

Good News

exchange

Steve Bozeman

LYNCHBURG VETERANS UNITE TO SERVE

Lynchburg's veteran maestro:
A legacy of leadership



Plus

Cody Youngblood
melds the past
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INDEPENDENCE

ISSUE 6 2024

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ISSUE 6 2024

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR: 10
Independence

Good Living

PEDIATRICIAN, ALLERGIST ... MOUNTAIN CLIMBER? 12
Local doctor's fitness plan takes him to the top of the world

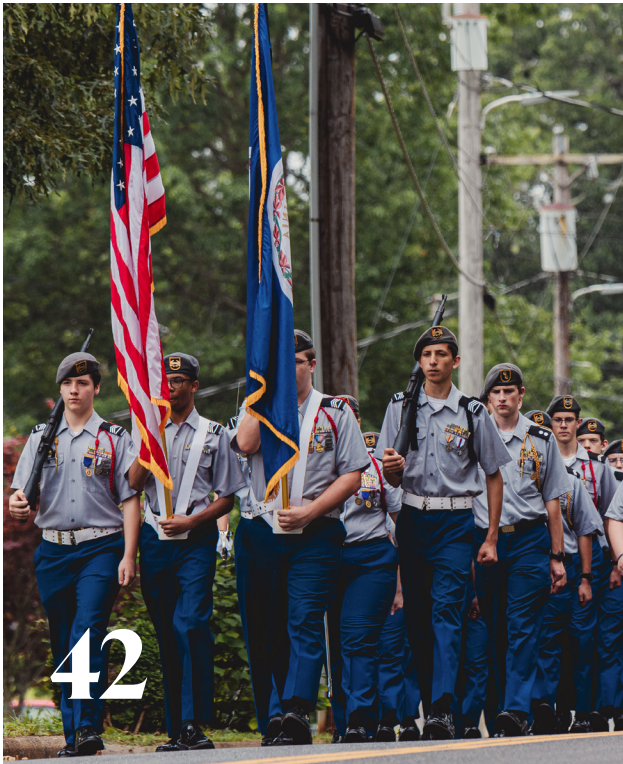
A YEAR-ROUND WINTER WONDERLAND IN LYNCHBURG 18
Liberty Mountain Snowflex Centre

A SYMPHONY OF STUDENTS AND STRINGS 22
Fund established in honor of beloved LCS violin teacher

IN CRUST WE TRUST 26
Harmonizing flavors in every slice of pizza

FIREWORKS, FLAVOR, AND FAMILY 28
Cook up a patriotic feast for summer gatherings





Good Stories

30 FROM RALLIES TO HOUSING, LYNCHBURG VETERANS UNITE TO SERVE

Lynchburg's veteran maestro:
Steve Bozeman's leadership legacy

34 PRESERVING AN AMERICAN NATIONAL MEMORIAL IN LYNCHBURG

Cody Youngblood melds the past and present
at Patrick Henry's Red Hill

38 'HE AIN'T HEAVY, HE'S MY BROTHER'

Col. Tom Current and the veterans council
honor local heroes

Good Times

42 COMMUNITY EVENTS

44 CHARITY LISTING

46 ADVERTISER INDEX

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The colors between the oceans

Healing is building for a more perfect union.

IF YOU took a snapshot of any moment in our country's history, there is a hurt we were trying to heal. The same is true today. It's our independence that lets us correct our wrongs, to heal, and to build our country up for a more perfect union. We can all be made by the same Creator and still land somewhere red, white, or blue. We can be different. That is the beauty of independence. This land is your land; this land is my land.

We can be better because of the people in our communities. Those who allow us to be independent provide an open field. We can run for miles into the unknown, and while it's scary, we know we are capable of whatever waits on the other side. We can run with the wind to our backs, hitting the ground to the beat of drums and trumpets that empower us. The same trumpets that rang as we fought a Civil War to keep a

country together with human rights for those of every skin color. The same drums that banged as we flew to Europe to end the Second World War. The same trumpets that helped us stand tall in September 2001. We're a country with the strength to hold each other up in 2020, even if it was through latex gloves.

While perfection will always be impossible to attain, it's our duty to fight for it every day — to get closer to the threshold of freedom and equality for everyone. Independence is a blessing that paints a beautiful picture of blues and reds that, when you pull away, make a purple you can only find between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

This issue of Good News highlights those in our community who make us better. It's their independence — and the fight to obtain it — that makes us who we are. GN

Wesley Bryant,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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publishing
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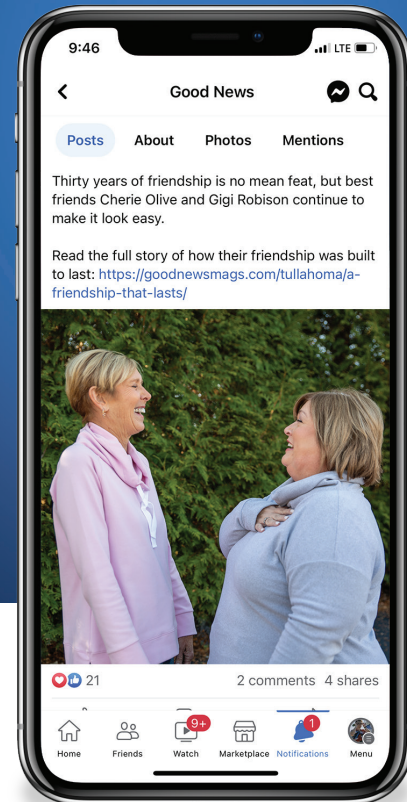
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*Bob
Sullivan*



Pediatrician, Allergist...

