



# THE ORD QUIZ

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## Ord Residents Visit Evelyn Sharp Memorial in Pennsylvania



courtesy photo

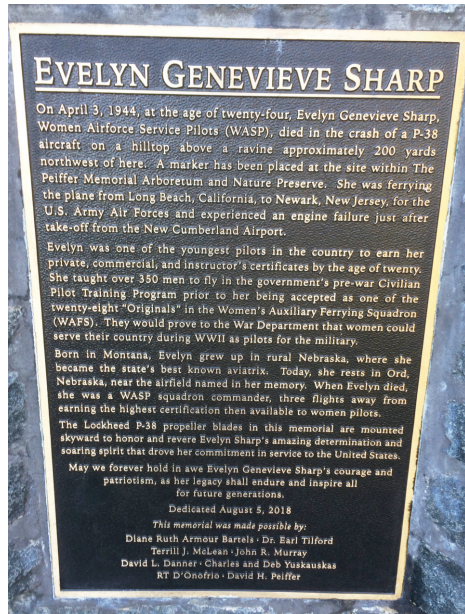
RICH CECETKA stands by the Evelyn Sharp Memorial near her crash site in Pennsylvania.

During a week-long driving tour of historical sites in Pennsylvania, Rich and Claudia Cecetka were able to stop at the Evelyn Sharp Memorial located in New Cumberland, PA. Since they were in Gettysburg, this 30-mile side trip was a must.

Rich had read the news article in the Aug. 22, 2018 edition of *The Ord Quiz* that covered the dedication of this monument. Using their GPS, they found the site of the Peiffer Memorial Arboretum and Nature Center at 1841 Brookview Drive. Having seen pictures of the 1944 crash site, Rich was anticipating a rural setting. He found that this is now in the middle of a modern housing development.

While at the gate to the 33-acre woodlands, reading the plaque describing Evelyn Sharp's story, the Cecetkas discovered that the actual crash site was 200 yards away. They were determined to find that spot. They met with David Peiffer, the preservationist who is developing the area, and received an hour long personal tour.

Peiffer's family moved onto an adjoining two-acre homestead in 1964. His mother was elected to local city and county boards and became concerned over the change from rural to urban that was over-



taking the countryside. Peiffer bought the 33-acre woodland to preserve it from development in 2010. At that time, he and his mother were unaware of the Evelyn Sharp story. He was first told of the 1944 crash by an 85-year-old man who lived in the area. That's when Peiffer's research brought him into the Evelyn Sharp saga.

On the site is a "Spring House" built in 1776 as a refrigerating system similar to our "root cellars". Under-ground water comes through the stone shed, cooling everything inside. While this is on Peiffer's property, the original house, built by William Black, is on adjacent property. This

home is still lived in, and is on the list of historical buildings. Behind that property General Lee assembled his army before heading to Gettysburg.

The Welcome Center that Peiffer has built is a replica of the historic 1683 home of Caleb Pusey that is located in Upland, PA.

David Peiffer's goal is to create a preservation society to honor his parent's values and work, while immortalizing the dedication, sacrifice and memory of Evelyn Sharp and other historical figures from the area.

The nature center's website can be found at [www.pmanpinc.com](http://www.pmanpinc.com).

## Local Veterans Day Events Veterans Day Commemoration Nov. 11 at Ord High School

Please join Ord Public Schools in honoring our heroes on Mon., Nov. 11 at 9 a.m. in the new gymnasium at the high school.

A reception hosted by Valley County Community Foundation Fund will be held for veterans and their families at the conclusion of the ceremony. Please wear red, white and blue in honor of our veterans.

## VCCHS To Host Free Breakfast For Veterans And Their Families

In honor of Veterans Day, Valley County Health System (VCCHS) invites veterans and their families to enjoy a free breakfast from 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Mon., Nov. 11 at the Courtyard Grille at VCCHS, 2707 L St., Ord. Pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage and biscuits and gravy will be served.

## Avenue of Flags Volunteers Needed

Just a reminder that the Avenue of Flags will be put up in the cemetery Veterans Day morning, Mon., Nov. 11, at 7 a.m. and will be taken down that afternoon at 4 p.m. If the weather is bad, listen for a cancellation announcement on KNLV Radio or the Avenue of Flags Facebook page. Any volunteers are welcome and much appreciated.

Don't forget to attend the Veterans Day Banquet also on Monday evening at the Veterans Club.

## Buddy Poppy Campaign Promotes Remembrance This Month

In November each year, we honor and remember our veterans, past present and future. The VFW Auxiliary sponsors our annual Buddy Poppy campaign.

