



Sharpshburg Town Crier

William and Melva Ryan Edition

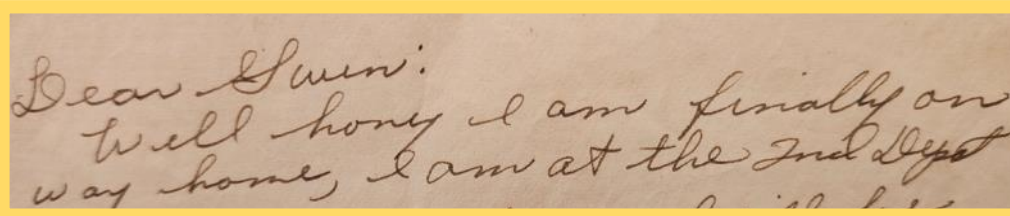


Volume 31

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“Well honey I’m finally on my way home...” Maxwell Grim’s Story in His Own Words



(Editor’s Note: The Editor recently spent several pleasant hours with Max’s charming daughter Ms. Joyce DeBaugh and some of her family to get this story for the Crier. The title neatly captures the narrative you’re about to read, “Max” Grim’s life story in his own words which he recorded several years before his death. In addition to a wartime narrative and love story, the reader is given a glimpse of Twentieth Century life in a small place. It records how people like Max faced the storm of world conflict. “Listen” carefully to his words; you can hear the Western Maryland voice in them. I have made some formatting changes to fit the Crier.)



All of Max’s WWII Letters to Gwen

FROM A SIMPLE COUNTRY BOY TO A SOLDIER: THE LIFE OF MAXWELL EDWARD GRIM, RECIPIENT OF THE PURPLE HEART FOR HIS SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II

I was born on March 19, 1919 in Dargan, Maryland. My mother's name was Bessie Isabell and my father's name was Thomas Franklin Grim. I had two brothers, Carl and Lester. My father died in 1919 with the flu, and I was born three months later. That left Mom with three small children to raise. My Uncle and Aunt, Luther and Anna Grey, were kind enough to take us in. They had one child, Carlos, but he was better known to us all as "Snook". Uncle Luther and Aunt Anna had a small farm up on the mountain. Times were tough back then, so they made a living by selling wood from their land, and by raising crops, chickens, and cattle. My grandfather and grandmother had a store on Lock hill, about a mile and a half from the Grey farm at Samples Manor.

It was at Samples Manor where I started my school days. The one-room school had a pot belly stove, bare black floors, and a few black boards. Outside, were the outhouses, and a rough play-ground. There was just one teacher for this little school which housed all the grades. She would stand in the doorway and ring a hand bell when it was time for school to begin. When disciplinary action was necessary, she would use hickory sticks to give us a good whipping". The entire time I lived with my aunt and uncle I went to school there. Everyone called me "Cotton" 'cause my light hair looked white.

Time brings changes, and I went to live with my grandparents who owned a general store on Lock Hill, now known as Dargan. The school there was pretty nice, and even today it is still being used, although now it is used as a community center. I had it made living with my grandparents. They sold candy, pop, feed, and a little bit of everything. In those days, everything you bought was loose. But boy, I sure did love that candy! When my granddaddy wasn't around, I would fill my pockets with candy, and money from the change box. One day, I can remember filling my pockets with change, and sneaking down the lane next to the store. I took a hammer with me, and began driving quarters, dimes, nickels and half-dollars into the fence post. John Zimmerman came along and saw me, and went and told my grandparents. I sure got a hard whipping that time.

I started to go to the Dargan school. Floyd and Della Myers just got married and were staying with my grandparents. My grandparents had quite a few children. Two died at birth. Floyd, Fred, Bessie, Anna, Leoda, Charlotte, Mildred, and Donaline. They all are gone now. I remember taking Della's wrist watch to school and had it out on the playground pounding on it with a rock. The teacher came along and asked what I was doing with the watch. I told him I was fixing it. He told me he'd give me a quarter for it. The

teacher bought the watch from me, and then he gave it back to Della. I sure was asking for trouble that time.

Well it was now 1928, I was nine years old. Leoda got married to Patterson Roulette, and they lived in Keedysville. Patterson had a garage, and his mother owned a 180 acre farm at Bloody Lane. So, in 1928, my mother, my two brothers and I moved to the farm at Bloody Lane. We boys were old enough to work now. Our uncle was strict. When he called you said "Yes Sir" and "No Sir". It wasn't none of that "Who" or "What".

Uncle Patterson had a long black wagon whip, and boy could he make you dance. I was going to the Sharpsburg school. We were up before day light, and a kerosene lantern lighted the path to the barn. We had to milk the cows and clean the stables. After we were finished our chores, we would clean up, eat breakfast and head to school. By the way, getting ready in the morning wasn't like it is today. We didn't have electricity or indoor plumbing, although we did have a crank telephone. Well, with my belly full, I would walk the mile and a half to school. I usually took with me an apple butter sandwich wrapped in paper. I wore the same clothes all week, and on Saturday we would wash them so they were ready for the next week.

Some weeks we might get a quarter on Saturday night to go to town. Many a week, though, my mother wouldn't have a quarter to give us. My poor mother sacrificed a lot for us boys. I am so sorry now I didn't do more for her. One thing I did do before she died was quit drinking and became a Christian. I'll see her in heaven some day. I finished the eighth grade, and that was the end of my schooling. Lester was the only one of us boys who ever made it to high school. Anyway, it was now time for me to start working for a living. I began to get some day work from other farmers. I got \$1.00 a day and meals. I worked in the stone quarry on the underpass and the bridge at Shepherdstown, picked apples, followed

threshing machines, and worked in the silk mill.

Then in 1939, I worked for Blue Ridge Bus Co. in the garage. I had a couple old cars a '29 Ford two door, a 1928 Chevy 4 door, and a '28 Chevy Roadster. I started to run around with the gang in Sharpsburg. So one Sunday afternoon when I was coming home, I passed Pat and Ode as they were leaving the farm. When they saw me, they turned around, and came back down the lane behind me. They said to me, "You will have to do better, or get off the farm." I said okay, I will get off. That's when I started my army life. I had nowhere else to go. I kept my word and got off in a damn hurry. I was so angry. At least I served my country. Their boy Billy didn't go. It just burns you up. I was hurting inside. My aunt and uncle had done me wrong the first time, and I wasn't giving them a chance to do me wrong again. Now I was determined to get off the farm.