MOUNTAIN CLIMBER?

Local doctor's fitness plan takes him
to the top of the world.

By Sara Hook // Photography by Chris Morris

AT WORK, Bob Sullivan is a pediatrician, an allergist, and an immunologist. He treats the children of Lynchburg for asthma, eczema, and any number of allergies. He finds joy in making them feel better.

In his free time, Sullivan climbs mountains — not just any mountains, either. He has summited Mount Everest in Asia, Denali in Alaska, Mount Vinson in Antarctica, and a number of other peaks around the globe. Such impressive feats should have impressive beginnings, but for Sullivan, it simply started with Lent.

Sullivan and his wife, Stephanie, moved to Lynchburg in 1997, both taking jobs in pediatrics at F. Read Hopkins Pediatric Associates. It was around nine years later that he began thinking more about fitness

after his father survived a heart attack, and Sullivan was determined to make a lifestyle change.

“I had actually given up slothfulness for Lent because my father had had a heart attack,” Sullivan explained. “It made me just kind of think about things, and so I wanted to get back into shape.”

At first, he was just running. Then, the family took a trip to Alaska, where he met a man who had just climbed Denali — the highest peak in North America. Sullivan decided summiting the mountain would be a good goal to strive for in his efforts to get back in shape. To climb the mountain, however, he had to do a lot more than just run. He took training courses, climbed smaller mountains as practice, and tested his ability to survive glaciated areas and high altitudes.

“

Climbing mountains is like a cathedral for me; it's a way I would get closer to God. I was very blessed to have made it to the summit and come down safely.

-Bob Sullivan



“There's a lot of preparation,” Sullivan said. “It's becoming physically fit and then pushing yourself to a level beyond what sometimes you feel you might have been capable of.”

Bad weather forced him to turn back on his first attempt, but Sullivan returned the next year and made it to the top. He'd reached his fitness goal, but he didn't stop there. His high altitude test had been on Mount Kilimanjaro — the highest peak in Africa. After summiting Mount Kilimanjaro and Denali, completing the other continental high points was a no-brainer.

“I was like, ‘Okay, well, I've done two of the seven summits now,’” Sullivan said. “I'd done a lot of reading about that, and I just decided I would try and climb some other ones.”

Mount Rogers, the highest natural point in Virginia, stands at just over 5,700 feet. The smallest of the seven summits — the Carstensz Pyramid in Oceania — is over 16,000. Of course, one of those seven was Mount Everest, which Sullivan summited in 2012 alongside a medical team through the Wilderness Medical Society. For that climb, Sullivan said, he was in the best condition of his life.

“You want to be able to take care of yourself, even though you're on a team, and you need to be prepared — that if someone is injured or has fallen — that you're capable of helping to rescue them. It was important for me not to just have a guide take me [on] a leash, but to actually be an active participant in the climb.”

He had to do exactly that on his way down from Everest, continuing to camp without his team's guide and helping stabilize another climber who had fallen. There was a lot of spiritual growth involved in the experience, Sullivan said, as he learned to work with others for a common goal and trust that the outcome was not totally in his hands.

“Climbing mountains is like a cathedral for me; it's a way I would get closer to God,” Sullivan expressed. “I was very blessed to have made it to the summit and come down safely.”

After that climb, Sullivan finished the seven summits, becoming the 397th person in the world to have completed the challenge and around the 100th to do a final eighth mountain.

He rarely climbed alone, and while there isn't an alpine climbing community in Lynchburg, the international community is very diverse.

"I climb with people from Switzerland, from Sweden, from South America, from Peru, from Turkey, one from Wales, Scotland — just people from all around the world. It's really interesting to sit down when you're at camp, and you talk [about] everyone's different experience."

Sullivan occasionally climbed with his wife and children. His daughter, in particular, took a shine to the activity. Often, Sullivan would be the guide on those climbs.

"There's a lot of responsibility in that because you do need to be self-reliant," Sullivan said. "That's your family, and you don't want any of them to get hurt."

After all, climbing mountains can be hazardous. It is impossible to control the weather, the rock falls, the avalanches, or any other hazards. Summiting, Sullivan said, is different from the goal.

"My first goal is to do it as safely as possible, and a success for me is just coming back," Sullivan said. "There are dangers that [are] beyond your control, and you just have to weigh the costs and benefits and make sure that, at least, you're in good shape so that you give yourself the best odds."

It is a lesson that works both on the mountain and in real life. Like Sullivan, you, too, can do incredible things if you try. You don't need to climb mountains, but take those first steps to care for yourself and embrace your hobbies. You never know what you might learn or who you might meet in the process. **GN**



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“The content of the magazine is wholesome and seems to support a good cause. It is much preferable to other advertising sources because it seems to build up the community, rather than solely profit from it.”

