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Puxico Veterans Day Assembly, Guest Speaker Kyle Cox, Quilts of Valor, VFW Teachers of the Year

NOVEMBER 13TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Puxico Veterans Day Assembly, Guest Speaker Kyle Cox, Quilts of Valor, VFW Teachers of the Year

The Puxico R-8 School District held their annual Veterans Day Assembly on Monday, November 11, 2024.

Each year the school creates a History of Veterans Day video which features local veterans and was played prior to the beginning of the assembly.

The Puxico Band played the Star Spangled Banner, the audience and students participated in saying the Pledge of Allegiance and the presentation of colors where both the US flag and Missouri flag were presented.

Guest Speaker was Kyle Cox. He served as an Army Combat Engineer and is currently serving in the Army Reserved. EMT Crew Chief at Stoddard County Ambulance District.

He stated that he had a tremendous respect and gratitude for other veterans. While he was in the 6th grade is when the tragedy of September 11, 2001 happened and he felt a sense of urgency to join and serve in any way possible.

Two Quilts of Valor were presented during the assembly. Mr. Ron Clinton and Mr. Rick McLean were given two beautiful quilts. Karen Graham and Debbie Asher presented the quilts along with V.F.W. Commander Duane Martin.

They are heroes who served our country with distinction. Their commitment to protecting our freedoms has not gone unnoticed. Your courage in the face of danger, your resilience in tough times, and your unwavering patriotism inspires us all.

You've shown us what it truly means to put others before yourself. This Quilt of Valor represents our community's collective gratitude. It has been lovingly crafted by local volunteers who wanted to show their appreciation for your service. Each piece of fabric, every stitch, carries our thanks.

As we present you with this quilt, we want you to know that it is more than just a blanket. It is a warm embrace from all of us. It is our way of saying "thank you" for the nights you spent away from home, for the hardships you endured, and for the sacrifices you made. May this quilt bring you comfort on cold nights and serve as a constant reminder that your service and sacrifice will always be remembered and honored. We're proud to call you one of our own. Mr. Clinton and Mr. McLean, thank you for your service to our nation.

The V.F.W. Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy contests provide students with a platform to express their thoughts on what it means to be an American and the importance of honoring our veterans. The winners we recognize today have demonstrated remarkable insight, eloquence, and dedication in their entries. Also being recognized are the V.F.W. Teachers of the Year.

Patriot's Pen Winners

1st Place - Layla Stewart, 2nd Place - Aaliyah Whitaker, 3rd Place - Anabelle Allen

Voice of Democracy Winners

1st Place - Layla Hale, 2nd Place - Jude Lawrence, 3rd Place - Kirston Delong

V.F.W. Teachers of the Year.

FW Elementary Teacher of the Year Mandy McMillan.

VFW Junior High Teacher of the Year Kelly Smothers.

VFW High School Teacher of the Year Hunter Placher.

Just remember freedom is not free. It is earned by those who have put on the uniform and answered the call to protect and defend the values we hold dear: liberty, Justice, and the pursuit of peace. Our veterans have given so much, from battles they fought to the time spent away from their families, to the personal sacrifices that continue long after they have returned home.

Today we not only honor their service, but also to reflect on the deep gratitude we owe them. Their commitment to our country and its ideals is a testament to the strength and resilience of the human spirit.

To all veterans, we thank you! You are our true heroes.

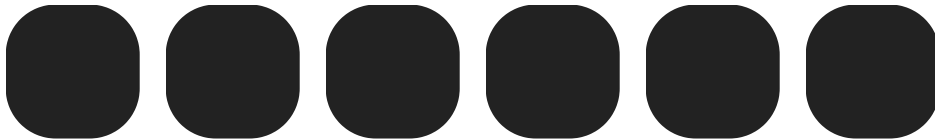
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Monies Raised for 18FORE Life During Tackle Cancer Event

NOVEMBER 05TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Monies Raised for 18FORE Life During Tackle Cancer Event

On October 18, the Dexter Bearcats won both on the football field and off the football field. Money raised during fundraising activities at Dexter High School, as well as all other school buildings in the district was added to the Touchdown Sponsor donations.

With their combined efforts, they were able to raise \$2,700 for 18Fore Life. This money will go to those who receive a cancer diagnosis to help them in their fight to TACKLE CANCER!

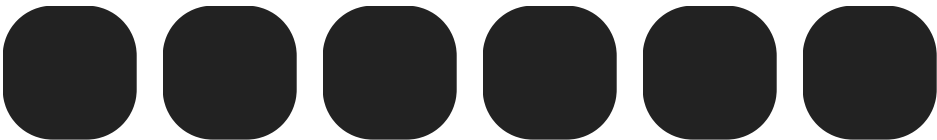
The Varsity football cheerleaders and players would like to thank the generous sponsors and the entire Dexter School District for helping make this event a success! Thank you to the 2024 Bearcat Touchdown Sponsors: Keith Richard with Brem Insurance, Ryan and Ariel Lee with Ryan’s Diesel, and Jason Comfort and Brandon Barnes with Bearcat Transport.

Photo provided by Dexter High School.

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U.S. Department of Commerce Invests \$1 Million to Support Building Trades Workforce Development in Dexter

U.S. Department of Commerce Invests \$1 Million to Support Building Trades Workforce Development

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$1 million grant to Three Rivers College in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, to support building trades workforce development in the region.

This grant will provide equipment for the new Bootheel Technical Training Center to support hands-on workforce training in electrical, HVAC, manufacturing, and welding trades. This EDA investment will be matched with \$250,000 in local funds.

"The Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America agenda is focused on providing all communities with the opportunities and resources they need to thrive in today's economy, while preparing them for success in the future," **said Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo**. "This EDA investment will support workforce development programs that will diversify Missouri's economy by strengthening the state's building trades, building economic resilience for decades to come."

"The U.S. Economic Development Administration works closely with local communities to support place-based economic development," **said Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and External Affairs, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development Cristina Killingsworth**. "This project will provide equipment to train students in critical building trades, producing a highly skilled workforce and diversifying the regional economy."

This project was made possible by the regional planning efforts led by the Bootheel Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission (BRPC). EDA funds BRPC to bring together the public and private sectors to create an economic development roadmap to strengthen the regional economy, support private capital investment and create jobs.

About the U.S. Economic Development Administration (www.eda.gov)

The mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA invests in communities and supports regional collaboration in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation, and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.

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Certificate of Appreciation Awarded to Casa Lopez

OCTOBER 23RD 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Certificate of Appreciation Awarded to Casa Lopez

The City of Puxico presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Casa Lopez, owner Edwin Lopez for outstanding service to the city of Puxico.

“Your efforts to improve the city’s main street area by revitalizing the exterior of your business has made our city a better place in which to live, work, and play, keeping Puxico “Hometown Proud.”

This certificate was awarded on October 17, 2024 by Rickey McLean, Mayor of Puxico.

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Certificate of Appreciation Awarded to Sam's Auto Service

The City of Puxico presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Sam't Auto Service owned by David Phillips for outstanding service to the city of Puxico.

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This certificate was awarded on October 17, 2024 by Rickey McLean, Mayor of Puxico.

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