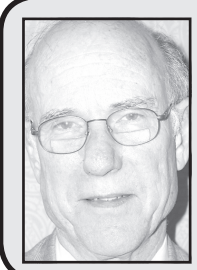


War hero finally honored

The Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military award, is bestowed on the bravest of the brave. There is no question that U.S. Army Chaplain (Capt.) Emil Kapaun of Pilsen more than deserved this honor for his service and ultimate sacrifice during the Korean War. On Thursday, April 11, on a perfect spring day in our nation's capital, his nephew, Ray Kapaun, accepted the posthumous Medal of Honor from a grateful nation.



From the Capitol
By Sen. Pat Roberts
pat_roberts@roberts.senate.gov

The setting for the ceremony at the White House, with cherry blossoms trees in full bloom, the president, the Kapaun family and veterans who served alongside the priest was in stark contrast to the circumstances facing our soldiers in Korea in 1950.

Father Kapaun was born in Pilsen in 1916 and served as a Catholic priest before volunteering for the Army. He served during World War II and then again for the Korean War, where he was chaplain of the 8th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Division.

who served with him refer to him as the most extraordinary man they will ever know.

Thankfully, due to Father Kapaun's protection and through his actions and inspiration, his story lives on in the hearts and minds of these soldiers, his "boys," who survived three years of that prison camp all those years ago.

April 11, 2013 was a day for them. As the President said, "Many are now in their 80s, but make no mistake, they are among the strongest men that America has ever produced."

very, very few of the reams of data compiled by three men who deserve our thanks: Father John Hotze of the Diocese of Wichita, who is working on the investigation of the case for Father Kapaun's sainthood; Lt. Col. (retired) William Latham, who collected the stories of fellow prisoners to make the case for the Medal of Honor; and finally, Roy Wenzl of the Wichita Eagle, for bringing all of this work and the story to light.

And finally, thanks to Congressman Mike Pompeo and Sen. Jerry Moran for being part of the team with me that made the award possible by getting legislation passed to waive the time limit on a posthumous Medal of Honor award for Father Kapaun.

This action ensured that Father Kapaun's bravery and inspiration lives on in Kansas, and now will forever have a place of honor in the history of our nation.

Sixty-three years was far too long to properly honor Father Kapaun. If you aren't familiar with the story of his life, don't wait. Look him up. Learn about the so-called "forgotten war," and maybe, we can honor these veterans by removing that unfortunate description of their service and sacrifice in the mountains of Korea.

He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in the Battle of Unsan, where he was taken prisoner. Fellow soldiers say he saved hundreds if not thousands of lives on the battlefield and in prison camps.

He escaped to steal food from nearby farms to bring back to starving prisoners, and cared for the sick and injured. He died as a prisoner in May 1951 after enduring illness, torture and terrible conditions.

It is hard to share the many, many accounts of Father Kapaun's valor, grace, kindness, courage and devotion under these most difficult conditions. Many of the prisoners

Their recollections are incredibly moving:

There was Mike Dowe, who spoke of Father Kapaun's fearlessness in the face of enemy fire, and his devotion to the mental and physical well-being of his soldiers;

There was Herbert Miller, a soldier whom Father Kapaun saved by pushing a Chinese soldier's weapon aside and whom the priest carried for several miles on his back;

There was Robert Wood, who spoke of Father Kapaun's faith, civility and principled stance in the face of brainwashing. He would hold Mass and openly pray despite the torture he would receive from his captors.

And these recollections are just a

Taxes, budgets kept 'em busy

This session, we have tackled big issues. We are in the middle of tax and budget negotiations that will change the direction of the state for the better. The two-year budget is the first of its kind in Kansas.

Traditionally, the Legislature passes a new budget from year to year, allowing for no certainty or sound financial footing for agencies and organizations to stand on when it comes to setting up their own budgets.

By giving them a two-year commitment in finances, agencies will be able to better project their spending, and find efficiencies to make their money go farther in providing the services many Kansans depend on.

The tax bill in negotiation with the House induced some major ideological debate. The question is whether to tax consumption or earnings. I am under the belief that taxing earnings will squelch business and hinder economic growth whereas taxing consumption won't stand in the way of jobs.

The Senate proposed keeping sales tax at 6.3 percent but lowering tax on groceries to 4.95 percent, all while lowering the income tax over the next 5 years on the path to 0 percent.