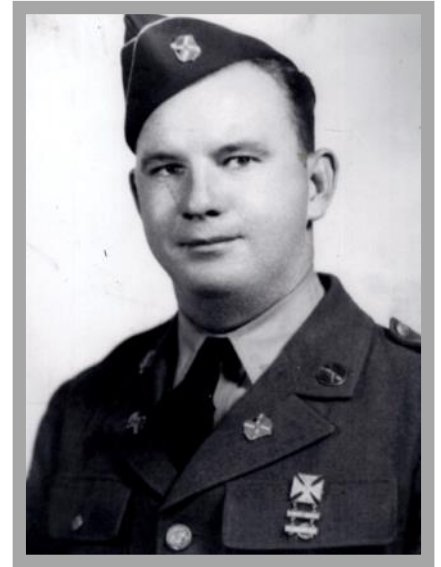
It was 1941, and the draft had just started, so I joined the National Guard in Hagerstown COB 115th¹ (Regiment) 29th Division². I signed my name on the dotted line, and I was just waiting to report for duty. There was no turning back now. So in February of 1941, I got my notice to report on February 3rd at the Hagerstown Armory. That day came when duty called, and I must go. I had to find my own way to the Armory. The milk truck came to the farm every morning to pick up the milk to take it to Hagerstown, and that was my free ride into Hagerstown. I left that morning on the truck with a paper bag containing a towel, wash cloth, and a tooth brush. I had nothing else with me but the clothes on my back. I left the farm thinking it would be a year in service, but how fooled I was. So, I got to the Armory and checked in with about 180 other men.

We had single cots on the Armory floor. I was given my uniform, and boy was I proud

of it. I was a soldier now-- something I had always wanted to be! I had no money, but I sure was happy in that uniform. We drilled at the Armory, took hikes, and we got three hot meals a day. Boy! That sure was living for me. I never had too much, so I guess that's why I don't want anything today. I'd rather see the other person have it because it makes me feel good to give.

We could get a pass to go home. I remember the first time I came home in my uniform spic and span. I wanted to show it off. I couldn't wait to get to Sharpsburg, walking past the flag at the square and saluting the flag. I didn't know what would lie ahead. I thought I was only going to be in for one year, and then out, like so many others.

We stayed at the Armory for a few weeks. Then we trucked to Fort Meade. We lived in Barracks and trained every day. I worked hard and tried to be a good soldier-tough like, you know. I had a strong commanding voice. I was finally promoted to Corporal, which meant you had two stripes on your shoulder. I was so proud. I would write home and sign my letter Corporal Max Grim. I held my head up high. This was in 1941. We would get to come home some weekends. One Saturday evening I went girl-hunting in West Virginia. I stopped at an ice cream parlour in Charles Town. There dipping ice cream was a really pretty girl. I didn't want any ice cream, but I got a big cone anyway. I fell for her right then. I had enough beer in me to ask for a date. So I was over there every weekend that I could get a pass. That girl's name was Gwendolyn Virginia Staubs. She is my wife today



29th Division Patch

of 46 years of marriage. We wrote to each other.

We left Camp Meade for North and South Carolina for training. My one year soon would be up and then I would be out on my way from the South. We stopped at A.P. Hill Virginia that night on December sixth. We heard on the radio that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. We knew we wouldn't be getting out. We came back to Meade for a while, then we were on Guard duty in Allentown, Pennsylvania. I got home once or twice. Mom had me fried chicken that night. It was so good. I never got home for three years, eleven days. We went to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey in October of '42. We got on the Queen Elizabeth and crossed the Atlantic in five and a half days. I was sea sick the whole time. We landed in Scotland then went to Liverpool, England. My first meal in England was mutton, brussel sprouts, hard bread, and marmalade. We had to get used to the English customs and their money. They had what you call a pound, shillings, pence, three pence, half crown, and so on. It didn't take long to know the value of it. They had their fish and chips, tea and crumpets. They also had old black beer that tasted awful, but we drank it anyway.

We trained on the channel and on the moors of England day in and day out. We knew something was in the making, but didn't know when. I spent three months over there. I didn't get much mail. All my relatives were busy back in the States making money at Fairchild Aircraft. Most all of my relatives were working making big bucks, so they had no time to write to me. I didn't hear from Snook or Billy Roulette, but that girl from Charles Town wrote to me faithfully. She had a dear old Dad and Mom. I'll never forget them, but I'll see them one day I hope. Mom couldn't write to me because she was blind, but I know she prayed plenty.

When we could get passes, I went to London a couple times. I met my brother Lester there once at the YMCA. We spent some time to-

gether. He was in the Air Force. We had a hunch that the invasion of France was close, but didn't think we would be in it. This was 1944. I had been promoted to Tech. Sergeant, and had 40 men working under my command. What a responsibility! I knew I had to lead in fear or whatever. You know you can be shot if you shun your duty. I tried to be a good leader, but if I had to do it over, I would be a better soldier. Experience means a lot. We had been training on the Channel, practicing landing on the beaches. Soon it would be the real thing. So on June first we were briefed on which beach we would hit. We were supposed to do it on the fourth of June, but the weather was too bad, so we were out in the Channel going around waiting for the sixth to come. The Air Force was to bomb the beach and the Navy was to shell the beach. The Germans were dug in up on the Cliffs waiting for us. They had mines and iron rods sticking up out of the water. My landing craft couldn't make it in the first try, so they had to turn back and try again. It seemed like all hell broke loose. The 116th was the first and we were the second to land. They lost almost all their men, and the dead were laying everywhere. Scared and wet, I flopped down beside a dead officer. We were pinned down on the beach practically all day. D-Day was the longest day, and it was a day I'll never forget. I hope and pray that no one has to go through that again. We fought our way to the top of



the cliffs by dark. In southern France there was nothing but hedge rows. The Germans were dug in and we couldn't see them or locate them. Snipers were everywhere. We would take maybe a hedge row a day, It was slow. The tanks couldn't get over the hedge row, so finally they welded blades on the front of the tanks so they could go through, and the infantry followed.

