

Brunswick Memorial Funeral Home, East Brunswick, NJ

Mount Sinai Memorial Chapels, East Brunswick, NJ

"Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall"

Brunswick Memorial Home teamed up with Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 133 (VFW Post 133) and many other local volunteers in coordination with the Township of East Brunswick to bring the American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT) to the East Brunswick Community Arts Center on Memorial Day Weekend, May 23 through May 27, 2024. The AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall is an 80% replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Wall contains the names of U.S. Military personnel who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. Accompanying the Wall will be Cost of Freedom tributes to every U.S. military action since World War I. The American Veterans Traveling Tribute is an independent organization, committed to travel the U.S. to honor and remember those who served, and pay tribute to those who gave all in service. Built in 1998, AVTT's Traveling Vietnam Wall is the largest replica Wall traveling the U.S. It provides those who are not able to visit the memorial in Washington D.C. with the opportunity to honor and pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the Vietnam War.

Meetings began in November 2023 and a board of directors was created to steer head this project in the right direction. Randy Gagnon, a funeral director and one of the owners of Brunswick Memorial Home, was on that board. Meetings were conducted every other week at first and then once every week in town at the VFW post and eventually at the Community Arts Center. The two weeks directly prior to the event there were meetings every other day. Individuals who were a part of the VFW post, local businesses, the town's economic developer and OEM coordinator, and local councilman comprised the board. Every detail of the event from logistics, fund raising, volunteers, etc. was decided by this group.

A motorcade escort was scheduled on Wednesday, May 22 to welcome the Wall as it arrives at the East Brunswick's Community Arts Center. The funeral home was outside to welcome them as they passed. An opening ceremony was held on Thursday, May 23, at 10:00am. Following the ceremony, the Wall was open to visitors through Memorial Day, May 27. Throughout the five days there were guest speakers including a general, a past commander of the national VFW and other heads of local/national veteran's organizations. Other attractions were a New Jersey State Police helicopter landing, a 9/11 tribute, a F-16 Fighter Jet flyover, raffles, and much more. A museum was created on site displaying memorabilia donated by the local historical society and members of the VFW post from the Vietnam War.

Our Brunswick Memorial Home Care Team helped erect and take down the wall, assisted families on finding their loved one's name on the wall using a QR code to find the panel and location, cleaned up, drove golf carts to assist elderly and whatever else was needed. Our Care Team created a video tribute using photos provided by members of our local VFW. The video was a montage of images from their service during in the Vietnam War. They were so touched by the video they decided to display it at the in-house museum throughout the weekend. In addition, the Care Team created prayer cards in honor of those who gave all to go around 100+ flags that were displayed at the event. Emails were sent out to the funeral home's contacts to notify them of the event and Facebook posts were also created. Some of the Care Team were former military and others had family members who served. The whole event moved them and brought an increased level of respect and admiration towards those who lost their lives during the Vietnam War and other US military actions.

The Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall brought in tens of thousands of people over the course of the event. A strong belief in patriotism was felt by all. Locals who may not have been able to make it to Washington D.C. had an opportunity to view the wall and experience the event. Veterans of the VFW Post 133 and those in surrounding towns had a sense of pride in honoring their fallen veterans. The Wall has become a somber and sacred tribute to the more than 58,000 men and women who gave their lives during the Vietnam War. On Memorial Day 2024, we commemorated their sacrifices and the sacrifices of men and women in so many other US military actions. Let us also not forget those who have passed from their wounds upon returning home. Freedom is not Free.

