTC in the top twelve nationally

By Keith McLendon

Marshall Hill is currently in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) at Jacksonville University in Florida. Hill will be commissioned on Dec. 15 and will join the Surface Warfare division of the Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer and would like to join a Destroyer. Hill will graduate 12th overall in the National NROTC program.

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Photo courtesy Howard Hill

Midshipman Marshall Hill at the family's former home in Encampment for the Christmas of 2017.





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

# Auxiliary support

Vancine Sherr works to keep units in Rawlins and Medicine Bow functioning together

**By Mike Armstrong**

Vancine Sherr, president of American Legion Auxiliary William Horne Unit 64 in Medicine Bow, said she has been around veterans her entire life.

“I have a deep military background, as my grandfathers, a great grandfather, my father and my brother were all veterans,” Sherr said. “Along with many uncles and cousins. and my husband’s family is also full of veterans.”

Sherr, who was born and raised in Rawlins, has always had high regard for veterans.

“We as kids were raised to respect the veterans and, as we got older, we saw how the veterans were in need of our help,” Sherr said. “Not just our family veterans, but all veterans.”

Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the United States’ largest women’s patriotic service organization. The membership is nearly 800,000 and local American Legion Auxiliary units have a presence in more than 9,000 communities throughout the nation. The Department of Wyoming is comprised of 43 Units around the State of Wyoming. Wyoming currently has 3,471 members

Sherr said her involvement came to be through her husband, Mike.

“I got involved with the American Legion Auxiliary because of my husband who, at the time I joined, was the Commander of the Rawlins American Legion Post 122. That was in 2011,” Sherr said. “I was elected president of the then active unit 122 in 2012 and held that position until 2014.”

Sherr said her move to Medicine Bow happened through sad circumstances for unit 122.

“That unit was dissolved,” Sherr said. “Myself along with twelve others trans-

ferred to unit 64 in Medicine Bow before unit 122 shut down. In 2015, I was elected as President of unit 64—an office I still hold today.”

According to Sherr, the American Legion Auxiliary’s mission is to support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by trying to help improve the lives of veterans, active military and their families, both at home and abroad.

“As a unit, the ladies in Medicine Bow do VA (Veteran Administration) hospital visits, a cookie month which is September, avenue of flags, holiday turkeys, assist with the local turkey shoots and do some fund raising events for local veterans,” Sherr said. “There are a few of the older ladies in Medicine Bow, Joyce Menke and Bonnie Culver, and a few others that are the backbone of the unit. They have been trying to recruit more younger members for them to pass the torch to.”

Sherr said it has not been easy to get new members and she finds this very sad.

“If it wasn’t for the vets, we wouldn’t have the freedoms we do,” Sherr said. “We might not even be able to vote and have a democracy.”

Sherr explained what the ladies in Rawlins did for their community although they work with Medicine Bow too.

“The ladies in Rawlins participate in color guards, honor guards at military funerals, and in the firing squads, they also help place and retrieve over 800 flags on Memorial Day at the cemetery. They assist with the setting of military headstones, participate in American Legion baseball, local parades, assisting veterans in need of fuel, food and, at times, lodging,” Sherr said. “We all try to advance our membership and several of us work on Girls State and child welfare programs for the unit and the American



Photos courtesy of Vancine Sherr

**Vancine Sherr holds the American flag at a veteran’s funeral.**



**Vancine and husband, Mike, work together to set headstones for veteran’s families.**

Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming.”

She said although the two towns have some distance between them, the merger works.

“We all work together for the unit even though we are divided by 50 plus miles,” Sherr said. “There are deep family ties between both groups that keep us strong.”

She said the members of the American Legion Auxiliary are involved to help and assist all veterans in as many ways as possible.

“Whether its the veteran themselves, or their families, our duties are to help them in a community, a state, and our nation,” Sherr said. “We are a family driven organi-

zation designed to stand by our military family as well as our own.”

On Saturday Sherr will be passing out cookies to Vets in Rawlins as other community members from American Legion Auxiliary from Unit 64 will pass out treats in Hanna, Medicine Bow and Elk Mountain.