I saw some awful sights--Men blown apart, tanks burned out, men burned to pieces, but we kept on going forward slowly. We came to a sunken road, and got bogged down by German fire. The Germans were just about 100 yards to our front. They shelled us all day. There was a mine field to our left. I crawled through that mine field to get to one of my men who had been wounded. His name was Charles Repp. I got him back, but I ended up covered with blood. I had to wear those same blood drenched clothes for days, and they sure did stink. I don't know whatever happened to Charles. Death or whatever may come, there was no turning back. That night the German troopers came in on us with flame throwers, mortar shells, you name it. They had captured some of our men. One of those captured was Harold Miller from Fairplay. I called his name. He answered, and we fired grenades and rifles, but could not rescue him. I believe the Germans shot him. They were tough fighters. That was a rough night.

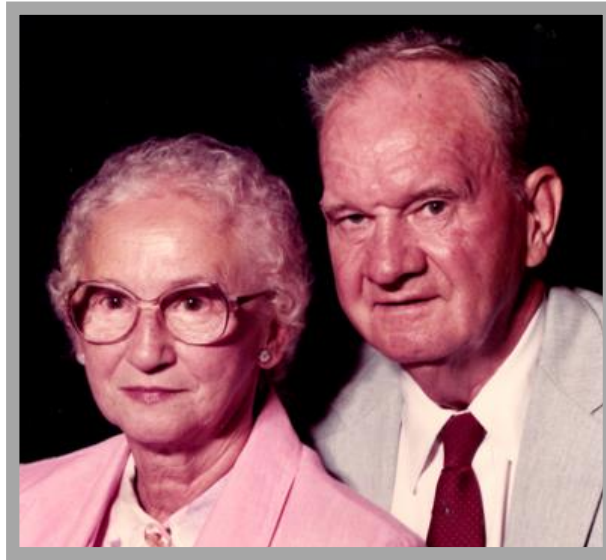
We hadn't had a cooked meal since we landed, just k-rations and d-bars. You were tense most of the time. I remember the first hot meal we got up on the front. The night was pitch dark and we had hot beef stew. I still had my old bloody, dirty clothes on case of a gas attack. I got my knee in my mess kit, but I ate the food anyway. We were on the front lines for about 3 weeks. They finally pulled us back for a rest to clean up and clean our equipment. We even did close order drill behind the lines. We were back about three days for rest and to reorganize and replace our company with new recruits. We had lost so many men. Well it

was time to go back front. They were getting ready to push toward St. Lo.

We were to relieve the first division. As we were going up, I looked down here was Buddy Brashears behind a machine gun. He was from Sharpsburg, and I talked to him, but we had to keep moving. This was in July, so we were pretty well used to enemy fire by now. More well seasoned troops, we knew the tricks of the trade. Our motto was, "Kill or be killed." We were heading toward St. Lo. I didn't have an officer in my platoon. I was leading the second platoon. I was loaded down with a walkie talkie and field glasses. The Germans were pounding us with artillery and mortar fire. The next thing I knew, I was on a stretcher at a field hospital. I couldn't see - my eyes were full of dirt. I wanted to move my legs and arms, but I could not. I think a concussion shell knocked me out. I could smell gun powder and smoke for the longest time. The next think I know, I was on a stretcher on a C-47 plane heading back to England. I was at the 13th General Hospital for several months. I would be lying in bed and want to get up, but couldn't. They tapped my spine several times, but as a matter of fact, I don't know exactly what they did. While at the Hospital, another sergeant and I constructed a place to clean airplane spark plugs out of glider crates. We made file boxes out of wood and repaired equipment at the hospital while recuperating.

Just at the time of the Battle of the Bulge, I was sent back over to France. I thought here I go again to the front, but instead I was put on a cadet training recruits for the front. It wasn't too bad, but it was winter and it was cold and snowing. We stayed in tents that was still better than up front. The war finally ended and I was thinking about getting home. I left La Harve France in October of 1945 and went to Belgium then shipped out from Antwerp Belgium on a liberty ship. They were small ships that took 12 days to cross the Atlantic, I landed in New York, and that statue of Liberty

looked good. I went from New York to Camp Meade on a train. I stayed there for a few days and was discharged in 1945 with an honorable discharge and with the rank of Tech/Sgt. Snook, Margie and that girl from Charles Town came down for me. I had a wad of money. Now it was time to get back into civilian life.



Gwen and Max Grim

I had a problem with drinking that worried Mom to death. I got a job at Central Motors, and I was still seeing that girl from Charles Town. My favorite song at that time, "Elmer's Tune" used to play on the juke box. I got married in 1946. I changed jobs and went to work for Sharett Motors under the G.I. Bill to be a body and fender repairman. I learned pretty fast. We lived with Glenn & Donaline Rohrer for a while, then we rented three rooms from Tedd Hebb (now Rohrbach Inn) upstairs. We lived there until 1949, when I bought a house in Sharpsburg from Raymond Renner (Antietam Street), and I am still living there today.

Joyce was born when we lived at Hebb's. The house had no bath or outside toilet. Joyce went to Sharpsburg Elementary, got along good then went to Boonsboro High. She was the head majorette with the band. After she graduated from high school, she went to one year of college at Hagerstown Business College located on Potomac Street in Hagerstown. She graduated from there with honors. Then she got a job with the Extension Service in Hagerstown. She worked there for six and a half years, and in the mean time, she met a fellow by the name of Pete DeBaugh. He courted her pretty heavy. I know he liked milk because he kept my carton empty most of the time. Joyce bought herself a brand new Falcon

from Massey Ford. I was still working there. They decided to get married. They had a nice church wedding down at the old church. They were married by Harry S. Churchey, then they went on a honeymoon to Niagara Falls. When they came back, they lived at Catabwa Circle across the Dual Highway. They rented from a woman named Nell whose father was a body man for Hoffman. A little over

three years after they were married, they had their first child. Sarah Ann is her name. She went to a Christian school in Downsville that Mary Michael started. She graduated from Grace Academy and then went on to Pensacola Christian College in Florida. While Sarah was still a baby, they moved to a house on Mill Point Road where they are living now. When Sarah was two and a half years old, a boy joined the family. His name is Mark DeBaugh. He also went to Grace Academy, and now he is with Sarah at Pensacola Christian College. Mark likes to hunt and play soccer. In the summers he used to work on the DeBaugh farm, but now he works at Antietam Recreation. He worked hard, so he was able to buy himself a nice car. Seven and a half years after Mark came a little girl. Her name is Joanna. She is smart as a tack and she can do anything. She is 12 years old now, and she also goes to Grace Academy. She likes to cook and she likes animals. She has a dog, a cat, and some fish. It's a nice family. Joyce got a good man. He is good with the children. Maw and I are thankful for that. As I write this, Sarah and Mark are looking forward



to coming home from college. Joanna is waiting for them. I worked at Massey for 35 years, then retired in early 1981. I am getting old and feeble now this is just a little memory, but the half hasn't been told. I could write a book. Pap, 1992