“Good News is a great magazine, and it is delivered to many people, probably more than the local newspaper. I look all the way through and read most of it. It is the best place to advertise.”





Making An Impact On The Community

"I'm so thankful to see Good News Magazine in my mailbox each month because it's the positive news I've been wanting to spur thoughtful conversations with my two teens about deeper issues, current events, and news. We've been reading the articles together as a way to expand their understanding of the world outside of themselves. Any chance to understand different perspectives and those who are different from us, helps them grow into more understanding people. Thank you for bringing this to Lynchburg, and selfishly, these stories and conversations into my home! What you and your staff are doing is making a difference in our community."

- Keeley C. Tuggle

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A YEAR-ROUND

Winter



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IN LYNCHBURG



LIBERTY MOUNTAIN SNOWFLEX CENTRE

BY HALEY POTTER // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SARAH BUSSARD





IF YOU have explored the campus of Liberty University, it is likely you have seen Liberty Mountain Snowflex Centre.

Snowflex offers an unparalleled experience for winter sports enthusiasts and families alike. This facility, managed by the passionate and dedicated General Manager Derek Woods, redefines what it means to enjoy winter sports — regardless of the season, even if you want to spend a hot Independence Day on the slopes.

As Derek Woods put it, "Snowflex is a fantastic family destination for several reasons. In addition to offering year-round winter activities such as skiing, snowboarding, and tubing, accessible to all ages and skill levels, the facility provides a safe and welcoming environment for families."

Families find joy in the consistent and predictable conditions provided by the Snowflex surface. Unlike traditional snow-based resorts that are at the mercy of weather conditions, Snowflex guarantees a smooth and enjoyable experience every time.

Imagine a place where the snow is always perfect, the slopes are always ready, and the excitement never ends. That place is Snowflex. With an impressive annual footfall of approximately 50,000 visitors, Snowflex has firmly established itself as a local must-visit attraction. The draw? A combination of affordability and accessibility.

Woods explained, "Another significant advantage is its relatively low cost compared to traditional ski mountains, making it an affordable option for families seeking a fun and memorable outing without breaking the bank."

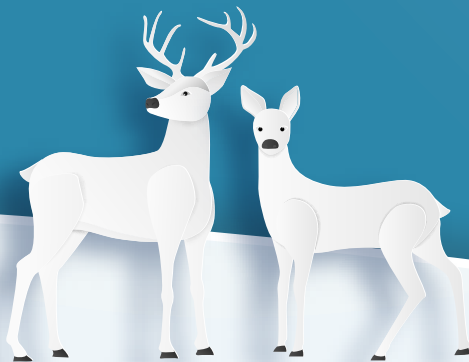
The moment you arrive at Snowflex, you are greeted with a sense of adventure and fun. The facility has a variety of amenities designed to cater to the diverse needs of its visitors. The skiing and snowboarding areas are designed to accommodate all skill levels. For beginners, there's a designated area perfect for learning the ropes. Here, first-timers can develop their basic skills in a supportive and encouraging environment. For the more daring and experienced, the advanced freestyle area is equipped with various jumps and rails, providing the perfect playground to practice and perfect their tricks.

Families with younger children will find the sledding area particularly enjoyable. This area is specifically designed for little ones to have their own snowy adventure, ensuring that even the youngest members of the family can join in the fun.

For Derek Woods, being part of the Snowflex team is more than just a job; it's a source of pride and satisfaction.

"Being able to work at such a fun, family-friendly facility like Snowflex means I get to be part of creating joy and excitement every day," he said. The ability to see families bond over shared experiences and create lasting memories is a reward in itself. Woods added, "It's incredibly rewarding to see people of all ages and skill levels come together, bond, and create lasting memories in such a positive environment."

Snowflex continues to set the standard for family-friendly fun, ensuring that every visit is a memorable one. So, whether you're looking to hit the slopes, learn a new skill, or simply enjoy a day out with the family, Snowflex promises an experience like no other. **GN**





DEREK QUINN-WOODS



A symphony of students and strings

Fund established in honor of
beloved LCS violin teacher

By Amanda E. West // Photography by Sarah Bussard

GINGER PARIS places her violin in the playing position while students as young as 5 do the same. After the introduction ends, the sounds of the first song they learned, “Mississippi Hot Dog,” fill the room. The students are eager to please their beloved Mrs. Paris, and the parents in attendance beam as they note marked improvement. Using words and listening to recordings allows students to play the rhythm without knowing how to read music, which will come later. Just as one would never expect an infant to win a spelling bee, students using the Suzuki method learn to read musical notes after mastering the sounds and speaking the language of music fluently.



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▲ Ginger Paris and her students

“There is an inner joy in making music, whether you’re doing it for yourself or others. The skills that are learned carry over into everything you do.”

-Ginger Paris

Shinichi Suzuki, a Japanese native born in 1898, believed that if children learned to speak their native language with ease by mimicking sounds around them, the same could be true for learning music, and the Suzuki method was born.