## A symbol of respect

Buddy Poppies sold to benefit needy and disabled veterans

**Staff Report**

Veteran’s Day is upon us and the Veterans of Foreign Wars members will be selling Buddy Poppies.

The VFW had its first poppy distribution before Memorial Day in 1922 and it was the first veterans’ organization to have a nationwide distribution.

The poppy became the official memorial flower of the VFW in the United States shortly thereafter, according to the VFW website.

VFW Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled and needy veterans who are paid for their work with some form of financial assistance.

In 1924, Buddy Poppies were assembled in a Buddy Poppy factory in Pittsburgh.

In Feb. 1924, the VFW registered the name “Buddy Poppy” with the U.S. Patent Office and a certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting the VFW all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers.

The VFW trademark guarantees that all poppies bearing the name “Buddy Poppies”, which have the VFW label, are genuine products of the work of disabled and needy veterans.

Today, the VFW Buddy Poppies are still assembled

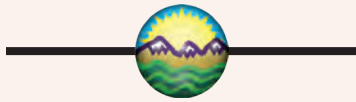
by disabled and needy veterans in VA hospitals.

In the Platte Valley, it has been tradition for the VFW to sell Buddy Poppies near Veterans Day.

The American Legion traditionally sells poppies in the Platte Valley around Memorial Day.

The American Legion has used their Poppy Program to raise community awareness and respect for our veterans since its inception since 1921, according to the American Legion Auxiliary website.

Millions of red crepe paper poppies are distributed for donations. These poppies







UNITED STATES ARMY

Accounting from Seoul to Heilbronn

Wood served in Korea, Germany before coming to Wyoming

By Joshua Wood

Elizabeth “Liz” Wood comes from a family of veterans. Her father and paternal grandfather served in the United States Army and her maternal grandfather served in the United States Navy. Wood, who at the time was still known as Elizabeth Callison, continued the family tradition of service when she enlisted in the U.S. Army and went active duty on January 25, 1982.

Following her basic training in Fort Jackson, S.C. and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) in Indianapolis, Ind., Wood’s first assignment sent her to South Korea where she worked as a finance clerk. While an official ceasefire had been declared between North and South Korea, an official end to the war has yet to be declared. Due to this, Wood’s time in Korea qualifies her to be a member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW).

“I did pay adjustments. What would happen is, if somebody got an Article 15 and they got a fine, I would take it out of their check. If somebody went back home and didn’t have the money to fly back, they would sign a voucher saying that it could be taken out of their paycheck. I would get those vouchers and I would take the pay out of their check,” said Wood.

An Article 15 is a section of the Uniform Code of Military Justice that allows commanders to carry out discretionary punishments without judicial proceedings. These punishments, while sometimes including a demotion, would often include fines that would need to be taken out of the paychecks of members of the military.

“It was part of what was called ‘control,’ Wood said. “What we did in control is we pulled all the files that needed changes for the day and sent them over to the people who made the chang-

es, they went through and wrote everything up and then it was input and the changes were sent to USAFAC (United States Army Finance and Accounting Center) and that was in Indianapolis, Ind.”

Following her yearlong assignment in South Korea, Wood spent a year-and-a half in Fort Riley, Kan. where she spent a portion of the time in disbursement.

“I got moved into dispersing, which was a nice move because there were just three of us who worked in there and counted money all day,” said Wood.

When her time at Fort Riley came to an end, Wood reenlisted and was sent to West Germany, where she would spend the next three years. While her main unit was stationed in Stuttgart, Wood was immediately sent to Heilbronn.

“I had a letter of recommendation from my NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge) in Korea and the commander at the finance officer in Stuttgart knew him and said ‘He does not give those letters of recommendation out lightly’ and so he sent me on a forward support team up to Heilbronn right away. I didn’t even stay at my unit down in Stuttgart,” Wood said.

While she started out working as an in-and-out processing clerk, Wood would eventually become a pay inquiries clerk where she gained a reputation as someone who could get things done.