A Hero's Homecoming

One of the most beautiful things about funeral service is assisting a family and community in grieving and honoring a loved one. Every family deserves the ability to have a celebration of a loved one and lay them to rest in their preferred method. However, unfortunately, not all families receive this opportunity. In fact, there are many families out there continually grieving someone who they never got to say goodbye to – those lost in times of war and conflict. This sentiment is true for those who have a loved one Missing in Action, or Killed in Action, but never recovered. According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, from WWII alone, approximately 72,053 service members are still unaccounted for since they began their mission in 1973 (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency). All the families of these unaccounted-for service members never got the opportunity to grieve their loved one properly. They never got to say goodbye, never knew what happened to them. Generation after generation, that wound stays open, leaving an emotionally taxing strain. Additionally, the service member never receives a proper burial or cremation deserving of their sacrifice, nor reunited with their family at rest. Despite efforts of the United States Government following each active wartime and the countless hours of work by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, many individuals remain only known by code numbers, not their names, unable to be returned home. That is, until a family member is educated on how to potentially identify a loved one. That knowledge is what starts the journey of Private First-Class Bartholomew C. Loschiavo towards returning home. PFC Loschiavo's story, told with the permission of his family, begins upon entering the United States Army on September 16, 1940. He served with Company A, 1st Battalion, 329 Infantry Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division. During combat on October 1, 1944, Loschiavo was injured near Grevenmacher, Luxembourg. Unable to be found by his fellow service members, he was declared Missing in Action (MIA) in 1944, with a possibility that he was taken as a POW. After all the US Soldiers were liberated after the war, and Loschiavo was still unaccounted for, he was declared deceased in 1945. Years later in 1996, PFC Loschiavo's family would begin researching him, starting with his nephew Augustine, and later Augustine's son, Donald. After a push from his family and DNA analysis involving three nephews and one grandniece, PFC Loschiavo was positively identified. The story became clear after the research that PFC Loschiavo, found by locals after his death in 1944, was buried in a local cemetery. After a visit and efforts from the US military, he had been transferred to be buried in the Luxembourg American Cemetery where he rested anonymously as he did not have any identification but was a known American. After his flight to the United States and positive identification, the only item left was bringing PFC Loschiavo back to his home of Buffalo, NY and lay him to rest with his parents at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. However, this was not going to be an easy task. Bringing him to Buffalo and arrangements of his funeral service would have layers of moving parts and various organizations involved. PFC Loschiavo's great-nephews, Donald and David Loschiavo, wanted someone they could trust to guide them through this complex process. Therefore, they reached out to our firm, Lakeside Memorial Funeral Home, Inc. The team of Lakeside Memorial were honored to take part in this historical occasion and reunite this family and began the process of a hero's homecoming.

The rationale behind this service was to assist a family with the complexity of bringing a loved one home after almost eight decades – to reunite a family and provide him every honor we could possibly could for his funeral. Our team, along with his family, also wanted to make sure this was well known and documented, to potentially allow others to find the same education and steps to take to potentially identify more missing service members and bring them home. As members of the Veterans Funeral Care network and avid supporters of service members both past and present, Lakeside Memorial Funeral Home dedicated ourselves, our resources, and knowledge into bringing PFC Loschiavo home and memorializing his legacy and story. Our involvement began with assisting and arranging to fly PFC Loschiavo home to Buffalo from where he received his testing out of state. Taking the role of advocate for the family, we worked with the Ft. Riley Casualty Assistance Center to file all the necessary paperwork to schedule a flight for him. Upon his arrival, our team was to go right onto the tarmac and receive PFC Loschiavo from the airplane and bring him back to the funeral home safely. Due to crowd concerns, our team worked with the US Army to arrange for a van to transport the immediate family from our West Seneca funeral home to the airport to observe his homecoming, and back to the funeral home in