In the fall of 1970, Rudolph “Rudy” Hazucha founded the Lynchburg City Schools (LCS) Strings program after being introduced to Suzuki’s revolutionary method. His pilot program proved wildly successful, expanding rapidly into every city school. In 1974, Lynchburg native Ginger Paris began teaching violin at another location before coming alongside LCS teachers Bruce and Ellen Habitzruther in 1978. When the couple retired in 2001, Paris became the director. Over the last 50 years, she has taught thousands of students to play string instruments, primarily violin, with many pursuing music as a career.



Music education has proven to increase brain development, foster social interactions, and build self-confidence. In honor of Paris' contributions to the LCS Strings program, Drs. Bob and Terry Brennan created an endowment fund at the Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation that will support the achievements of LCS Strings students in perpetuity.

Paris was elated with the news and said, "For the strings teachers in K-12 to have funds available for violin repairs, professional development, field trips, and more without the often tedious and tiresome efforts of fundraising is truly a dream come true!"

In April, over 750 people reserved seats and attended the "Celebrating Lynchburg City Schools Strings – Past, Present, and Future" show held in honor of Paris at the Academy Center of the Arts' Historic Academy Theatre.

This event featured notable LCS Strings alumni such as Emily Glover — wife of Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra Music Director/Conductor David Glover, Greg Childress, Dr. Tes Slominski, Elizabeth Vonderheide, Stephen Meyer, and many others. The day following this event, the 52nd annual Suzuki Festival was held at E. C. Glass High School, which featured an overflowing stage of elementary and middle school students performing together.

The LCS Strings program is the only program in the Commonwealth of Virginia that offers free Suzuki violin lessons to kindergarten through fifth grade students and orchestra to sixth through 12th grade students. Currently, over 850 students — or just over 10% of the student population — are involved in the LCS Strings program.

"I am envious of my students who get to learn by the Suzuki method," said Paris. "They listen to recordings, repeat small segments with the help of a parent, and later, attach abstract notes to what they can already play. I didn't get to learn violin until the third grade. My private teacher required me to take two years of piano and know how to read music first."

Suzuki violin students learn self-confidence to memorize quickly and develop a keen sense of pitch. Children learn best by repetition, and eventually, Paris sees that special twinkle in their eyes as they find the notes before she's even taught them.

"There is an inner joy in making music, whether you're doing it for yourself or others. The skills that are learned carry over into everything you do. They help students become better students and, as Dr. Suzuki often stated, 'a better person.' Music is a universal language no matter where you go. Even if the music is very different from what you are accustomed to hearing in your culture, it helps you relate to others."

After 50 years of teaching, how does she do it?

"Oh, I have lots of stamina. Each year, I have somewhere between 150-225 students, so I'm now teaching children of former students and even a few grandchildren. I can't imagine life without teaching."

The Ginger Paris LCS Strings Fund soared to over \$126,000 in donations, quickly surpassing its original goal of \$100,000. GN

If you'd like to make a donation, visit www.lynchburgfoundation.org/paris.

IN CRUST WE TRUST



Harmonizing flavors in every slice of pizza

WALKING INTO Sourdough Pizza, you are welcomed with a modern, no-frills aesthetic that represents the fresh and clean menu well. The first thing I noticed was the playlist — Cyndi Lauper, Alanis Morissette, and Fleetwood Mac came through the speakers. We ordered at the counter and took our drinks to the table, where we watched the staff make our “Bee Sting” pizza. Sitting in the corner, singing “Ironic,” I noticed the boxes of tomatoes for the homemade sauce and the basil plants on the counter, ensuring only the freshest ingredients were used.

When the pizza was brought to our table, it looked and smelled as good as it tasted. My only thoughts while eating were, “Can you believe this sauce?” and “I never want another kind of dough.” Instead of having an overly sweet sauce that tastes

processed like many places, Sourdough Pizza Company makes its sauce to enhance the natural flavor and acidity of the tomatoes. Rather than overwhelming the other ingredients, it provides a complementary base for the whole milk fresh mozzarella, basil, sea salt, and honey drizzle, creating a sweet, savory, and acidic combination.

The employees were proud to share that not only do they make incredible pizza, but they sell 32-ounce and 10-ounce loaves of sourdough bread as well as packs of Sourdough Pizza dough. They were sending orders out of the door faster than I could count and were happy to share that they also ship nationwide.

Not only was I impressed with the quality of ingredients and the taste of the pizza itself, but few restaurants I have visited could rival the per-

sonability of the employees and Sourdough Pizza’s sleek environment. When deciding where to get your next slice, consider Sourdough Pizza Company to be Good News-approved! **GN**

GOOD NEWS IS COMING TO DINNER!

We will feature a local food critic’s thoughts as they dine in Lynchburg. This month Grace Hayes visited Sourdough Pizza Company.

Sourdough Pizza Company

1040 Gables Dr., Ste. 104
Forest, VA 24551
(434) 329-0609
www.sourdoughpizza.com
IG: [sourdoughpizzaco](https://www.instagram.com/sourdoughpizzaco)



A collage of Southern-style barbecue dishes. In the foreground, there are several plates of ribs and brisket. In the background, there is a large bowl of salad with various vegetables and a bowl of corn. The text is overlaid on a dark red background with a white dotted border.

Fireworks, flavor, and
FAMILY

Submit your recipes to be included in Good News Magazine
and the Exchange Cookbook: www.southernaprons.com

Cook up a patriotic feast for summer gatherings.