I want to keep your hard-earned dollars in your pocket.

Three years ago, I supported a 1-cent sales tax with the commitment to sunset .6 of a cent July 1, 2014. I still support that, but also must make sure that I support the best long-term plan for my district and also the best for Kansans.

A few of the bills that were signed into law this year reflect that belief. I was proud to vote for a piece of legislation known as "Paycheck Protection."

The new law ensures that union members will not be forced to make payments to their union's political action committee, which may sup-



Letter from Topeka
By Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer
ralph.ostmeyer@senate.ks.gov

port candidates they don't. While every employee has the right to join a union if they wish, many unions use membership fees to support candidates or legislation that not all of their members are for. This is wrong; a worker should not lose part of their paycheck to campaigns they don't support.

We also passed legislation that allows Kansas veterans to get their Kansas driver's license with "VETERAN" printed on it.

This should be helpful in obtaining discounts offered by various stores—especially for those veterans who did not retire and do not want to carry a copy of their discharge papers with them. It is also an appropriate way for the state to recognize their service.

I proudly voted for the passage of a new law protecting the Second Amendment rights of Kansans which will be soon take effect. The provision states that no firearm manufactured, sold, and owned in the State of Kansas may be confiscated by the federal government.

This is an effort by Kansas to defend itself against federal overreach and to ensure its sovereignty as a state.

Finally, many Kansans believe that their hard-earned tax dollars should not be used to directly or indirectly fund abortions.

That's why I voted for the passage of House Bill 2253. This law protects the lives of hundreds of unborn children by stripping away public funding from facilities that provide

non emergency abortions.

The legislation prohibits any school district or education service provider from offering abortion services. The measure also protects schools from abortion providers from sponsoring any course material for classroom use.

This bill affirms what the majority of Kansans believe, that life begins at conception and all state law needs to be interpreted to protect the rights, privileges and immunities of the unborn child.

Thank you so much for allowing me to serve you this session. I look forward to hearing from you all with questions or concerns. I will keep you up to date with developments in the tax and budget plans. If there is ever anything I can do to better serve you, please feel free to contact me.

To reach Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, write him at State Capitol, 300 SW 10th Street, Room 136-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612 or call (785) 296-7399. His e-mail address is ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us.

In the U.S.A.

"You can't get rid of poverty by giving people money."
P.J. O'Rourke
American humorist

