

LANSING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From the President . . . Tony DeLaurentis

May brings another successful year for the Lansing Historical Society to a close.

Barb Dust and her museum volunteers have done a fantastic job again showcasing the many displays in the museum throughout the year.

We also need to thank the many volunteers that worked as museum guides faithfully staffing the museum so we could continue to keep it open for the community three days a week.

The programs this year have been exceptional. They were entertaining and informative. We want to say a huge thank you to Barb Dust for all of her hard work in getting us the best programs each and every month. She will be stepping down as program chairman next month. Dan Bovino, our Vice President Elect, will be handling the programs for our meetings.

I have enjoyed being your President again this year, and I look forward to what lies ahead for our Historical Society.

Don't forget to also be a part of the "Walk on Ridge Road" with Paul Schultz in June. With each walk every year, participants learn something new about our town!

Since this is our last newsletter until September, I will wish everyone a safe, happy, and relaxing summer!

Tony

2017 ~ 2018

Officers

Tony DeLaurentis, President

Richard Dust, Vice President

Phyllis Drewno, Treasurer

Marilyn Kooy, Secretary

Directors

Bill Benne

Herb Krumm

Dan Bovino

Advisor ~ Paul Schultz

Museum Curator - Barb Dust

Committee Chairmen

Marilyn Kooy ~Membership

Richard Dust ~ Historian

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

May 21 ~ Annual Banquet
RSVP due May 9

June 1 ~ Library Block Party

June 25 ~ Historical Walk on Ridge Road

July and August ~ No Meetings

REMINDER

Our annual Historical Society Banquet is May 21. Please support our organization by attending. For more information or if you need an invitation, call



Toni at 708-895-0993

Happy Spring



Newsletter Publisher and Editor

Toni DeLaurentis

Newsletter Committee

Marilyn Kooy and Jennifer Saia

Museum Curator - Barb Dust

April 8 in Lansing will always be remembered in the Lansing Historical Museum as Fallen Heroes Day. This year we honored Officer Ken Novak and LCPL Phil Martini with a vigil all day on Monday, April 9th. Officer Novak was Lansing's only police officer to be killed on duty, and LCPL Martini was our only marine to be killed in Iraq. Both heroes died on April 8th, Ken in 1992 and Phil in 2006. Our display featured pictures and memorabilia about their lives here in Lansing. We also included in the exhibit a remembrance of Ron Beuster, one of Lansing's first casualties of Viet Nam. This year we felt was the appropriate time to also highlight the life of Pam Wilkening, an aspiring nurse from Lansing whose life was cut short when eight student nurses from South Chicago Community hospital were murdered in 1966.

Thank you to the many members who volunteered to act as host for this solemn event.

I would like to use this occasion to put out a request to our members for pictures and memorabilia from military members who fought in the Korean Conflict. We have started to receive items from Viet Nam. We need to make an effort to record and remember Korean vets as well. If you know someone, please ask them to consider recording a memory or a picture or an artifact so that Korea is no longer "the forgotten war".

As you know, this is Illinois' Bicentennial year. Our April program featured actor Terry Lynch and his Happy Illinois Bicentennial Birthday Bash This is also Lansing's 125th Birthday.



Barb

Show Off Our Wonderful Museum

Lansing has its own Historical Society Museum, run by dedicated volunteer historical members where your children, grand-kids, and neighborhood children can learn about Lansing's local history and see what life was like in the early days of our area. They will be fascinated by old photos of people, places, and things in the Lansing community from pioneer days to current times. They will also be interested in examining the many household items and instruments that are no longer used, like a "non-electric" iron, a plow, or the first keyboard that we called a typewriter! It will be a blast from the past for the kiddos and a way to spark their interest in history.

Submitted by
Phyllis Drewno



We appreciate all you do!

Thank you to all the many volunteers throughout the year that have helped make the Lansing Historical Society the very active, integral Lansing organization that it is. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into planning and executing the many activities that are sponsored by the LHS, and without member participation it wouldn't be possible!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

May

4 Floyd Fairfield
7 Joe Saia
8 Paul Orich
15 Elayne Young
22 Bud Eidam
23 June Cole
28 Bill Benne
29 Karen Klein

June

4 Herb Krumm
7 Nancy Highland
8 Sharon Murphy
22 Mary DiGrispino
26 Dan Bovino
28 Bill Knight
30 Frank Trichak

August

2 Mildred Ogborn

July

4 Helen Guadagno
10 Marilyn Kooy
18 Mary Alice Sylvester
19 Carol Schultz
24 Donna Brum
28 Barb Dust
31 Mary Clark

5 Carrie Steinweg
7 John Cole
8 Gerri Besse
8 Margaret Darlington
27 Marti Benne



APRIL 23 ~ Terry Lynch

Our April 23th program, *Happy Illinois Bicentennial Birthday Bash* was presented by Terry Lynch. On December 3, 2018, the state of Illinois will be 200 years old! Actor Terry Lynch discussed everything from Illinois' early years, historical happenings, famous Illinoisans, as well as supplemental online information on Illinois counties as the big date draws near. A fun time was had by all as there was plenty of audience participation, and what is a birthday party without games and prizes! Brave volunteers competed as Terry tested their knowledge on Illinois history. Of course the "winners" were rewarded with prizes appropriate to the 125th Illinois Birthday Bash!