“People who were having problems with their pay would come and see me. It was my job to solve their problem. I had a really good reputation for doing that, too. The base commander had a driver who was having problems with his pay and he called me and said that he’d heard I was really good and he wanted me to take a look at the guy’s pay and see what I could do to help him. What had happened is, somehow,



Photo by Joshua Wood

Liz Wood speaks to students about her time in the Army on Oct. 25. for the “Adopt a Veteran” program that Encampment K-12 school recently held.

he got listed as deceased. When they ‘brought him back to life’ in the payroll system they were double taxing him,” said Wood.

This was around the same time that the technology that would eventually become the foundation for the internet was being used. To get the information corrected for the driver, Wood had to send the information within a four minute window to USAFAC.

“You had maybe three or four minutes. You didn’t have the ability to type it offline and then send it, you were sending it live so you had to type really fast if you wanted to get anything there taken care of,” Wood said.

While in Germany, Wood met her husband, Jerry, and gave birth to a son. While her husband discharged from the military to begin attending college, Wood reenlisted with the inactive reserves.

“There was not a reserve unit in Wyoming at the time that I could join, so I went into the inactive reserves. Towards the end of my time in the inactive reserves, the First Gulf War broke out and I got involuntarily extended,”

said Wood.

The war didn’t last long and, when it had ended, Wood made the decision not to reenlist.

“I had a four-year-old and a one-year-old and I did not want to leave them, so I chose not to re-enlist in the inactive reserves,” Wood said. “I got my discharge papers after the war was over.”

Wood noted that there are many differences between when she served in the military and those serving now. Not just the advancements in technology, like the internet, but the extended periods of warfare.

“When I joined, we were at peace time, pretty much. I had one NCOIC who told me that his goal was to serve his whole 20 years in peace—and he probably did it,” said Wood. “It’s a more serious time now because we have a nephew that served in war zone three times in six years and that’s just unheard of in the old military.”

Despite having served during a period of relative peace, Wood saw the effects of war as she worked with people who served in Vietnam

and who struggled with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

“I served with people who had served in Vietnam and I saw what Vietnam had done to them. They were still in the service, but they were suffering from PTSD and it wasn’t even in the vocabulary yet. They would freak out over little incidents and ... we were pretty protective of those guys and did our best to help them,” Wood said.

Now, Wood does something similar to what she did 30 years ago in the military as she is the comptroller for Skyline Motors in Rawlins. Though it’s been over two decades since she served, she still remembers the influence her service had on her.

“You get used to a certain norm when you’re in the military. You know that if it’s time for the flag to up and the flag to go down and they play reveille or they play taps, that you have to stop and face the direction that the flag is and salute. You know that if you see an officer you have to salute. You know that you have to show up to work at a certain time,” said Wood.

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WYOMING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

# McIrvin goes ‘big guns’

Encampment resident first women to join Wyoming National Guard Artillery Unit

**By Joshua Wood**

Abigail “Abby” McIrvin currently lives in Encampment and works for the Department of Family Services in Rawlins. While she was pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Science, McIrvin made the decision her sophomore year, near the end of 2012, to enter the Wyoming Army National Guard.

“I felt like I was capable of more than I was doing at the time. I wanted to feel part of something and have that meaning in my life and it helped me for some of my schooling,” said McIrvin.

Shortly after McIrvin enlisted, then Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta had removed the ban the military had placed on women serving in combat roles. Due to this, she enlisted with the 13M, the Multiple Launch Rocket System Unit and was the first artillery woman in the Wyoming Army National Guard.

“I was the only female in my unit in Wyoming. I started with Alpha Battery in Gillette and was the only female there and then was transferred over to Bravo Battery, which is in Lander, and was the only female there,” McIrvin said.

According to McIrvin, both the units she had served with were initially nervous about having a woman in artillery, so she felt that she had to prove herself.

“Both units were pretty nervous about having a female come and I definitely proved myself and worked really well with everyone and was really good and thorough and quick. I had a really, really quick unload time and

reload time when I was on the ammo truck,” said McIrvin.

McIrvin was never deployed internationally, though there was that possibility, but had been deployed in 2015 to aid the communities of Lander and Saratoga against flooding.