Ms. Joyce DeBaugh, Max and Gwen's Daughter. Many thanks for bringing us this story.

- Mr. Max Grim

¹ - The 115th Infantry Regiment, Maryland Army National Guard was an infantry regiment of the United States Army. It traced its roots back to the American Revolutionary War,

² The 29th Division, "Blue and Gray Division", note the blue and gray colors on their patch above. Formed in 1917, the division deployed to France as a part of the American Expeditionary Force during World War I. Called up for service again in World War II, the division's 116th Regiment, attached to the First Infantry Division, was in the first wave of troops ashore during Operation Overlord, the landings in Normandy, France.

From the Mayor and Council

Misses Sharpsburg 2024

We are happy to announce that for the first time in Sharpsburg's History, Dorothy Marie Lowe and Ella Short will be jointly carrying the title of Miss Sharpsburg 2024. Both of these young ladies have equally displayed great ambition to perform the duties of Miss Sharpsburg.

We would like to invite the residents of our community to the Coronation Ceremony on

Saturday, December 2nd at 2pm at the town hall to congratulate these exceptional young ladies. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

(Editor's Note: The Town Crier joins the community in wishing they reign together in peace and prosperity and that they lead us in doing good in our mall place.)

- Town of Sharpsburg



About the Town

A Book Offering From Local Author Heidi Vertrees

"Christmas Eve. I gawked at the flat tires on my mother's car and zipped my jacket tighter. I let out a deep breath into the cold air. Several days ago, I had flown in from Maryland to visit my family in Colorado, especially my much loved, ninety-five-year-old mother...

Now darkness was descending, and I was alone under a bridge by the side of a thru-



way near Denver International Airport. Snow circled around...”

Hi! I am Heidi Vertrees from Sharpsburg, where my husband and I have had the pleasure of living since 2003. This year I am happy to bring some Christmas cheer to those who would like to read a brand-new book called *Renewed Christmas Blessings* by Michelle Rayburn and Friends. I am honored to be one of the 27 authors. (See Poster on Page 20) The excerpts above are from my true story.

The book has short stories, poems, and heartfelt essays for readers to embrace the Christmas season. The book lists for \$15.99 online, but for our Town Crier readers I am offering signed copies for \$12. If you are interested, please let me know by December 6 by sending me a private message on Facebook to Heidi Vertrees.

If you are interested in my children's book, *Victor Survives Being a Kid*, you may contact me as well. This book has won four book awards and delights children (ages 9-12) with adventure, inspiration, and humor.

I also invite you to have the pleasure of shopping at Barnes & Noble in Frederick during my book signings on Saturday, December 9 from 11-4. (Both titles will be available.)

When giving a gift, you might like to consider making a gift basket with snacks, fuzzy socks, and a good book.

Merry Christmas everyone!

- Ms. Heidi Vertrees

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Renovates McKinley Hall

St. Paul's community hall was dedicated in 1967 and has been showing its age of late. Under the leadership of the Father Connor Newlun (Rector) and project manager Ms. Liz Partlow (President, Episcopal Church Wom-



en) the congregation has taken on the task of renovation. In addition to a “facelift” they’re redesigning and modernizing the kitchen, including the addition of a restaurant type dish washer. These improvements join the restaurant grade electric range

and large capacity convection oven. The plan is to make St. Paul's Church and McKinley Hall (111-person capacity) the town's “go to” community gathering place. (Full Disclosure: The Editor is a St. Paul's congregant.)

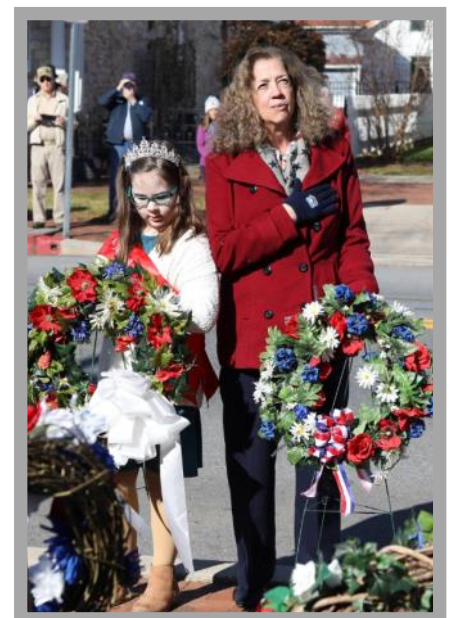
- Editor

Sharpsburg Veterans Day Ceremony

Antietam Unit 236 American Legion Auxiliary hosted its annual Veterans Day ceremony Saturday, November 11, in the Sharpsburg Town Square.

The program began with the Clopper Michael Post 10 American Legion Honor Guard presenting the colors, and the Unit's Miss Poppy, Adeline Wagner leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Saxophonist Mike Lushbaugh played the National Anthem followed by a moment of silence in memory of the dead. Unit Chaplain Debbie Crampton offered the invocation.

Ms. Ava Gift, who emceed the ceremony, explained that the empty chair in front of the podi-



um draped with the POW/MIA chair cover was a reminder of those soldiers who are still prisoners of war and those missing in action and asked that they and their families be kept in prayer and not forgotten.

Keith Snyder, United States Air Force Veteran and Antietam National Battlefield Park Ranger, spoke on the history of Veterans Day.