WHAT BETTER time to indulge in the ultimate celebration of all things American: backyard barbecues, July Fourth festivities, and the comforting flavors of home? Let's salute the classic dishes that evoke the nostalgia of summer gatherings and the joy of savoring delicious comfort food with loved ones.

From perfectly grilled burgers and sizzling hot dogs to mouthwatering potato salad and sweet, tangy barbecue ribs, these recipes capture the essence of summer indulgence. Whether you're hosting a backyard bash or simply craving comfort food, join us as we embrace the essence of outdoor cooking and revel in the flavors of freedom. **GN**



Grilled Chipotle Ribs

Submitted by Essie Mills

2 sm. onions, peeled, divided
1 rack pork spareribs, 4 1/2 lbs.
water, enough to boil ribs
1/2 c. mesquite flavored marinade
1 t. chipotle chili powder
2 T. fresh cilantro, chopped

Quarter 1 onion and chop remaining onion. In a roasting pan over high heat, bring ribs, quartered onion, and enough water to cover ribs to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes. In a small mixing bowl, combine chopped onion, marinade, chili powder, and cilantro. Heat grill to medium high. Brush ribs with marinade mixture. Grill for 15 minutes or until thermometer reads 160°, turning once, brushing often.

Broccoli Slaw

Submitted by Brenda Hamilton

1 pkg. broccoli slaw
2 pkgs. Ramen noodles, chicken flavor, broken into pieces
1 bunch green onions, chopped
flavor packet from Ramen noodles
1/2 c. vegetable oil
1/2 c. sugar
1/3 c. white wine vinegar
1 c. slivered almonds, toasted
1 c. sunflower seeds, toasted

Mix broccoli slaw, Ramen noodles, and green onions together in a large bowl. In a sauce pan, mix flavor packets, oil, sugar, and vinegar together; heat slightly to help dissolve sugar. Pour over broccoli slaw mixture; mix well. Refrigerate 24 hours. Before serving, toss with almonds and sunflower seeds

Microwave Coconut Cream Pie

Submitted by Judy Flynt

3/4 c. sugar
5 T. cornstarch
3 c. milk
3 egg yolks, beaten
1 1/2 c. flake coconut
2 T. margarine
1 1/2 t. vanilla
1 deep dish pie shell, baked

In a microwavable bowl, combine sugar and cornstarch. Gradually stir in milk. Cook at full power for 6-8 minutes or until thickened and bubbling. Whisk 2-3 times during cooking. In a small bowl, beat egg yolks. Stir in 3/4 cup of hot mixture into egg yolks, stirring constantly. Return to hot mixture. Cook on full power for 1-2 1/2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from microwave. Add coconut, margarine, and vanilla. Whisk until margarine is melted. Pour into pie shell. Allow to cool for several hours before serving.

INDEPENDENT



h Week Ann
January 29, 20

By Dave Lenehan
Photography by Chad Barrett

STEVE BOZEMAN



FROM RALLIES TO HOUSING, LYNCHBURG VETERANS UNITE TO SERVE

Lynchburg's veteran maestro:
Steve Bozeman's leadership legacy

THE SCENARIO may sound all too familiar. You served your country in the military overseas for the past four years. When you return home, finding work brings frustration rather than a job. Your finances cannot cover your expenses, and you end up losing your apartment. The streets may end up serving as your home instead. What can you do?

For the Lynchburg Area Veterans Council (LAVC) and its vice president, Steve Bozeman, the solution for homeless military veterans came through the

home of a well-known local war hero. Bozeman is a Vietnam War veteran who served overseas from 1966 to 1967 as a helicopter door gunner and mechanic in the Marine Corps. He flew over 400 combat missions, was shot down, and earned two Purple Heart medals.

Drive past Monument Terrace on Court Street in downtown Lynchburg any Friday at noon, and you will likely see Bozeman, along with 75 to 100 other veterans, honoring the fallen, waving flags of their particular branch of service, and greeting passersby. The rally at Monument

Terrace exists for more than a gathering of military veterans. It's a 23-year legacy that continues to grow in supporting our troops in harm's way and providing a connection for the veterans who participate. Bozeman asserted that the rallies reveal "a camaraderie of veterans bonding together for a common purpose."

To understand the tie-in between the Friday rallies at Monument Terrace and the LAVC, Bozeman offered a brief history lesson. Following the terrorist attacks against the United States on 9/11, Bozeman and 75 other veterans decided to hold a rally in support of U.S. troops deployed to Afghanistan. When the rally was over, a fellow veteran asked Bozeman if he would be back at Monument Terrace the following Friday for the next rally. When Bozeman hesitated, his friend reminded him that the following Friday was Dec. 7, the anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 1941. Bozeman said he knew then that the rally would become a regular event.

The LAVC was formed 10 years ago to help veterans who use wheelchairs get a ride to the Salem VA Medical Center. The LAVC continues to function as a nonprofit, and members coordinate efforts between the various groups for veterans in Lynchburg to meet the needs of veterans in a more efficient and organized manner. Over time, Bozeman joined each of the six organizations for veterans in Lynchburg to assist each one in meeting needs collectively. Bozeman considers himself a "maestro," conducting both the rallies and the various groups' efforts, working together.