“I had to drive all the way to Lander, get on a bus to go to Casper and pick up some other troops there and then take the bus to Saratoga,” McIrvin said.

By this time, both McIrvin and her wife, Krissy, were living in the area. Despite living in the area, McIrvin’s car was in Lander and she was attached to her unit so she stayed in the Platte Valley Community Center while helping with the flood.

Despite never seeing combat, McIrvin and her unit went on annual live fire trainings where they would fire practice rounds for the HIMAR rockets.

“Was it like shooting blanks?” asked Krissy during the interview.

“Yeah, I mean, except you’re shooting from a huge rocket launcher. It was pretty cool,” replied McIrvin.

The last annual training that McIrvin participated in took place at the Fort Irwin National Training Center in California, which is located in the Mojave Desert. The location of the training center provided the unit, Bravo Battery at this time, similar landscape to that of places like Afghanistan.

“It was very, very realistic. There were sensors that we would wear and also on our trucks and we were basically fighting against the enemy. They would fire at us and

we would fire at them. Your truck would let you know if it had been hit, your body would let you know you had been hit,” McIrvin said.

A year after that training, half of Bravo Battery was deployed to Afghanistan. McIrvin had been hopeful that she would also be deployed, but was informed that, due to the logistics of her being the only woman in the artillery for the Wyoming Army National Guard, she would not be sent overseas. While she was, in some sense, disappointed this was also around the same time that she met Krissy.

“This was right when we had met. My unit was deploying and they were deciding who was going and there was a conflict with me being the only female and that it was hard to figure out the logistics for that,” said McIrvin.

Now, almost six years after enlisting, the Encampment resident is going through the process of being discharged from the Wyoming Army National Guard. She and her wife recently bought a house and are pet parents to two dogs.

“I really loved the Army and loved my unit, but just wanting to pursue a civilian job and use my degree that I got in college is the biggest reason,” McIrvin said of discharging.