Honor Roll

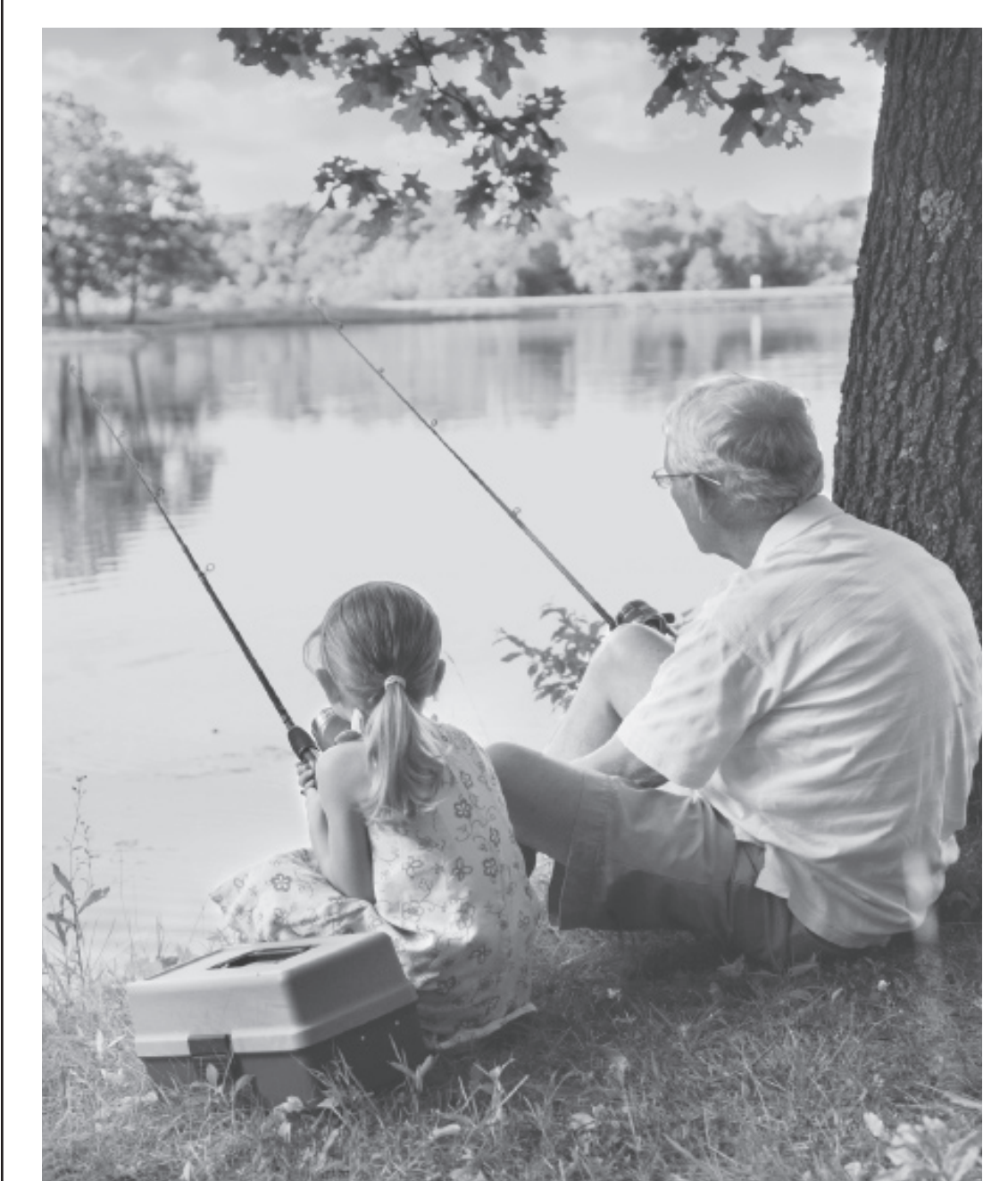
Welcome and thanks to these recent subscribers to *The Oberlin Herald*:

- Colorado:** Goldie Moore, Loveland; Don Guinn, Colorado Springs; Chris Ertler, Wheat Ridge; Leroy Lacina, Westminster; Jim Grisson, Bennett; Rex Olson, Boulder; Rod Steinmetz, Two Buttes; Maxine Peebles, Denver.
- Kansas:** Ken McCoy, Wamego; Robyn Mendiola, Leavenworth;

Doug Hasty, Cheney; Ernest May, Tonganoxie; Stanton Wurm, Lebo; Brent Jennings, Topeka; Lester Wurm, Overland Park.

- Clayton:** Gene Gallentine, Darren Wentz, Rochelle Mather.
- Colby:** Dale Olson, Donna Lawver.
- Dresden:** Kevin Wurm, Greg Ritter, Bill Wessel, Lillian Sulzman.
- Hoxie:** Della Jean Shipley, Mark Olson.

- Jennings:** Imogene Keenan, Doyle Brown.
- Selden:** Darrell Bruggeman, Neff Realty, Matt Finnesy, Donald Juenemann.
- Oberlin:** Ivis Hanson, Mark Elton, Tom Mullen, Dale Soderlund, Glen Baughman, Eunice Wenger, Gerald Olson, Connie Cramer, Joan Evans, Dennis Shirley, Francis Moore, Grace Bouts.



Subscribers whose mailing address is in Decatur, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Thomas and Red Willow counties \$38
Elsewhere in Kansas \$42
Elsewhere in the United States \$48
To order your subscription, fill out the coupon below and send it with payment to:

THE OBERLIN HERALD
170 S. Penn Ave. Oberlin, Kan. 67749

Name

Address

City..... State..... Zip.....

Rawlins County Health Center

RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

707 Grant
Atwood, KS 67730
(785) 626-3211

Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community

June 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Happy Father's Day June 16, 2013						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	Mammograms	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic		Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab MRI's	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	Dr. Frankum Surgery		Cardiac Rehab MRI's	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	Dr. Reeves Podiatry Kirsten Angel Dietitian	Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab MRI'S	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab		Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic		Cardiac Rehab MRI'S	
30	To schedule an appointment with a visiting physician, PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211 Cheryl Banister, RN Specialty Clinic Director					