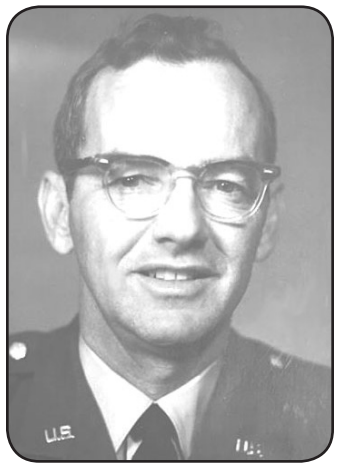


Estill man attends "Honor Flight" to Washington, D.C.



Col. Donald Hardy

Continued from FRONT
As World War II was ending, however, his brother, Gordon Lee Hardy, who was scouting for the infantry, was killed in April of 1945 in Germany. Donald later also lost a first cousin, Zeke Floyd, in Vietnam.

Those losses "provide him with a unique perspective of honor and respect for all of those who ever put on a uniform," said William Hardy. "I am sure he is reminded of the pain every time a person in the service

loses their life."

Although Donald joined the National Guard where he served 30 years and retired at the rank of Colonel after filling some of the highest offices in the state, he prefers to not be called a hero. He will quickly tell you the real heroes are those who served in battle even if for only a short time, and he worries about their well being. He was even hesitant about going on the "Honor Flight."

William said Don Rich-

ardson, his former football coach, made it possible for Donald to go on the trip. "Dad was reluctant," said Hardy, "as he felt many others deserved the opportunity, but Coach was persistent."

Donald was especially appreciative of Touchstone Energy for the trip. "They went out of their way to make everybody comfortable," he stated. "They did a splendid job."

Although Donald is very humble and doesn't want the recognition, William

says, "He was honored to get to be a part of the flight, and completely in awe the entire day."

William was also appreciative of Touchstone Energy, especially those at Jackson Energy, for their work. "The goodness of this country is certainly on display by those who donate

money, volunteer their time to go on the trip, and those who stood and cheered their arrival home," said William. "It would be impossible to say thanks to everyone who plays a part in the Honor Flights, but they certainly know who they are and should be held in the highest regard."

VA Expands Program for Service Dogs

VETERANS POST
by Freddy Groves

The Department of Veterans Affairs has long provided veterinary care for the guide and service dogs of veterans who can benefit from having a dog, but now an additional category will be explored in a pilot program. Approved veterans whose mobility is limited by mental-health disorders will be able to get veterinary care for their animals if the program proves successful.

The Service Dog Benefits Pilot will allow an additional 100 veterans to get veterinary care for their dogs. That care includes all the things a normal household pet would get: immunizations, dental care, screenings, preventive care, wellness and sick-an-

imal visits, screenings, emergency care, prescriptions and any treatment that helps the dog do its job for the veteran. Specific food, if the dog is on a special diet, and all the gear (such as harness, backpack) also is provided.

Until now, only veterans having hearing, visual or mobility impairment that is determined to be helped by having a dog have had veterinary care provided.

While guide dogs are specially trained to assist those who have vision impairments by avoiding obstacles, service dogs are trained to do a variety of specific tasks so the veteran can live independently. That might include helping vets with hearing loss and physical impairments.

Other facts:

* Veterans who are matched up with a dog are expected to spend time training, and travel costs can be prohibitive. In that case, the VA provides financial support for training time and travel.

* After the veteran is approved for the program, only dogs obtained from accredited Assistance Dogs International or International Guide Dog Federation facilities are approved.

To learn more, go to www.prosthetics.va.gov/Service-AndGuideDogs.asp. Scroll to the bottom of the page and you'll find the Frequently Asked Questions, as well as the Fact Sheet on Guide and Service Dogs.

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Matthew Hager, of Irvine, standing third from left, as he performed with 4-H's Performing Arts group at the Kentucky State Fair on Tuesday.

Guest to share impact of receiving Operation Christmas Child Gift

The Bluegrass Area welcomes Dania Yadago, as she recounts how hope arrived in the form of a gift-filled shoebox when she was a child. Yadago will speak to local residents about her story as local residents and churches kick off the upcoming collection season of the Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child.

Subjected to severe poverty, Dania Yadago and her family lived in three Middle Eastern countries while she was growing up. Yadago's family prayed for everything they needed. One year they began praying specifically for a radio. That year, Yadago received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift. As Yadago and her family carefully went through each item in the gift, they shrieked in disbelief as they pulled out a fully-functional radio. That day Yadago learned that with God all things are possible and there is power in prayer.

Today Yadago packs her own shoebox gifts and serves as a national spokes-

person for Operation Christmas Child. She will be at several locations on Sept. 10-11 to share her story and encourage residents to pack their own shoebox gifts—with school supplies, hygiene items, notes of encouragement and fun toys, such as a doll or soccer ball—with the goal of contributing 31,227 local shoebox gifts towards the global goal of reaching 12 million children.

Sunday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m.
Service
Salem Baptist Church
4470 Spout Springs Road,
Irvine, Ky.

For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child individually, as a church or a community group, call (859) 623-6627. National Collection Week for shoebox gifts is Nov. 14-21. Local drop-off sites are available at First United Methodist Church in Richmond, Westside Baptist Church in Berea and Salem Baptist Church in Irvine.

FREE KITTENS
Long white hair with orange and/or black spots, blue eyes.
(606) 975-8225



Saturday, September 3

Live Music PRESENTED BY JACKSON ENERGY

FEATURING:
STAN AND ZACH
JOSH MOLAN
AND SPECIAL GUEST RYAN WITT
BROADCAST LIVE ON WSKV 104.9FM

Fireworks BEGINNING AT 10PM

COMMEMORATIVE EVENT SHIRTS AVAILABLE!

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Everyone is welcome to attend and celebrate our 150th Anniversary Celebration Irvine First Christian Church Sunday, Sept. 18th @ 10:00^{am}



FORMER MINISTERS DAVID BLONDELL & GREG WIDENER WILL BE RETURNING ALONG WITH GLENN SCRIVNER PLAYING THE ORGAN AND/OR PIANO
Make this once in a lifetime event very, very special!
Potluck meal will follow morning service!
Memorabilia and pictures as well as commemorative items!

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