Bozeman said that three years ago, the LAVC learned of a very pressing concern — there were homeless veterans in the "Hill City" who could not find housing. At first, Bozeman said, the organization filled the housing needs through other



local nonprofits such as Miriam's House and the Salvation Army. But, Bozeman explained, the LAVC wanted to provide housing completely on its own.

To the council's surprise, the 115-year-old home of Desmond T. Doss came up for lease. Doss was a World War II Army medic who received the Medal of Honor for bravery, awarded to him for saving close to 100 wounded soldiers on Okinawa in 1945. Bozeman recounted that the LAVC jumped at the opportunity to lease the home. Once the LAVC signed the lease, three veterans moved in and found a new home.

"The good thing about it is that these guys — they have their own independence," Bozeman pointed out. "They were able to work together once they got in, realizing the historical significance."



Each vet has his own bedroom with a common kitchen that serves all three. A year later, Bozeman added, the Doss home came up for sale, and the LAVC purchased it. Eight veterans have called the Doss house “home,” and today, two live there with one bedroom still available. The best news of all? Bozeman proudly proclaimed there are no homeless veterans in Lynchburg!

Since ending his military service in 1972, Bozeman has run competitively — and he runs a lot! His races include over 300 5Ks and 10Ks, 100-milers, and various levels of triathlons. This year, Bozeman plans to run in three races, including the Marine Corps Marathon, for which he was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2000.

As he laces up his running shoes, Bozeman not only races toward another personal milestone but also toward a future where no veterans face housing insecurity in Lynchburg. **GN**

“The good thing about it is that these guys — they have their own independence. They were able to work together.”

STEVE BOZEMAN



By Richard Klin
Photography by Chris Morris

CODY YOUNGBLOOD



PRESERVING AN AMERICAN NATIONAL MEMORIAL IN LYNCHBURG

Cody Youngblood melds the past and present
at Patrick Henry's Red Hill.

“GIVE ME liberty or give me death.” Those words — that famous utterance of Patrick Henry in 1775 — are an enshrined part of the history of the American Revolution. If pressed, most people probably know the source of this rallying cry was Patrick Henry. And then their knowledge, most likely, ends there.

Cody Youngblood is determined to fill those gaps in knowledge. He is the director of historic preservation and collections at Patrick

Henry's Red Hill, the sprawling Henry family estate that is now a national memorial.

Youngblood has a master's in historic building conservation from the University of York in the United Kingdom. In his position at Patrick Henry's Red Hill, he does a little bit of everything, overseeing the historic buildings and structures and dealing with the museum's 3D artifacts, papers, and documents. Red Hill has a new archaeology staff and saw the site's first big dig last year. The intent was to identify what had been an icehouse

DEPENDENCE



and servants' quarter, as well as Henry's kitchen (whereabouts still unknown).

Henry's legacy had been distorted by the biographers of the 19th century, who were far more interested in hero worship than historical accuracy, rendering Henry — and so many of the Founders — as demigods. The actual historical record is far more fascinating. Henry, aside from being one of the Founding Fathers, was a celebrated lawyer who engaged in significant cases like the "Parson's Cause," which was of enormous importance in the 1760s. He was governor of Virginia — and in that capacity, interestingly, signed Hampden-Sydney College's founding charter. In the course of two marriages, he fathered 17 children.

Henry was also genuinely humble and, for a person of his repute, lived in surprisingly modest dwellings.

"He was someone who wasn't concerned with his legacy," said Youngblood — a striking contrast to Thomas Jefferson, who saved his papers because he knew he was an important historical figure. "Henry was concerned with the rights of individual Americans at this time, and he understood that's what he was put here for. He wasn't concerned with making sure his papers were saved."

Patrick Henry's Red Hill is also making a strong attempt to avoid the longtime omission of slavery from historical records. The memorial's original name was the Red Hill Shrine to Patrick Henry, but as Youngblood pointed out, 147 enslaved and free Black people are buried on the site, in addition to members of the Henry family.

"Since the 1770s, when the property was first settled by white people, there have been African Americans here, so their history — very recently — has been intertwined with the story."



▲ Cody Youngblood with the letter opener used in "Give me liberty, or give me death!" speech

Red Hill's collection includes items from the enslaved people and the free Black sharecroppers who also lived here. Youngblood and the staff are expending a concerted effort to make sure this slice of history, including the horror of slavery, is remembered.

"Some of our best visitors are schools," Youngblood explained.

Every year, the site hosts hundreds of elementary and middle school students. There is a large living history component, including volunteers wearing colonial garb and explaining topics ranging from colonial cooking and medicine to a look at blacksmithing and pottery. There are also summer camps, college students who come for guided tours, and a contingent of volunteers.

"The educational outreach is the thing I think we do best."

There is an extensive archive available to both researchers and students. Red Hill has also partnered with the University of Virginia to present "Patrick Henry: Forgotten Founder," an accessible online class. Non-students can get started at the university's visitor center and enjoy an introductory video that welcomes them and discusses Patrick Henry. There is also a museum shop. Visitors can experience the





“Henry was concerned with the rights of individual Americans at this time, and he understood that’s what he was put here for.”