procession. To ensure the safety of all involved, we also organized with the Erie County Sheriff's Department for an escort from the airport to the funeral home. Lastly, we wanted to ensure that PFC Loschiavo received a warm welcome home from other service members and organized for the Patriot Guard Riders of WNY to stand guard as he left the airplane and lead us in procession as well on their motorcycles. PFC Loschiavo was officially repatriated on May 23, 2024, upon his arrival at Buffalo International Airport. Following his arrival in the breathtaking procession to the funeral home, his family was able to spend some time with him before going home, allowing for this surreal moment to sink in – that all the hard work of research was beginning to pay off. Attached to this entry are photos from the day of his repatriation. After his cremation, PFC Loschiavo's funeral services were set for June 1st, 2024, with a public visitation 10:00-11:30 AM, a funeral service at 11:30 AM at the funeral home, followed by a procession and graveside service with full military honors at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. In preparation for the day of the funeral, our team here at Lakeside Memorial Funeral Home, began to arrange as many honors for PFC Loschiavo as possible as we guided his family through all the press. We assisted in arranging the full military detail from Ft. Drum Casualty Assistance Center for the day of his funeral. This arrangement included actually scheduling a team, doing multiple walk throughs with the Ft. Drum CAC of our building, how to work our Urn Ark which would carry PFC Loschiavo's urn where they would act as pallbearers, and staging positions at the funeral home and cemetery. We once again enlisted the help of the Patriot Guard Riders of WNY, staging them at the entrance of the funeral home as an honor guard. They also assisted in the procession to honor PFC Loschiavo, as well as the creation of a beautiful plaque highlighting his service and sacrifice with our assistance with information, research, and photographs. For another honor, we also arranged the Pipes and Drums Sector Buffalo Fire Department Honor Guard. After working with their team on staging, we arranged for their bagpiper to play at the funeral home at the beginning of the service and the end as everyone came up to say their goodbyes. The Pipes and Drums Sector was also organized to walk slowly in front of the hearse at the cemetery as they played upon PFC Loschiavo's arrival at his graveside as well as playing throughout the service. Upon request of the family, we also wanted as many people to know about this event as possible, assisting the family in writing and sending out a press release for all the local news stations for coverage online, on TV, and on the radio. We also organized and dictated media involvement and what was allowed. Finally, we arranged for one last honor that was a complete surprise for the family. To begin PFC Loschiavo's funeral, we arranged for three governmental officials to come and speak. These included NYS Senator George Borrello of the 57th Senate District, NYS Assemblyman David DiPietro of the Assembly District 147, and Erie County Legislator Lindsay Lorigo of District 10. Senator Borrello provided a proclamation to the family that showed PFC Loschiavo's story was written into the permanent record of the NYS Senate. Assemblyman DiPietro provided a proclamation that made June 1st PFC Bartholomew C. Loschiavo Day in his honor, and County Legislator Lorigo also offered a proclamation and documentation on a county level. These surprises arranged by our team were incredibly important to the family and a welcome surprise. The funeral service also included prayers and words of comfort provided by our owner, Charles A. Castiglia, as well as readings and eulogies by the family. Attached are photographs of the service as well as the news release. At the end of the day, after the graveside service and burial, PFC Bartholomew C. Loschiavo's journey home was finally complete – reunited in peaceful rest with his beloved parents.

This service/program was incredibly beneficial to all parties involved. For our team at Lakeside Memorial Funeral Home, we got to be a part of an incredible moment – bringing a hero home after about eight decades of being lost. The experience taught our staff a lot about active-duty procedures and make connections with various subsets of the United States Army, such as various Casualty Affairs Centers. With the presence of the media and many different parts of this extended family and community, our team was also able to showcase and demonstrate our dedication to excellent service and our specialized training and devotion to caring for service members and their families. For the Loschiavo family, it meant long awaited closure. As David Loschiavo stated in an interview, "It's great to bring closure for every generation in our family, those which may have never met one another, but share this journey into our family heritage" (RCM Technologies, Inc.). With David and Donald Loschiavo's blessing, the media coverage of the whole process our team at the funeral home scheduled also offered a benefit to the community at large. The coverage brought attention to the large number of service men and women that are still missing and unaccounted for – that there are methods, such as the work the Loschiavo family did, to bring them home. The story brings a deep sense of hope, that even almost 80 years later, a loved one

can be identified and brought home to be with their family, to receive the well-deserved funeral service and honors. The program as a whole also shows the community that there are people, like our staff at Lakeside Memorial, that can help you orchestrate a beautiful homecoming so you can focus on healing that long open wound.

In conclusion, the homecoming of hero PFC Bartholomew C. Loschiavo will go down in WNY history. As Assemblyman DiPietro proclaimed, June 1st will always be known as his day. Reuniting a son with his beloved parents who died without ever knowing what happened to him and seeing the profound effect on the multiple generations still mourning him, was an incredibly emotional but rewarding experience for our team. An American hero is at rest, his family headed towards healing after long-awaited closure, and hope for the return of more heroes from various wartimes restored. Lakeside Memorial Funeral Home, Inc. will continue to strive towards excellence and providing the guiding hand for beautiful services of all types.

Martin Funeral Home, Mount Morris, MI
Detroit Cremation Society, Grand Blanc, MI

Great Lakes Veterans Experience-Reflections Exhibit: Frank

The rationale behind the idea:

In the fall of 2018, owner, Adam Martin, was invited by the Michigan Funeral Directors Association to fill a vacant position on the board of the Great Lakes National Cemetery Advisory Council. Great Lakes National Cemetery is located in Holly, Michigan, about 6.5 miles from our funeral home in Grand Blanc, Michigan, and about 25 miles from our funeral home in Mt. Morris, Michigan. The national cemetery's reach covers some 20 counties in Southeast and Mid-Michigan, serving hundreds of thousands of veterans and their families.