An update was given on local soldiers. Ms. Gift asked that they be kept in prayer and further quoted that "America without her military would be like God without His Angels".

The Armed Forces Salute was played and the veterans in attendance, standing shoulder to shoulder, stepped forward as they heard their service song. Veterans introduced themselves, giving their names, military branches of service, where and when they served, and some shared personal stories. As a token of appreciation, they were each given a flag zipper pull, symbolizing the raising of the American Flag at Reveille and the lowering of the flag at the end of the duty day.

Ms. Gift stated, "If you want to thank a veteran be the kind of American that was worth their service to our country".

Memorial wreaths were then placed at the town's war memorials by Snyder on behalf of the Antietam National Battlefield, by Sharpsburg Vice Mayor Jacob Martz, Danny Brown on behalf of Disabled American Veterans, Pat Patterson on behalf of Korean War Veterans, Sammy Stump on behalf of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dakota Clark on behalf of Antietam Lodge 197, by Doris Shoemaker, Unit's Gold Star Sister, on behalf of Gold Star Families, Commander Kermit Beard on behalf of Western Maryland Region, District 7, American Legion family, Commander Dave Drawbaugh on behalf of Clopper Michael Post 10 American Legion family, Virginia Wagner and her granddaughter, Unit's Miss Poppy, Adeline Wagner on behalf of Antietam Unit 236 American Legion Auxiliary.

The Honor Guard of Clopper Michael Post 10 offered the volley salute followed by the playing of Taps. The program concluded with the benediction given by the unit chaplain. One of those in attendance was, 97 year old, World War II Veteran, Stanley Thawley who was drafted in the Army and fought at the Battle of the Bulge, for which he received a purple heart.

Gift thanked all those who participated and attended, with special thanks to Jeff Taulton for providing the sound system.

- Submitted by Ms. Ava Gift

Master Gardeners: Who They Are, How to Get Involved

(Edited from their News Release.)

Learn. Teach. Give. Grow. These are the four things you need to know about the Master Gardeners. We are volunteers. We are teachers. We are people giving back to our community. And we never stop learning.

No, you don't need to be an experienced gardener to join us. We will teach you. We will encourage you. Part of the fun is helping each other grow. Along the way we get dirt under our fingernails, laugh as children play and plant, sleuth our way through gardening problems, and smile as we find new friends and interests.

Have you thought about becoming a Master Gardener? Now's the time to act. Applications are being accepted through December 4 for our Class of 2024.

Every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from February 1 to April 11 we will gather to learn about all things horticultural: plants, insects, disease, pruning, native plants, wildlife and more.

Classes are led by experts. Many are University of Maryland specialists. Others are botanists, landscapers, and other boots-on-the-

ground pros. After training, Master Gardeners jump into one of 14 projects, all designed to help people in our community discover the joys of gardening and environmentally smart gardening techniques.

Have you noticed the beautiful gardens at Boonsboro Library? They're ours, home to children's story times, learning activities and an inclusive sensory garden. Drive down Pennsylvania Avenue in Hagerstown and you'll spot lovely landscaping at the Western Maryland Hospital Center. Those are our therapeutic gardens for patients, visitors and staff.

Is there a Bay-Wise sign in a neighbor's garden? They are popping up all over thanks to Master Gardeners who visit gardens to encourage and recognize gardening practices that support healthy waterways.

Follow the giggles to our children's learning activities at local libraries and events. Kids are making bee hotels, apple prints, origami butterflies and more as they learn about plant parts, pollinators and where their food comes from.

Are you a history buff? Then you'll love our historic gardens at the Rural Heritage Museum. There's a German four-square garden and a medicinal herb garden featuring heirloom plants and techniques from days gone by.



Other teaching gardens showcase everything from vegetables to pollinator gardens. Visit our Ag Center demo garden and butterfly garden to learn how to grow native plants, veggies, fruits, herbs, and plants that lure monarchs. We tend and teach gardens at Hagerstown Community College,

too, restoring and renovating the landscape for beauty and learning.

Our spring plant sale offers up over 3,000 Master Gardener-grown plants to the public. And our Pollinator Palooza event links four teaching gardens with talks, tours and exhibits that teach visitors how to protect and encourage pollinators.

Master Gardeners also offer classes, give talks, engage visitors with educational displays at community events, and generally have a very good time learning, teaching, troubleshooting and sparking interest in gardening.

Would you like to join us? E-mail acor-many@umd.edu or call 301-791-1604 to get the ball rolling. Your green thumb will thank you.

Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company Events, Offerings, and Opportunities

2023 Santa Run

The Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company (SVFC) will be bringing Santa to the communities within Sharpsburg on December 7, 2023, from 6pm to 8pm and the communities of Keedysville on September 11 from 6pm to 8pm. Gather up the children for this local tradition as Santa will be arriving on fire apparatus. Follow our Facebook page for route progress.



Cornhole Tournament

SVFC will be hosting an indoor cornhole tournament at the Boonsboro American Legion on December 9. Registration starts and 11AM and bags fly at noon. Entry is only \$20 with \$900 in prizes. See www.sharpsburgvfc.org or call 301-991-2230 for additional details.

2024 Money Calendars on Sale

Once again, SVFC will be selling “Money Calendars” for prizes in February 2024. Calendars are only \$10 and will include 29 chances to win prizes, totaling \$1,950. These calendars make great Christmas gifts and typically sell out. Get yours early. Contact a member, call 301-991-2230, or email to sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com for calendars.

Limited Supply of Challenge Coins Available

SVFC still has a few dozen limited edition challenge coins for sale, depicting the company seal and burnside bridge on a colorful gold coin. Coins are \$10 each. Call 240-816-1824 or email sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com for coins.

Volunteer In Your Community

The Sharpsburg Vol. Fire Co. is actively seeking volunteers to help protect our community. We are looking for administrative and support members as well as those responding to emergencies. Increased community involvement leads to a strong organization that can provide better protection for our area. If you are willing to share your time, let's see how you can help. Applications for adults and our Cadet program (ages 12-16) can be found at www.sharpsburgvfc.org or email sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com with any questions. Come join our team.



Artifact of the Month: Copper Map Plates: Antietam Area

(Editor's Note: Mr. Donald Miller donated these plates to the Sharpsburgh Museum of History along with the following text. The text has been re-formatted to fit the Crier.)