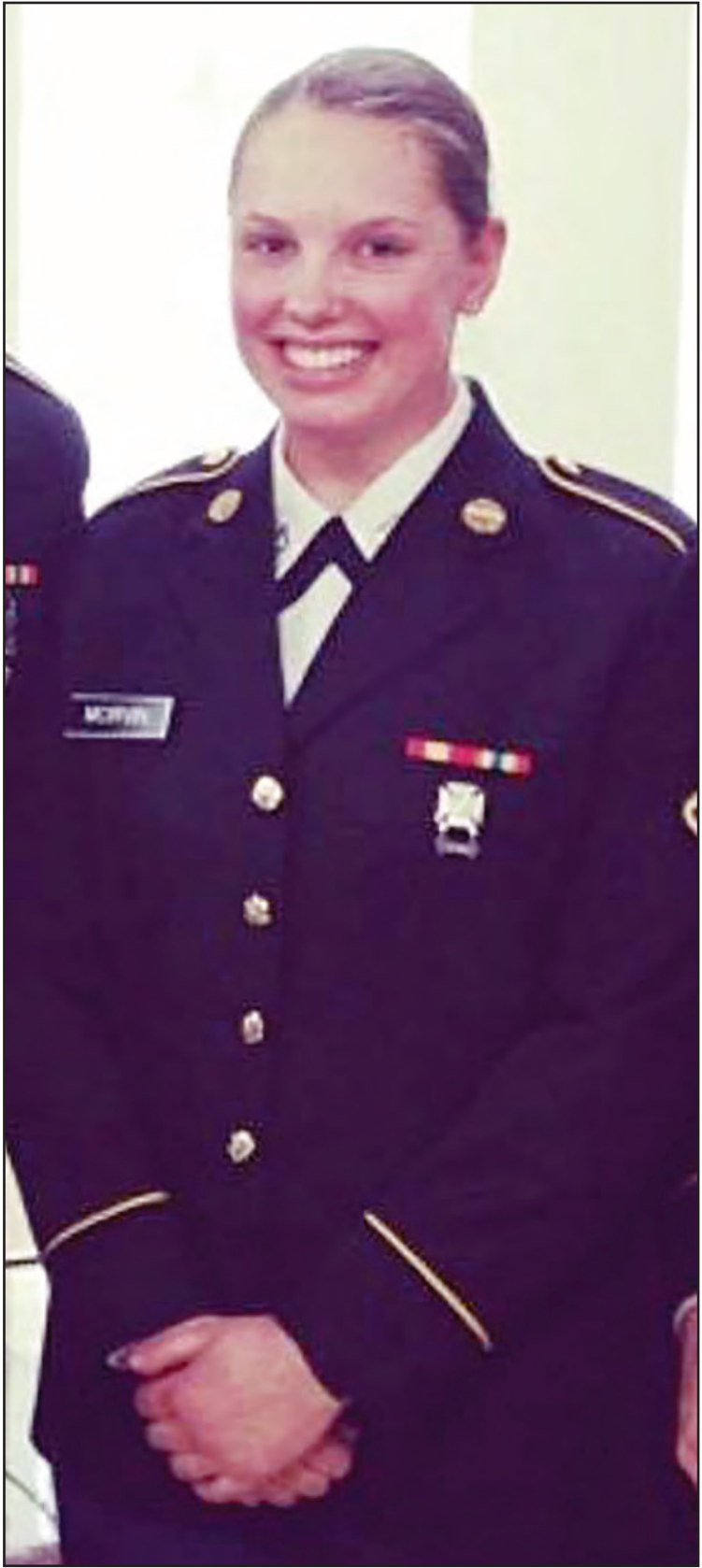


Photo courtesy Abby McIrvin

**Abby McIrvin in her dress blues shortly after joining the Wyoming Army National Guard. McIrvin, who served for six years, is currently working on discharging.**

# Poppies in prose

The poems and the stories that gave a flower new symbolic life

**Staff Report**

On May 2 in 1915, Canadian poet John McCrae’s close friend and former student Alexis Helmer was killed by a German shell in World War I.

Composed at the battlefield on May 3, 1915 during the second battle of Ypres, Belgium, this poem became the basis for poppies being the flower symbolically used to honor the war dead.

**In Flanders Fields**

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks still bravely singing fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead: Short days ago,  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved: and now we lie  
In Flanders fields!*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe  
To you, from failing hands, we throw  
The torch: be yours to hold it high  
If ye break faith with us who die,  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders field*

American professor Moina Micheal conceived of the Flanders Field Memorial poppy in 1915 to decorate the graves of American soldiers. In 1919 her fame spread to such an extent she was known as the “Poppy Lady”.

In 1920 the poppy was made the official memorial flower of the American Legion and the Auxiliary in 1921. In 1924, the Legion started the national poppy program, where paper poppies are made by disabled vets to be sold to honor veterans of wars. The disabled vets are paid for each poppy they make and materials are supplied free of charge. The proceeds from buying these paper poppies have the funds go Veterans Affairs for rehabilitation of vets and to help their families.

Symbolism of the Poppy is as such for the American Legion: The red petals stand for the vast outpouring of blood given by veterans; the green and black center, the mud and desolation of all battlefields. The green of the stem is symbolic of the forests, meadows and fields where

generations Americans have perished to make this land free. The stem represents the courage and determination of our fallen warriors. The assembled product, a flower, is a symbol of resurrection which is sure to follow.

The following poem, written by an unknown author, is also used by the American Legion Auxiliary to make Americans aware of the paper poppy’s importance to vets.

**Only a Paper Poppy**

*Only some paper petals  
With two leaves of paper, too.  
Only a paper poppy  
Does it mean anything more to you?*

*The red is for the courage  
Of men who fought and bled,  
And then came back to spend their days*

*In the ranks of the living dead.*

*The green of the leaves reminds me  
Of the sunny hillsides over the sea,  
Whenever rest the war torn bodies  
Of those who died that war might cease to be.*

*The cup that is formed by the petals  
Covers a heart of gold.  
It stands for a labor of love  
Whose value can never be told.*

*Only a paper poppy  
But it holds the hopes and fears  
Of numberless men and their loved ones  
As they carry on through the years.*