CODY YOUNGBLOOD

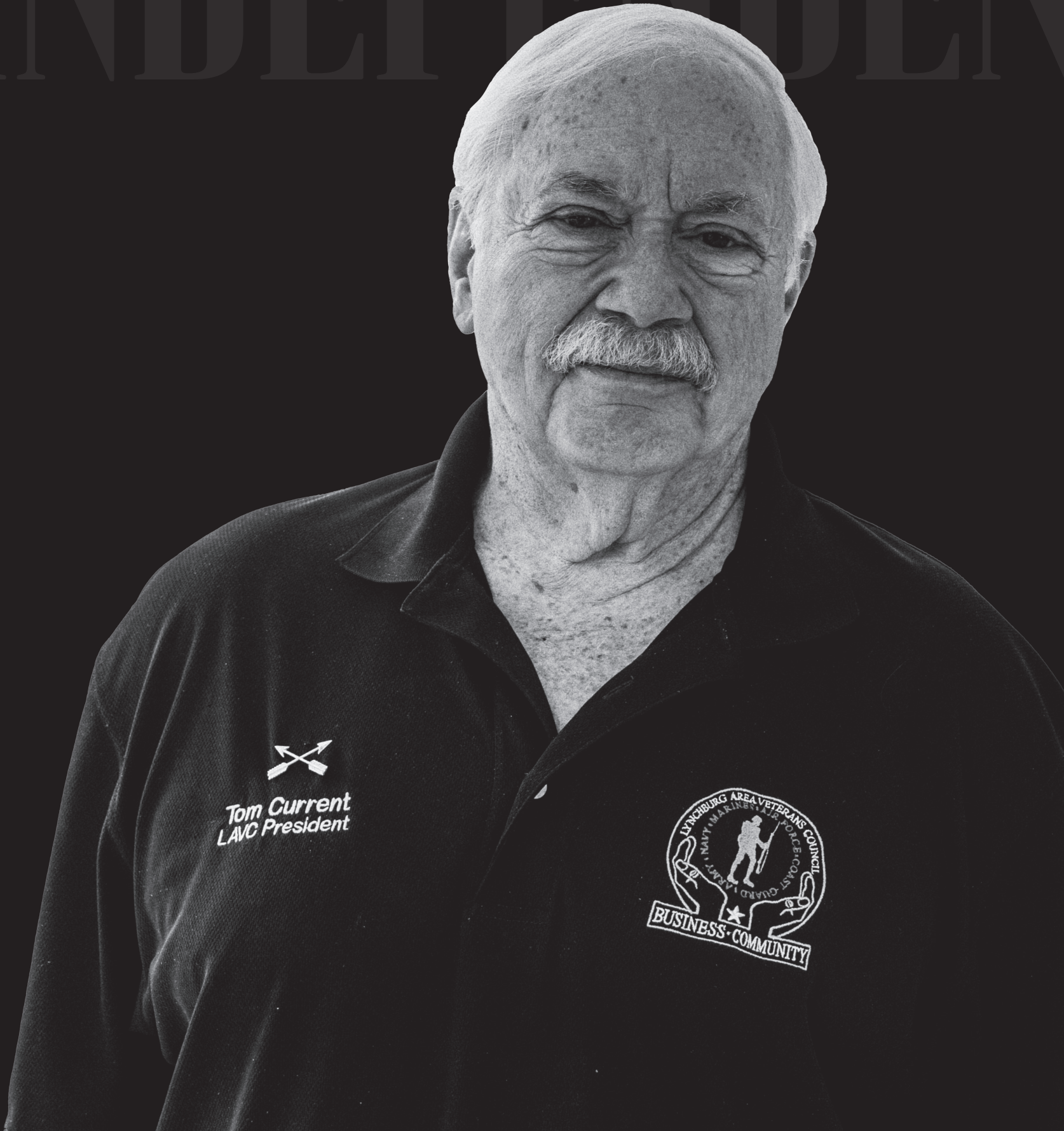
▲ Cody Youngblood with a replica fiddle

reconstructed Patrick Henry house, his law office, the Henry family cemetery, and other outbuildings.

Visitors can experience Red Hill’s incredible natural surroundings, boasting striking views down to the Staunton River. Closer to the visitor center, there is a walking trail — the Quarter Place Trail. Historically, the Quarter Place was where the enslaved people and the free Black people lived — a half-mile trail that descends to some foundations of slave quarters and an extant tobacco barn. At the end of that trail is the Quarter Place Cemetery, where the enslaved people and free Black people are buried.

The study of history is full of misconceptions — that it’s a “dull recitation of facts and dates.” But history really is a living, breathing thing. And there’s no better example than that of Patrick Henry’s Red Hill. GN

INDEPENDENT



Tom Current
LAVC President



By Amanda E. West
Photography by Chris Morris

COL. TOM CURRENT



'HE AIN'T HEAVY, HE'S MY BROTHER'

Col. Tom Current and the veterans council
honor local heroes.