The Copper Plates for Antietam: Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

I acquired this map and the three copper plates that were used to print it in 1990, the last year I worked for the Geological Survey. The map and plates were made in the early nineteen hundreds. I chose this particular quadrangle

map because it was near where I lived. It had enough relief so the contours would really show up. It reminded me of the type of work I did in the 1950s.

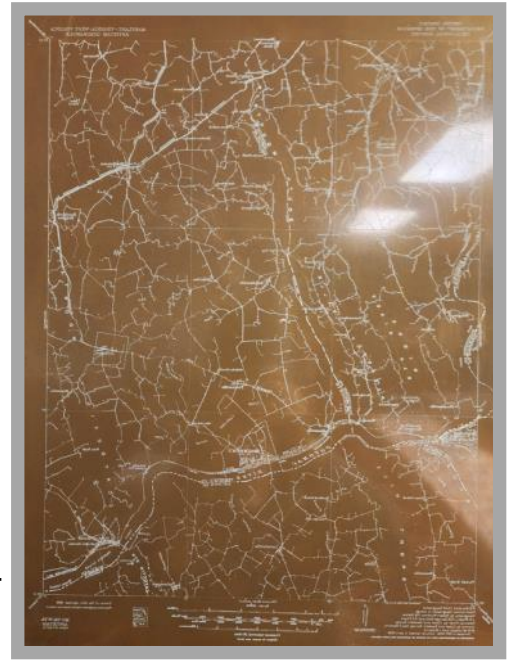
I started my career for the Geological Survey in 1953 as a cartographic draftsman. At that time we used pen and ink on metal boards to prepare the maps for the printing plates. Two years later I began working with a new technique called scribing, which was identical to the pen and ink work, but it involved engraving the features on plastic coated plates.

During my 37-year career I went through several phases of the mapping process. I spent six years as a surveyor in the field compiling maps that would later be scribed onto printing plates. I worked in the editing section for finalizing maps and finally ended my career in the branch of research and technical standards.

After I retired I spent several months restoring the copper plates so I could display them in my home. I am now donating them to the Sharpsburg History Museum so that other people can enjoy them.

Signature

Donald C. Miller July 25, 2023



One of three copper map plates.

Sharpsburg Historical Society Event

The Sharpsburg Historical Society will host a special program on Thursday, November 30 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 West Main Street, Sharpsburg. The 6:30 program will feature two historic Maryland figures.



When John Brown and H.L. Mencken have a chance to meet in 1948, they remember and discuss Brown's Harpers Ferry Raid headquarters at the Kennedy Farm and "The Chitlin Circuit" dance hall that later thrived there. Doug Dobbs and Ed Maliskas will portray these two Maryland legends.

The program is free and open to all. It will be held in the main sanctuary of St. Paul's. Parking is available on the street or behind the church.

- Mr. Gary Candelaria

Community Calendar

November 30 at 6:30PM: **John Brown and H.L. Mencken, A Conversation**

Sharpsburg Historical Society at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
monaghandd354@yahoo.com

December 1 at 7PM: **Sharpsburg Christmas Tree Lighting**

Town Square
Town of Sharpsburg
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg>
<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>
301-432-4428

December 2 at 2PM: **Misses Sharpsburg Coronation Ceremony**

Sharpsburg Town Hall

106 E Main St, Sharpsburg, MD
21782
301-432-4428

December 4 at 6PM: **Town Council Meeting**

Sharpsburg Town Hall
106 E Main St, Sharpsburg, MD
21782
301-432-4428

December 5 at 7PM: **Annual Holiday Jazz Concert**

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

December 7 at 6PM to 8PM: 2023 **Santa Run**

Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company
Follow our Facebook for the route progress
<https://www.facebook.com/sharpsburgvfc1>

December 9 at 11AM: **Cornhole Tournament**

Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company
at Boonsboro American Legion
sharpsburgvfc.org or call 301-991-2230

December 13 at 2PM: Polar Express
by Chris Van Allsburg

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

December 16 (time to be determined): **Wreaths Across America: Antietam National Cemetery**

Town of Sharpsburg
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg>
<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>
301-432-4428

See poster on Page 19

December 16th from 4:30PM to 5:30PM: **Tolson's Chapel, "Christmas By Candlelight"**
Sharpsburgh Museum of History/
Town of Sharpsburg
Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com -
ed.beeler@sharpsburghmuseumofhis-
tory.com (Poster Page 19)

December 21 at 3:30PM: **Santa will be at the Library!** Bring a camera for a picture with Mr. Claus.
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

January 6 from 9:30AM to 11:30AM: **Come All Who Are Thirsty**
(CAWAT) Veterans Group, Quarterly
Breakfast & Meeting
Burnside First Church of God
3904 Mills Road, Sharpsburg
comeallwhoarethirsty.org (or go to
their Facebook page)

Recurring Events

February 1 Through April 11 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM: **Master Gardeners**
Registration Required
Contact: acormany@umd.edu / 301-791-1604

Thursdays @ 3:30PM: **Themed Story Time**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Fourth Wednesday of the Month from 11AM to 1PM: **Community Action Council Assistance**
Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company
Annex
301-791-4161

Any Time the Library's Open: **Art of the Month**

(Each month a different art form will be displayed along with books pertaining to that art.)
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

First Wednesdays of the month at 1PM **Adults: Book Share**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Kid's Zone: Ages Eight and Up
Sharpsburg Library anytime we are open Make a Mini Zen Garden! For tweens and teens!
301-432-8825

Thursdays at 3:30PM: **Storytime**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Second Thursdays every month, **Lion's Club** 7PM, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St, Sharpsburg, MD 21782
sharpsburglions@gmail.com

First Saturdays at 10AM: **Lego Club**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Area Churches

Christ Reformed Church
117 West Main Street
Sharpsburg
301-432-6182
Sundays: 9AM

United Christian Fellowship
18823 Shepherdstown Pike, Keedysville, MD 21756
301-432-0110

Sundays: 8:45AM Fellowship, 9AM
Sunday School, 10AM Worship &
Children's Church

Sharpsburg Church of the Brethren

123 E Main St, Sharpsburg
Sundays at 10AM, Sunday School at
10:30AM
301-432-4944

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

209 West Main Street
Sharpsburg
301-432-7098
Sundays: 10AM, Sunday School
(Second and Fourth Sundays starting
September 25)