Disabled veterans make our poppies and we, in turn, ask patrons for donations to help defray expenses for our many projects such as: emergency assistance for clothing, food and shelter; paying dues for elderly and disabled; remembering our veterans and families on special days and throughout the year; providing veterans in our area with wonderful meals on Veterans Day; financial support for our National Home for Veterans and their families; donations to the Van Fund to transport veterans to and from appointments; scholarships for youth in our area; decorating graves for Memorial Day and presenting patriotic programs at our schools.

These are some of the things your donations help with and we are so thankful for your support each year.

Loyally,  
Post 7029 Auxiliary President,  
Cheryl Smedra

## Quiz Football Contest Winner

The winning prize for last week's football matchups will go to Josh Pike. He guessed 26 winners correctly. Congratulations!

There are is only one more football contest page after this week! Be sure to enter and good luck!

## Anderson Pharmacy Holiday Open House This Saturday

Get into the holiday spirit by attending Anderson Pharmacy's Holiday Open House, Sat., Nov. 9 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

There will be door prizes and refreshments served.

Anderson Pharmacy is located at 1429 M Street in Ord.

## 60 Years Later: Welniak Recalls Volunteering For Draft, Service To United States Army

By Lisa Fischer

After graduating from Ord High School (OHS) in 1958, Lawrence Welniak decided to take hold of his future.

Instead of touring a college campus, Welniak visited Ord's Selective Service Office and volunteered for the U.S. Draft. By January of 1959, he was 18-years-old and a member of the U.S. Army. By February of that same year, he arrived in Fort Leonard Wood, MO for Basic Training (BT). After completion, he received Advanced Individualized Training as an Engineer at the same base, before being shipped to Germany. While overseas, he resided on a base once utilized by Nazis during WWII and got to see the places he read about during history class at OHS. In fact, the same *Stars and Stripes* (European Edition) newspaper that chronicled his last weekend overseas remains intact and is shared with others who share his enthusiasm for history.

"I was a part of the 555 (Triple Nickel) Engineer Group when I was in Germany," Welniak said. "It took us nearly 12 days on the USS Darby to get there."

He recalls viewing the Statue of Liberty when the USS Darby left New York Harbor in Oct. of 1959. The Atlantic Ocean was calm and seasickness did not affect a majority of the crew. Welniak said he was the second of his four siblings to join the U.S. Army. His older brother, Ted, was a Paratrooper in the U.S. Airborne, who later trained recruits in tank warfare during the Korean War Era.

"There was Alfonse, Floyd, Lorraine, Ted and I was the youngest," Welniak said. "The trip across the Atlantic was the first time I was away from home on my own."

After the USS Darby docked at Bremerhaven, Germany he and his company were put on a train to Karlsruhe Army Base and housed in Phillips Barracks, the same that once housed Nazis during WWII.

"The base was surrounded with gates that were nearly eight-foot-tall," Welniak added. "Nobody got in or out accidentally."

While in Germany for 15-



courtesy photo

## THE STARS AND STRIPES NEWSPAPER (European Edition).

months, his company performed summer maneuvers to install and disassemble pontoon bridges. These 16-foot bridges utilized inflatable tires, generators, planks and tethered cables. When he was not on duty Welniak, passed the time by playing cards with other soldiers and sightseeing. By 1960, he was a 19-year-old soldier who accrued enough free time to take a 10-day journey across Italy where he saw sights like the Colosseum, Leaning Tower, Sistine Chapel and Trevi Fountain.

"I took this trip long before the internet and all we had in Nebraska were pictures in history books," Welniak recalled. "Those pictures didn't do any of those sights justice."

During his free-time on base, Welniak stayed up-to-date with current events by reading *The Ord Quiz* and *The Stars and Stripes* (European Edition) newspapers. He noted that staying up-to-date with what was

happening back home and in the world has always been important to him. So the last weekend he was overseas, Jan. 28-29 1961, Welniak was sure to grab the most recent editions of the *Stars and Stripes* before loading up on the ship that would lead him back to Nebraska.

"My wife Judi and I have taken great pains to ensure they stay readable," Welniak said.

At 79, Welniak stays as active as possible on the family farm his parents, Anton and Helen, began farming more than a century earlier. Welniak proudly noted his son, Brian, takes on the lion's share of the farming duties, enabling him and Judi to spend time with their children, Brian and Jennifer, along with their six grandchildren.

"I feel fortunate to have spent a lifetime doing what I love, among my family in an area that has always been and always will be home," Welniak said.