The Advisory Council has members from nearly every veteran's organization within its area of coverage. Many VFW and American Legion posts, auxiliary posts, DAV, county government VA offices, Patriot Riders and of course the national cemetery director. The council supports the cemetery in a myriad of ways and it was during Mr. Martin's initial meetings with the group that he was able to ascertain a need within the communities where we have funeral homes and serve veterans and military families.

It was during this time frame that Mr. Martin was still serving as the president of the International Order of the Golden Rule (OGR) and learned of a fellow member funeral firm in Clearwater, Florida, Veterans Funeral Care, Jim Rudolph. Jim developed a program entitled "Operation Toy Soldier" that specifically addresses the needs of veterans and military families during the holiday season. For the last several years, we have modeled this program in Genesee County where our funeral homes are located. In the summer of 2022, our staff was invited by Jim to visit his funeral home and attend a training seminar for Veterans Funeral Care. It was during this visit to Clearwater, Florida; that a spark was lit to develop and build our own Veterans Museum right here in Michigan.

We developed our Veterans Museum and held an open house to the community in November of 2022. The museum quickly grew from one room to two rooms with an overwhelming support of not only families we have served in the past, present families, but families we have never served, looking for a safe space to donate their loved ones precious military keepsakes. Our museum currently spans two rooms and a hallway in our funeral home.

Always looking for new ideas to honor our military, our staff developed a third room, devoted to a local military hero, Sergeant Frank Ramiller, a two-time Purple Heart Recipient. Our "Frank" sits resting upon rubble from a destroyed building while gripping his M-16 rifle. With remnants of war in sight, he reflects on those men and women who proudly served before him. Dressed in his government issued (GI) Marine Corp uniform, Honoring the footsteps of those men and women. Sergeant Frank wants to keep their memory alive. As they are not forgotten.

Surrounded by the jungles of Vietnam, with helicopters in the distance and the sounds of the jungle, Frank proudly wears the dog tags of men and women that Martin Funeral, Cremation & Tribute Services has had the honor of taking care of during the family's hardest time. On January

17, 2024, Frank was unveiled to the public with just over 400 dog tags dating back to January 1, 2017. The funeral home curators have been adding additional dog tags since its conception; with the goal of creating a duplicate dog tag for each man and woman that the funeral home had the honor of taking care of since it opened in 1929.

A detailed description of the program, service or activity:

Reflections was created to honor the men and women who protect our freedom. The goal is to help preserve the legacy of our military men and women who selflessly sacrifice themselves to protect our freedom. In doing so, we display a replica dog tag for every military veteran who has died. Individuals of all ages may experience the Veterans Memorial, reminisce about their own military experience, and to educate the younger generations about our United States history.

During the private family time for the deceased veteran, the family is presented with a replica dog by our funeral director. A family member is then encouraged to place the dog tag in the Veterans Memorial.

Family members in turn, take photos of the dog tag, group family photos in front of the Veterans Memorial, as well as show friends visiting during the visitation their loved ones dog tag.

Benefits provided to families and/or the community at large:

During the arrangement conference, our staff has already researched the deceased veterans DD214, which prepares the arranger to discuss the veteran's achievements during their military service. Most often, the family has no idea that their loved one earned medals, the rank they achieved, etc. Oftentimes, especially with Vietnam Veterans, the only knowledge the family has is simply that dad was in Vietnam. Taking the time to learn about the veteran's time in service, allows us to honor the veteran, and provide a new insight to his or her family.

When a family or a community member step into Reflections, gentlemen remove their hats, a moment of silence occurs, and many times, if accompanied by a child, the child will ask questions about the room, giving the adult or our staff the opportunity to discuss the exhibit, the dog tags, and how important it is to honor the men and women like Frank, for defending our Country, instilling patriotism in the next generation.