Burnside First Church of God
3904 Mills Rd, Sharpsburg

Sharpsburg Bible Church

5134 General Stuart Court, Sharps-
burg
301-432-5309
Sunday School 9:30 AM to 10:30
AM, Sunday Morning Worship & Chil-
dren's Church 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Mayor & Councilpersons

Russ Weaver – Mayor

Jacob Martz – Vice Mayor

Mia Parsons – Council

John Hammond – Council

Ed Beeler-Council

Robbie Waters – Council

Joe Kudla – Council

(Debbie Smith – Town Clerk)

106 East Main Street

PO Box 368

Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782

Phone: 301-432-4428

Fax: 301-432-8990

<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>

townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

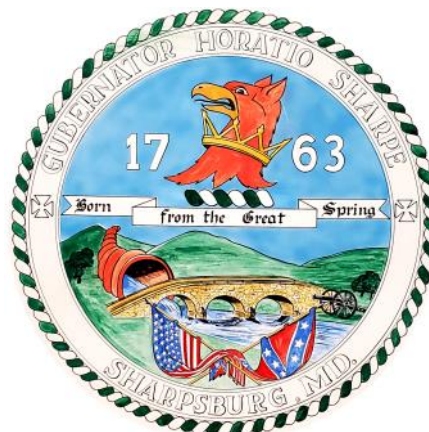
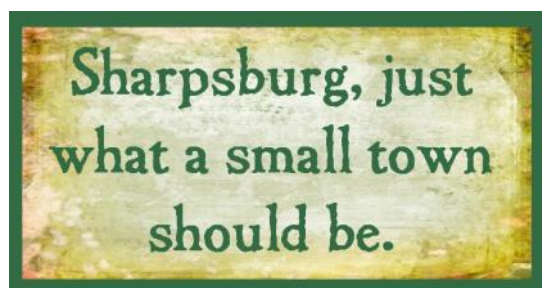
[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg)

TheTownOfSharpsburg

Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung

Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com

msa 10/27/23 Ver1.0



ATTACHMENTS:

SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 6, 2023

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, November 6, 2023 in the Council meeting room of Town Hall located at 106 E. Main Street in Sharpsburg. In attendance were Mayor Russell Weaver, Councilmembers Ed Beeler, Joseph Kudla and Robbie Waters. Absent were Vice Mayor Jacob Martz and Councilmembers John Hammond and Mia Parsons. Town Clerk Debra Smith was also in attendance and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung was in attendance via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE: Mayor Weaver called the meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – the approval of the October 2, 2023 meeting minutes were tabled until the December meeting due to lack of quorum for a vote.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT - the approval of the October 2023 financial report was tabled until the December meeting due to lack of quorum for a vote.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

The Board of Zoning Appeals will be holding a public hearing on Wednesday, Nov 8 to consider the re-application for a Special Exception to establish a short-term rental use at 201 W. Main Street, zoned TR. The Planning Commission met and will be forwarding a recommendation.

Reviewed and Issued a Zoning permit for a privacy fence to be located at the Fire Company site on E. Chaplin St. Reviewed and signed off on a Building Permit application for County approval at 225 W. Chaplin Street. 32' x 36' storage garage for private use.

Reviewed and signed off on a Building permit application for Washington County approval at 207 W. Chaplin St. for a rooftop deck.

Waiting for a response from State Highway Administration regarding the sight distance issue at the corner on Church St (MD 65) and E. Main St. (MD34).

Attended the Public Information meeting regarding the Draft County Comprehensive Plan meeting at Williamsport on Oct 25.

Mayor Weaver inquired about the signage issue at the SEMS and if it is permissible to have it moved to Rt.65.

GUEST: Paul Kenney of Radar Signs attended via Zoom to discuss battery and solar powered radar speed signs. Quotes and spec sheets were provided to the Mayor and Council prior to the meeting.

The TC 400 battery powered radar speed sign is mobile, lightweight, has an 11" LED display and attaches to a post or pole in a few minutes at a cost of \$3,085.00. Optional items include strobes, extra brackets, extra batteries and Streetsmart data collection software. The sign comes with two rechargeable batteries. Those batteries last 2-3 weeks, depending on the volume of traffic.

Quote for the TC600 solar sign is maintenance free, more of a permanent solution, has a 13" LED display and comes with the message alerts SLOW DOWN/TOO FAST at a cost of \$3,848.00. This also has additional options: lock, strobes, different message alerts and Streetsmart.

Spec sheets on both signs and Streetsmart, which allows you to collect all the traffic data and process it into 35 charts and tables. Streetsmart is a one-time fee of \$275/sign. Councilmember Kudla proposed the purchase of two-(2) TC 400 battery powered radar speed signs (one for Main Street and one for a side street) and the purchase of optional items; two-(2) batteries, two-(2) universal mount "GO" brackets, Streetsmart software and the strobe

lighting (if legal in MD).

CORRESPONDENCE:

Pre-Legislative Forum – Monday, Nov. 6th @ 1:30 @ HCC

MML Town Site Visit – Monday, November 27th @1:00 @ Town Hall

MML Meeting/Dinner – Monday, November 27th @6PM in Clear Spring

Town Tree Lighting – Friday, December 1st@ 7:00 PM

Tri County Council Business Meeting/Dinner – Dec. 13th @ Nicks Airport Inn

MAYORS REPORT:

Wells – Surveyor’s report is finished. We now have a project manager assigned. Stakes will be in place this week showing where well will be. Will be meeting with well drillers over the next several weeks.

Town Hall – Executed recommendations from PlumberWurx. We may now need a new hot water heater.

Community Park – New equipment being installed. See Robbie’s report.

Historic Park - Team met to identify wayside exhibits topics, themes, locations base style, direction of view, and preliminary list of proposed graphics, images, artwork, or maps. More work needed.

Big Spring - We were not selected for a grant and have this project on hold.

Boyer House – Negotiation on terms of sale have hit snag.

Streets & General Maintenance – Moving forward on parking signs. Moving electronic sign from fire hall to route 65 will be discussed in executive session. Speed awareness monitor will be revisited in light of recent traffic issues. Looking at street scape issues with MDOT.