Lansing Historical Society Programs

FEBRUARY 26 ~ Reader's Theater

On February 26th, Lansing school students under the direction of Lansing School District 158 teacher, Mary DiGrispino, performed their "Readers Theater" rendition of the founding of our country. Students of T. F. South history teacher, Chris Roberts, also gave us a look into the life of Alexander Hamilton. Both groups of students did a fantastic job.

MARCH 26 ~ "Homer and Jethro"

Over 70 LHS members and guests filled the Community Room of the Lansing Public Library to hear Tracy Haynes Vrab share stories from her parents' country music and comedy careers, how they came to live in Lansing, and their battle with kidney disease and heart disease.

Vrab is the daughter of Henry D. Haynes, of winning duo Homer "Jethro" became



daughter of "Homer" the Grammy-country music and Kenneth C. Burns which famous for

their parades of popular songs. Vrab's mother, Elizabeth, also had a musical career, as part of the *Coon Creek Girls* in the Renfro Valley Barn Dance show.



Coming Up . . .

In our September Newsletter, we will feature a special article on our beautiful History Plaza on the corner of Ridge Road and Burnham Avenue

Lansing's Fallen Heroes Day Display- April 8, 2018



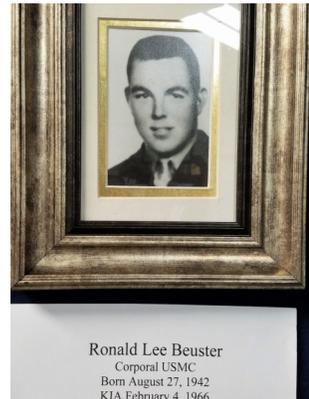
Kenneth Richard Novak
Born: January 17, 1965
End of Watch: April 8, 1992

Kenneth Richard Novak



Philip John Martini
Born: July 10, 1981
KIA: April 8, 2006
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Philip John Martini



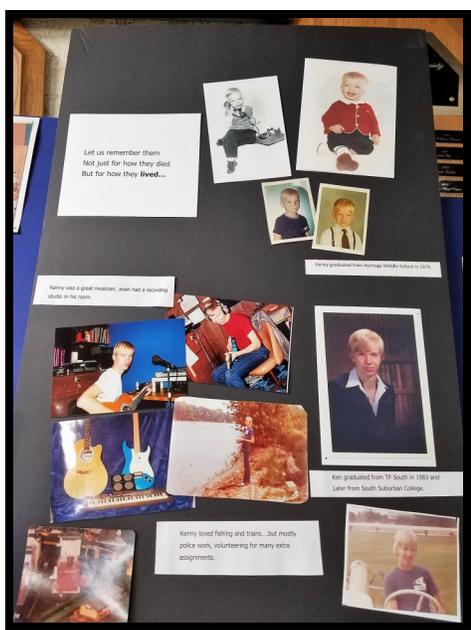
Ronald Lee Beuster
Corporal USMC
Born August 27, 1942
KIA February 4, 1966

Ronald Lee Beuster

We will never forget!



Lansing's Viet Nam Fallen Heroes



Ken Novak



Pam Wilkening



Philip Martini

On April 9, the Lansing Historical Society featured a "Fallen Heroes Display" to honor the lives of our own Lansing heroes.

Ken Novak was the only Lansing police officer to be killed while on duty on April 8, 1992

Philip Martini was the only Lansing Marine to be killed in Iraq also on April 8, 2006.

Ronald Buester was one of Lansing's first casualties in Viet Nam.

Pam Wilkening, a T. F. South graduate, was a nursing student when she was murdered along with seven other nursing students 1966.

2018 ~ 2019

**Newly Elected Officers
and Directors**

Tony DeLaurentis ~ President

Dan Bovino ~ Vice President

Phyllis Drewno, Treasurer

Marilyn Kooy, Secretary

Directors

Gloria Biondi

Sharon Murphy



Bill Benne will continue as LHS Director

June 1st ~ Library Block Party

Come join in the fun! The LHS will again participate in this great community event.

We will be once again bringing lots of smiles to children and adults alike as they participate in our unique, sometimes forgotten, games that were popular many years ago. Come join us in bringing a bit of history to life by donating some of your time on June 1st to help facilitate these games. Who knows. You may benefit as much as those who play the games as it may bring back some happy memories for you of days gone by!



Call or email Barb Dust
if you are able to help
(708) 474-7497 barbd728@aol.com

**THANK
YOU!**

Mayor Patty Eidam and Trustee Brian Hardy gave a monetary donation of \$60 to LHS. They donated the tips they made while volunteering as celebrity bartenders at Lynnne Que's Airport Bar and Grill. We thank them for thinking of us and for their generosity.

Our museum would not be available for our community to enjoy without the very faithful volunteers that kept the museum open three days a week for adults and children to enjoy.

Thank you to the following 2017-2018 guides

Gerri Besse Dan Bovino John and June Cole

Tony DeLaurentis Phyllis Drewno Barb Dust

Mickey Hillegonds Herb Krumm Vanessa Nesbit

Jackie Ore Paul Schultz

substitute guides

Joyce Mulder Carrie Steinweg

Just for laughs . . .

When my grandson, Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights!"



Lansing Historical Society
Post Office Box 1776
Lansing, IL 60438



MUSEUM HOURS

Monday 6:00 ~ 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday 3:00 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 11:00 ~ 1:00 p.m.

Lansing Historical Society meetings and programs are held the fourth Monday each month.

No meetings are scheduled in June, July, August, December or January.

We welcome new members to come to our first meeting in September

to come see what we are all about!

HAVE A SAFE, RELAXING, AND FUN SUMMER!

