

Armed Forces Day

by Lynne Belluscio

LeRoy's Hometown Heroes to be Honored on Armed Forces Day – May 19

Students of the LeRoy Rotary Interact club wanted a way to recognize the men and women who are on active duty in the Armed Services. They learned about similar projects in other communities and then set out to raise over \$3000 to have banners put up on Main Street with the photos of 21 "Hometown Heroes." Without a doubt, it is a remarkable thing that these kids have undertaken. When they learned that Eric Riseswick (LeRoy High School Class of 2017) was going to be deployed to South Korea, they pushed their plans ahead, and quickly arranged to have a celebration on Trigon Park on Armed Forces Day, which this year falls on May 19. Eric's two older brothers, were also in the military, and his father just recently retired.

Here's a little bit of history about Armed Forces Day. It was signed into law by President Harry Truman on August 31, 1949 when the Army, Navy, Marines and the Air Force were placed under the command of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard was placed under the Department of Homeland Security. Armed Forces Day honors Americans serving in the five military branches and it culminates a week of events for each branch of the military. It was first observed on May 20, 1950. Last year, Pres-

ident Trump reaffirmed Armed Forces Day. Even today, many communities celebrate the day with parades, receptions and airshows. Bremerton, Washington, near Puget Sound and the Naval base, will be holding its 71st annual Armed Forces parade this year. It claims it is the largest and longest Armed Forces Day parade and draws 35,000 to 40,000 people – a tribute to those on active duty serving their country.

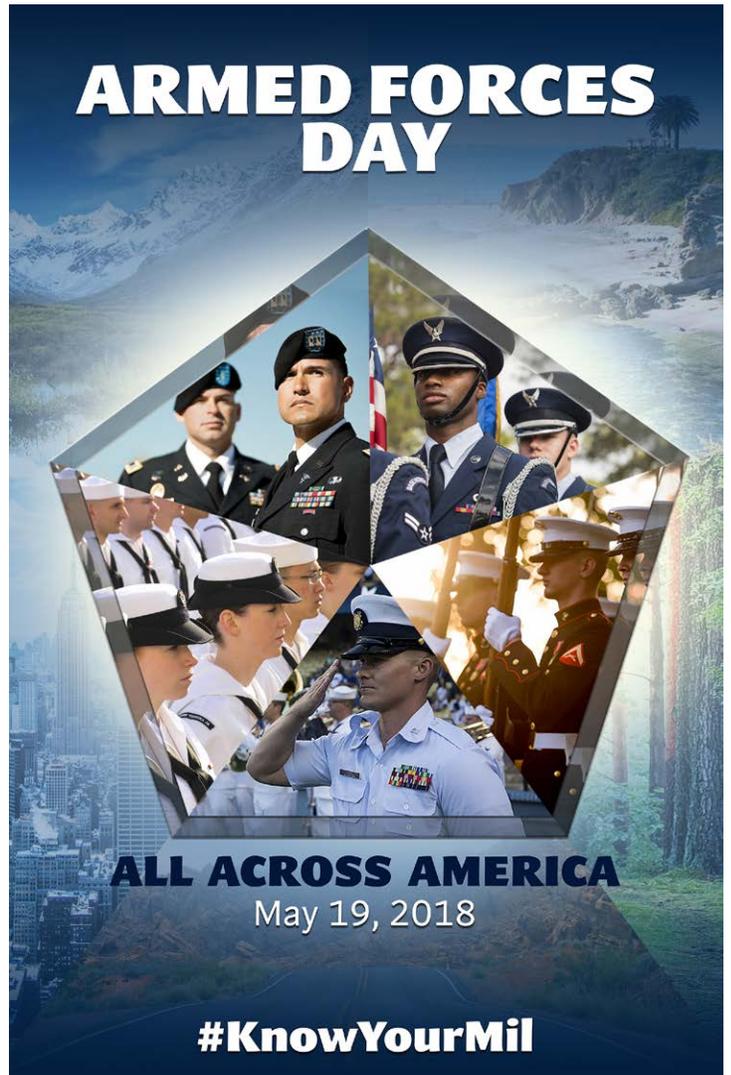
In the past, the LeRoy Gazette would post the names of the men and women who were going into the service. In fact, that is how Terry Krautwurst was able to put together the list of 270 LeRoyans who served during World War I. Frequently there was a big send off at the train station or the bus station. During World War II, the men were sent off with cartons of cigarettes and homemade cookies. But in today's world, even in a small town like LeRoy, most of us don't know who is actively serving in the military, so it is a great project that these high school kids have undertaken. These are the first banners that will be going up:

Army

- Tanner Bolsei
- Brian Davis
- Travis Hurd
- Benedicto Piazza
- Alexander Roth
- Michael Steffenella
- Douglas Vagg II

Navy

- Glenn Cassidy
- John Spooner



Marines

- Dillon Amo
- Gen. John Baker
- Sergio Forte III
- Russell Gleber
- Reed Kacur
- Damien Malone
- Cole Mart
- Sean McMullen
- David McVicker
- Eric Riseswick

Coast Guard

- James Wilcox

Air Force

- Matthew Murnan

So please come to Trigon Park for a brief ceremony on the 19th at 1:00 pm and pay tribute not only to our active servicemen and women, but also to the students who made it possible.



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