Planning – Comprehensive plan being completed for submission to county planning.

Public Safety – Dakota active in community and working well so far.

Audit – Will be completed in November. (*)

FY25 Program Open Space Funding Round has opened.

2024 Water Rebates – May not be able to offer 100% rebates in January. Will discuss further in December. (*)

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmember Kudla

The first phase of the Wall repair on E. Main Street is complete

Greeley wall repair to be started imminently.

Frederick Siebert assessment copies provided

Ownership of Chapline Street bridge has been determined to be the Town

Traffic calmed down over last 4 weeks

Copies of speed signs presented.

No results on cityscape yet.

Councilmember Waters

The installation of the playground equipment is 90% complete.

Tractor Trailer No Parking signage is up on Church Street and Antietam Street. Two more signs are available to be

placed in needed areas.

The 2nd round of Hometown Hero Banners were hung.

Brush pick up will take place the week of November 13th.

Councilmember Beeler

Sharpsburgh Museum of History/ Town Archives Report for November 5, 2023

Attendance: 123 - YTD: 1435

Sharpsburg Days ran an information table and made lots of contacts. One of the best

SMH held their Annual Volunteer Award Night at St. Paul's:

Volunteer of the Year for 2023 was Max Gregg which won last year too.

1st runner up was Beatrix Gregg and 2nd runner up was Jesse Rogers, with Jeff Cline given all three an award for volunteerism and Max received a framed letter from a couple from Wales that here gave a tour in the museum and Star Volunteer for 2023 was Daniel Gregg

November 18th at SMH from 10-2 will be our second Native American Artifacts Expo

December 1st at 7pm will be our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and 2024 Miss Sharpsburg

Councilmember Parsons *(submitted prior to the meeting)*

The planning commission met on Wednesday, October 25 at 6pm. We reviewed the application for a special exception from Ms. Virginia Schrivener and are drafting recommendations for Tim prior to the next BZA hearing. We discussed the town of Sharpsburg Comprehensive Plan review and update and will be meeting next on Thursday November 30 to start that process. That will be our focus for the next few months.

Vice Mayor Martz *(submitted prior to the meeting)*

Attended interpretive park planning meeting with David Guiney, Dennis Frye and Chris Vincent. Location and types of signage for the park was discussed, as well as topics to be interpreted.

Submitted grant application for Hotel Rental Tax Funding for Memorial Day expenses.

Submitted request for funding from Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau for additional funding for Memorial Day.

Investigated source of water leak in mop sink located in the library and informed Robbie of the issue. He contacted a plumber, who determined that a malfunctioning water heater located above the drop ceiling in the closet was the problem.

Next meeting of Memorial Day committee scheduled for November 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

DEPUTY WATKINS END OF MONTH REPORT FOR OCTOBER: *(submitted prior to the meeting)*

Elementary School - 4 checks.

Antietam Station - 4 checks.

Park - 3 checks.

Little League Field - 3 checks.

Traffic Enforcement - 2 hours.

Calls For Service - 9

Court - 1

Training - 2 days.

Special Events - 2 (Sharpsburg Days, Trick or Treat).

Total calls for service in Sharpsburg: 81

Burglary - 0

Theft - 0

TFMV - 0

Disorderly - 1

MDOP - 1

Vehicle Theft - 1 (recovered)

OLD BUSINESS

Council Review of Town Safety Priorities- an email will be sent to Council members requesting a list of safety concerns that will be prioritized and given to Deputy Watkins. (*)

E. Antietam Street Drainage Project Update: tabled until December. (*)

Town Office Security Review- the Town Clerk has met with two-(2) security companies and proposals will be presented to the Mayor and Council when received. (*)

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

December 4, 2023 Meeting Action/Agenda Items: (*)

Obtain/Review of Town safety priorities

Town Office Security Proposals

Proposal/Recommendation to purchase 2 Radar Signs

Water Rebate Discussion

Town Audit

October Minutes and Financial Report Approval

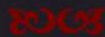
Possible executive session to discuss recent concerns regarding the large signage at the SEMS.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Smith

Town Clerk

TOLSON'S CHAPEL CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT



A Community Christmas Celebration

Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 4:30 pm

Join us live at the chapel
111 E. High St. in Sharpsburg

Come join the love, warmth, and
spiritual renewal of this
beloved annual community gathering!

This event will also be livestreamed on Facebook
Join us at "Tolson's Chapel and School"
www.facebook.com/tolsons.chapel/



Support Leathernecks Nation MC, Peleliu Chapter

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



PLEASE HELP US REMEMBER, HONOR, AND TEACH

Antietam National Battlefield, 302 E Main St, Sharpsburg, MD

Contact us with questions: lnmcpeleliu@gmail.com

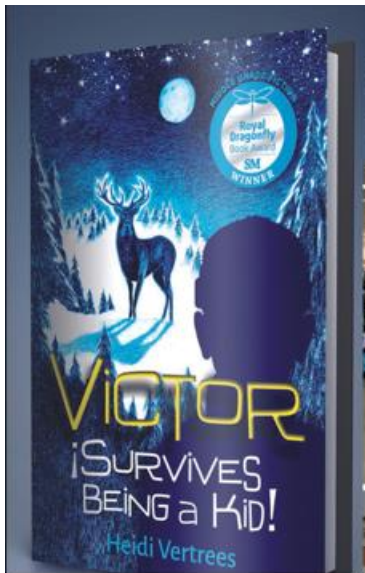
**YOUR HELP IS ALSO APPRECIATED TO GATHER
THE WREATHS WE LAY TOGETHER**

Clean up: TBD

SPONSOR A WREATH, VOLUNTEER AND INVITE FRIENDS TO HELP

Sponsor a wreath online at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

1. Under Red Sponsor Wreaths Button, Click "Local Sponsorship Group"
2. Choose number of wreaths - Most popular is 5 Wreaths from individuals
3. Type the **group ID: MD0010P** on Select Group to Support line
4. Click the Red Button "Review my Sponsorships"



I am happy to see you on December 9th (11-4). Barnes & Noble in Frederick is a great place to shop.



COMING
December 1

I'm a contributor!