WHEN WE hear someone reminisce about “the greatest generation,” we inevitably know they are referring to the men and women who bravely fought in World War II. While Tennessee rightfully boasts of the heroism of Sgt. Alvin C. York during World War I, the story of Lynchburg native Desmond T. Doss gives cause for the entire Commonwealth of Virginia to overflow with national pride because of Doss’ unparalleled bravery.

Like York, Doss also held deeply religious views and chose to go into

combat without a weapon. After facing backlash from fellow soldiers, Doss emerged as a national hero during the Battle of Okinawa when he saved the lives of close to 100 of his fellow infantrymen in an area known as the 96th Infantry Division or “Hacksaw Ridge.”

Although he suffered a fracture to his left arm and had 17 pieces of shrapnel lodged throughout his body, for five grueling hours, Doss lugged his fellow “brothers” across his scrawny shoulders amid heavy enemy fire whirling all around them. Even though, for Doss, who was a Seventh-day Adventist, it was his Sabbath,

or “day of rest.” Doss ran headlong into battle that Saturday, praying, “Lord, give me one more,” before each rescue. For many veterans, the poignant words of the 1969 hit song “He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother,” made popular by The Hollies, sums up this sacrificial love.

On Oct. 12, 1945, President Harry Truman awarded Doss a Medal of Honor, a Bronze Star for valor, and a Purple Heart medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters — the equivalent of three Purple Heart medals. He received several other medals for conduct and bravery. Doss died March 23, 2006, at the age of 87 and is buried at the Chattanooga National Cemetery in Tennessee.

Ten years after his death, the 2016 Academy Award-winning film “Hacksaw Ridge” brought a broader audience to the bravery of Doss. In 2019, through the unwavering leadership of retired Col.

Tom Current, the Lynchburg Area Veterans Council (LAVC) was able to purchase the birthplace and childhood home of Doss at 1309 Garfield Ave. The building now provides housing for homeless veterans.

Current has been practicing law in Lynchburg for 35 years and in other states since 1983. After graduating from Purdue University with an engineering degree and as a distinguished military graduate in Army ROTC, he served in the U.S. Army for 30 years. In 2003, he retired at the rank of colonel. He was a combat engineer, served two tours with the U.S. Army Special Forces, and was a ranger and a master parachutist. The highest position held by Current was the chief of staff, 80th Infantry Division, at the U.S. Army headquarters in Richmond.

“LAVC is a 501(c)(3) publicly supported charity that helps our most needy veterans in Lynchburg and the surrounding contiguous counties,” said Current. “We help with every need imaginable, especially with veteran homelessness. We are a volunteer partner with the Central Virginia Continuum of Care, comprised of several agencies and nonprofits that meet weekly to tackle the homelessness issue — to include veterans.”

In 2019, the city of Lynchburg designated

Oct. 12 as “Desmond T. Doss Day,” commemorating the date President Truman awarded Doss with his medals. The LAVC recently paid tribute to Desmond T. Doss Day by planting trees at the Blackwater Creek Trail Extension at Linkhorne Middle School in memory of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the Global War on Terrorism. Desmond T. Doss Jr. was the guest speaker.

“These fallen heroes we planted trees for were from the Lynchburg area — or were assigned to military units in the area — that were deployed to fight in the war. One of the men killed in action, Cpl. Michael Fulcher, was from Madison Heights. His three sisters attended the dedication. Fulcher was killed in the Beirut, Lebanon, Marine barracks bombing in 1983, 40 years ago. His sisters said, ‘We didn’t think anyone cared.’ After the dedication ceremony, they said, ‘Now we know somebody cares.’”


Although few remain of our greatest generation, the road has indeed proven to be long, with many a winding turn, so new generations have stepped in to answer the call ringing for freedom. As you walk along the Blackwater Creek Trail, reflect at Monument Terrace, visit the home of Desmond T. Doss, or volunteer at the LAVC, may you never forget the unparalleled sacrifice made by our American soldiers. **GN**

For more information, visit www.lynchburgareaveteranscouncil.org.

“We help with every need imaginable, especially with veteran homelessness.”

COL. TOM CURRENT




Tom Current
LAVC President



Centra Hospital Week Parade - May 16



Photography by Chris Morris

Centra held its fourth annual Hospital Week Parade, honoring health care heroes. Started during the COVID-19 pandemic, the parade offers a way for businesses and community members to show their appreciation to nurses and other health care workers.



1. Oakwood Health & Rehab staff 2. Susie G. Gibson Science and Technology Center Junior ROTC "Wolfpack"
3. Centra nurses 4. Centra nurses waving to John P. Kirby, Sr., U.S. Air Force veteran

Run for the Wall - May 25



Photography by Chris Morris

Run for the Wall is an annual motorcycle ride to honor veterans and their families while keeping in mind those still listed as missing in action or prisoners of war. Starting in Ontario, California, riders travel to Washington, D.C., along one of three routes. Each year, the “Southern Route” makes a stop at Montvale Elementary School in Bedford to have lunch and fellowship with the students, then proceeds to the National D-Day Memorial. After a wreath laying ceremony, more than 300 motorcycles travel the short distance to Lynchburg for dinner and an overnight stay before starting the last leg of their journey. Once in Washington, D.C., the three routes gather at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and uphold the pledge of “we ride for those who can’t.”



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