

VETERANS TO BE HONORED WITH LUNCHEON MARCH 31 2017

By Megan Trotter | Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 12 March 2017

Many veterans risked their all while serving in the military, but sometimes they don't get the recognition they deserve for their sacrifices.

At the end of this month, veterans who served in World War II, Vietnam and Korean eras



will be honored with a luncheon. The event is scheduled for 11 a.m. Friday, March 31, at the Leslie Town Centre in Cookeville.

(Earl Nichols, a veteran of the Korean War talks about his and his brother Glen's service in the military. Listening are, from left, County Executive Randy Porter and Mark Harris, Putnam County veteran service officer).

"The Putnam County Archives and Veterans Hall strives to promote and preserve the rich history of Putnam County," Glenn Jones, archivist and event planner, said. "This luncheon is to show appreciation to our veterans and recognize their sacrifice and service."

Putnam County veterans who served in the military and were honorably discharged before 1975 are invited to attend, with one guest.

"You don't have to have served in the wars," Jones said. "It's open to anyone who served in the military in any capacity in that time period."

Each veteran and their guest will receive a free lunch provided by Dipsy Doodle Catering, while enjoying a brief program by Jones and county executive Randy Porter.

Those interested in attending the event must call the archives at (931) 520-0042 to ensure a seat.

Sponsors are also needed for the event. Anyone interested in sponsoring a table for \$100 or helping in any other way can call the archives at the above number.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 12 March 2017

*Read more about the Veterans Hall in Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN at:
<http://www.ajlambert.com>

WORLD WAR II, VIETNAM AND KOREAN ERA VETERANS HONORED

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

Posted Sunday, April 2, 2017

By MEGAN TROTTER

It has been said that there is no love greater than that of someone willing to lay down his life for a friend. A luncheon held this past Friday honored Putnam County veterans who took that one step further.



“You were willing to lay down your life for total strangers — people who you didn’t know, people who you’d never meet, and people who weren’t even born yet,” Randy Porter, county executive, said.

(Pictured: Cleburn Rice, left, a veteran of the Korean War, talks about his time in the Army with his wife, Carol, and

Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton. Photo by: Ty Kernea).

The event was attended by about 400 guests, including veterans from the World War II, Vietnam and Korean War eras, their spouses or caregivers, and numerous city and state officials.



The two oldest veterans present were 96 years old. One traveled all the way from Missouri to take part.

While enjoying this free event put on at the Leslie Town Centre by the Putnam County Archives and Veterans Hall, guests were treated to a presentation by the Cookeville High School’s JROTC, the Pledge of Allegiance read by Harmon Wattenbarger, the national anthem sung by Jennifer Wilkerson, and Mark Harris reading the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.



“We celebrate each one of you who is a veteran,” Porter said. “Thank you for your service.”



WWII ARMY HELMET AT VETERANS HALL

By Megan Trotter | Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Monday, 20 March 2017

When Ed McCain of Cookeville was about 3 years old, a family friend handed him an Army helmet. It had survived through World War II, which had ended about five years earlier.

Ty Kernea | Herald-Citizen)

McCain played with the helmet as a child, not knowing its historic value, and stored it away for safekeeping when he got older. He forgot about it completely when he went into the Army himself, earning the rank of first lieutenant.



It was 67 years later that he discovered the helmet again.

(Ed McCain adjusts his old Army uniform on display at the Putnam County Veterans Hall).

“I’m not a hoarder, but when I do decide to keep something, I keep it a long time,” McCain said chuckle. “Back when I was 5 years old, I had a friend hand me one of those old bathtub plugs with the chain

attached.

“He told me not to lose it. I’ve still got it.”

McCain is still holding on to the bathtub plug, but has decided that others might be interested in seeing the World War II helmet. He has donated it to the Putnam County Veterans Hall for use in its displays.

In addition to having hundreds of framed photographs of Putnam County veterans adorning the walls, the Veterans Hall also contains individual cabinets filled with the uniforms of Putnam County soldiers.

McCain’s inherited helmet now rests in a case with the uniform of World War II veteran William Cooper Loftis, who was killed in action at the age of 21 in Belgium in 1944.

McCain has been volunteering with at the Veterans Hall for years, helping to clean the antique guns and dust the uniforms.

So when he decided he wanted to share the helmet with others, he knew he wanted to place it at the Veterans Hall.

McCain will also be attending the upcoming veterans' luncheon to be held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 31, at the Leslie Town Centre in Cookeville. Anyone who served during the World War II, Vietnam War or Korean War eras, and have ties to Putnam County — either lived there in the past or live there now — is invited to attend.

Each veteran and can bring a single guest, and both will receive a free lunch provided by Dipsy Doodle Catering, while enjoying a brief program by Jones and county executive Randy Porter.

“With this year being the 175th anniversary of the birth of Putnam County, we especially want to take time out to honor our veterans,” Porter said.

“They are the reason why we enjoy the freedoms that we do.”

Those interested in attending the event must call the archives at 520-0042 as soon as possible to ensure a seat.

William Cooper Loftis

b. 25 June 1924, TN

d. 26 October 1944, Belgium

Father: Marion Cooper Loftis (1895-1960)

Mother: Ina Davis (1893-1975)

Buried: Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN



*Read more about the Veterans Hall in Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN at:

<http://www.ajlambert.com>