Benefits provided to the funeral home and staff:

We are involved and care deeply for our communities and are willing to put in the hard work and the time to show those in the community that we care. Our Veterans Museum and Reflection's Exhibit have been an ongoing commitment by the Martin family for nearly 100 years. By creating and building the Reflection's Exhibit, we have educated our staff and the families we serve on our US History. Talking to a gentleman about his experience in Vietnam, looking through his personal photo album and touching medals he was awarded, is vastly different than reading a school book. Our staff has also challenged themselves to better comprehend the DD214 form, specifically taking the time to discuss what we know about it during the arrangement process to families, who sometimes have no idea how much of a hero their loved one was during their military service.

Reflections encourages our staff to reflect on the person in our care, reflect on their experiences, and every dog tag reflects a face.

List any community organizations that were involved with the development and/or implementation of the idea; describe the role the organization played:

Our Reflections Exhibit: Frank, to date, has 300 hours of work invested into the building of the exhibit. During the beginning stages, several individuals from our local VA VSO, were available to toss around ideas and provide feedback, however, all of the work to create the room, paint the mural, create each dog tag, was completed by a dedicated team of staff members who are passionate about honoring veterans and commemorating their memory.

PinesFuneral (Fry & Prickett Funeral Home), Carthage, NC

Kennedy Funeral Home, Robbins, NC; Powell Funeral Home & Crematory, Carthage, NC

Our Veterans Appreciation event is the biggest event we have all year. Veterans from all over North Carolina join us to help honor veterans who have passed away.

This appreciation event, along with the ones we have done in the past, are very important in expressing our deepest gratitude for Veterans everywhere. This appreciation event kicked off with some welcoming remarks from Robert Nunnaley, President of Pines Funerals. Next, some special remarks were given by USMC Retired Major A. McKinnon about our Veterans. Then, USMC LCPL. Sam Bradley took the stage to honor the families that Pines Funerals served. His speech was followed by the playing of Taps and a dove release. To conclude the appreciation event, we recognized the Patriot Guard, and Boy Scout Troop who presented our Flag. The event ended with the Patriot Guard Ceremonial Ride Out on motorcycles.

There are many benefits provided to the funeral home and staff. First, we get exposure with such a large event. People want to join us, and it shows the community we are devoted to those who made sacrifices for our freedom. Next, it gives our staff members a chance to start conversations with attendees and get to know them and their family. Finally, they get a chance to see how beautiful our grounds are.

For the families, they get a chance to honor their loved one. They also know they are taken care of by a community that cares so much. They know they have an ear to talk to, and others who can relate to the experience of losing someone.

Since we hold this event every year, we learn so much about things we can do to improve it the following year. Since this event began in 2021, there are some things we have been working on to make sure the event continues to flow well, and to better assist the families who come out to visit. The first thing we need to adjust is make sure we have adequate seating. Since more and more people have been joining us, we need to make sure we have enough seats. Next, with the food and light refreshments, we need to ensure we have enough for everyone. It is better to have more than not enough. We have also been implementing a better sound/audio system so all of our visitors can hear us clearly from the seating in the back. Finally, we have learned to have replacement speakers on standby, due to unforeseen circumstances. We look forward to hosting this event for years to come!

Pollock-Randall Funeral Home, Port Huron, MI

Karrer-Simpson Funeral Home, Port Huron, MI; Marysville Funeral Home, Marysville, MI

Laura Kendrick Godwin, funeral director and grief counselor on our staff, had worked on the local excursion boat, Huron Lady II, during her college years. With many hours of sea time under her belt, she passed her tests and obtained her Captain's License in 2010 and has been driving the cruise boat since. The Huron Lady is a 65 foot, 87 ton vessel that holds 100 people on two decks. The boat does tours of the upper St. Clair River and lower Lake Huron, cruising under the twin Blue Water Bridges while the captain shares historical, geographic and anecdotal information about the area as well as describing the lake and ocean freighters that frequent the area. Recently, with her work load at the funeral home and counseling program, as well as being a mom to three small children, Laura has curtailed her boat time, but still drives occasionally when she is requested for trips. The Huron Lady II also hosts weddings, showers and parties and over the years, has been used by many of our families for scattering cruises, as it is a perfect venue for a service, luncheon and scattering in the lower lake. We often suggest it to families considering lake scattering and recommend it to other funeral homes looking for such arrangements. The boat owners typically request that Laura drive these cruises as she is comfortable and knowledgeable in working with the families, whether or not we were their original funeral directors.

Last summer, during a discussion with one of our local Veterans Affairs employees, it came to light that their office was trying to sponsor a social cruise for local veterans but had not been able to obtain all of the funding to do so. Laura immediately volunteered the funeral home to pay the balance of the fees so the cruise could go on. Veterans and their spouse or guest were able to attend the 2-hour sightseeing cruise on the St. Clair River/ lower Lake Huron and we were prominently featured as the cruise sponsor. As soon as it was publicized, the cruise immediately sold out and a waiting list was created, so we then offered to sponsor a 2nd cruise later in the summer, which also sold out. These events were so popular and well received that Veterans Affairs was able to obtain full funding for future cruises this year. However, they were extremely grateful that we stepped in for the interim and we received great feedback and thank you notes from many who attended. We felt this was a great opportunity to step in and assist and yet it did not turn into an on-going commitment (which sometimes happens in these situations) of diminishing returns. The cost of renting the entire boat for an afternoon charter is about \$1700 and the Veterans Affairs office handled the publicity so we felt this was an extremely economical and effective public relations outreach to the veteran community.

Watson Thomas Funeral Home and Crematory, Galesburg, IL

When we see something that isn't right, we have three choices, except it, ignore it, or fix it. At Watson Thomas Funeral Home we believe the only choice is to step up and fix it. For many years, our local veterans service organizations have dutifully provided an honor guard at a funeral, if requested, for their fallen brethren. As the years have gone by the number of participating veteran organizations, veterans, and most importantly, the funds to provide this noble service has greatly diminished.

Through the years many families requesting this service was asked to make a monetary donation to help them keep the honor guard afloat as they do not receive any funds from any other source. While our crew has been amazing and devoted, through the years, the requested dress attire amongst the group became only similar and not exact as one would expect from such a fine group of veterans. This has been due to the veteran having to purchase their own uniform.

In 2023 Mark and Tricia Thomas came up with an idea that would not only raise a lot of money at one time so they would be able to purchase matching uniforms, but also to provide a spotlight on the sometimes tireless volunteer work they do without any acknowledgement. So along came the idea to partner with one of our local craft breweries and create a beer, just for the veterans. And this is how All American Ale was born!

Mark called Blake Benedict at Reserve Artisan Ale about partnering to create not only the beer but a keg tapping evening at their brewery. Blake was immediately onboard as soon as the situation and idea was explained. Blake set about creating a light tasting beer that would satisfy many different beer drinkers. He summoned off finding as many local or near local ingredients and created a light, creamy ale. The promise made by Watson Thomas was two fold, one to cover all costs with creating the beer as long as Reserve would hold the event and donate their expertise in brewing the beer and canning some to have for sale as a keepsake. An artist was hired and a custom can wrap was made.

For 2023, we wanted this event to grow and to secure a spot as an annual event and fundraiser for our local veterans honor guard. As we partnered again with Reserve the event this year was held on Saturday evening of Veteran's Day November 11, 2024. We also grew the event to include numerous area businesses as sponsors and held a live concert with a regional country and western band, Brushville. Wanting it to be a real concert we had an opening act and sold tickets at \$10 to raise money for the veterans. All active duty and veterans were given free entry with ID. We were also able to partner with a local BBQ Restaurant, Big Catz, to bring their food truck to provide a dinner option for the evening. 10% of all sales from Big Catz was directly donated back to the organization.

We were able to raise over \$6,000.00 after all costs were covered to be able to donate to our honor guard. We are grateful for the continued and growing friendship our funeral home has created with these men and we hope our community understands the commitment of time and energy these men give of themselves to provide honors. Our goal always has been and always will be to raise enough funds so they never have to ask anyone for a dime to provide honors.

The guys are always humbled by the amount of people that thank them for their memory of when honors were provided.

Watson Thomas and Reserve Artisan Ales has already scheduled this event with another live band this year on November 9, which is the Saturday before Veteran's Day. Our goal this year is to raise enough money to provide a donation to all area Honor Guards and not just our local guard in Galesburg. Our hope is to not only provide another night honoring these selfless veterans and to provide the recognition they deserve, but to continue to raise money for them so as new veterans join their ranks or as gun repairs are needed and rifle rounds need purchased the money is there without having to ask a grieving family for a monetary donation.