



# Sharpsburg Town Crier

## *Ernie Wetterer*

### *Edition, 2025*



Volume 33

August 2025

Number 8

### **'A cloud never dies'**

Reprintd: August 14, 2025 ~ Printed in Localnews1.org

*I am a continuation, like the rain is a continuation of the cloud.*

### **~Thich Nhat Hanh~**

Vietnamese Buddhist Monk

In 1967, I found myself assigned to the First Aviation Brigade, at Long Binh, Vietnam. It was a strange place and a stranger war; over 58,000 Americans would die there; a foolish war and waste of sacred blood and souls.



Orville Lee Knight

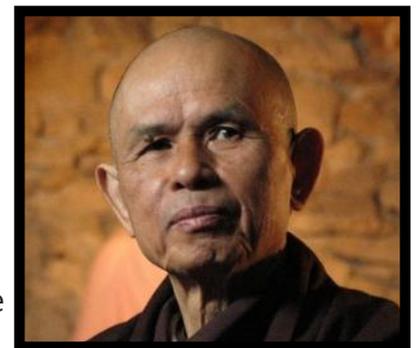
Seventeen soldiers from Washington county, Maryland, were among the dead; one of them, Orville Lee Knight, was my best friend.

'Thich Nhat Hanh (Nhat Hanh) was a Vietnamese Buddhist Zen Master, poet and peace activist and became one of the most revered and influential spiritual teachers in the world. Born in 1926, he became a Zen Buddhist monk at the age of sixteen.'

*Buddhism*, to many is not a religion or a philosophy. Siddhartha Gautama, who became the '*Buddha*' or "*Enlightened One*" lived in ancient India 'around 563 BCE (Before Christian Era). He once lived a royal life, but left his riches and wealth to seek enlightenment, which he obtained under the Bodhi tree (a sacred fig, this tree is considered a potent symbol of spiritual awakening, wisdom and the path to Nirvana) *In Buddhism, Nirvana is a state of ultimate peace and liberation from suffering, achieved by extinguishing greed, hatred, and delusion.*

Thich Nhat Hanh embraced those tenets of Buddhism, and thought the Vietnam war was wrong for both North and South; he voiced his opposition and championed peace and reconciliation through non-violent means.

In 1967, Nhat Chi Mai, one of Nhat Hahn's students, set herself on fire with 10 liters of gasoline on the streets in Saigon as a '*peace protest*' calling for an end to the Vietnam war. Nhat Hahn, the Buddhist Leader, shared that this was not an act of suicide, but one aimed, "*at mov-*



Thich Nhat Hanh (Nhat Hanh)

*ing the hearts of the oppressors, and at calling the attention of the world to the suffering endured then by the Vietnamese."*

Nhat Hanh was exiled from Vietnam because of his war opposition; both North and South saw him as a threat. He did not return for 39 years, but his *vocal opposition*, and '*peace movement*' contributed to a whirlwind of protests around the world and eventually the war would end in 1975.

Thich Nhat Hanh was granted asylum in France and established Plum Village, a Buddhist monastery, in southwestern France.

Nhat Hanh's many teachings had a profound impact on many of today's Buddhist's followers; some 200 monks and nuns live in Plum Village today, and thousands of visitors come each year to learn the *art of mindful living*.

One interesting writing of Nhat Hanh is the story '*a cloud never dies*' a Buddhist belief that life and death is a 'transformation' and not a beginning and end;

*"Like a cloud, life and death, is a continuum."*

Nhat Hanh suggested that when a cloud transforms into rain, it does not cease to exist; it simply changes form, and so he suggests that life and death is a transformation too.

And as the rain falls from the cloud, the water is once again collected and returns as a cloud later.

He concludes that the cloud, like life and death itself is a '*continuation*'. While a person's physical form may cease to exist, "their impact on the world continues in other ways."

"In essence the cloud never dies" but is a transition.

Later in my life, my career in corrections took me to the position of Warden at the Maryland Correctional Institution in Hagerstown, and our institution was able to invite Thich Nhat Hanh to the prison to speak to the inmate population.

I found him a most humble Buddhist Monk. His mark on history led Martin Luther King to nominate him for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1967. Although he wasn't selected for this award, he nonetheless, had a major impact on a troubled world.

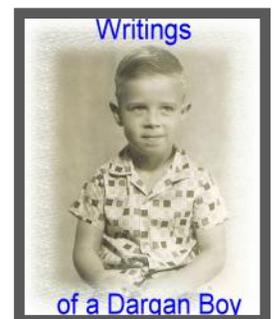
I have read some of his writings over the years (The Art of Living). He died at age 95 on January 22, 2022.

Thich Nhat Hanh left us this priceless thought on how to live life fully:

*"Waking up this morning, I smile.  
Twenty-four brand new hours are before me.  
I vow to live fully in each moment."*

Let each of us walk with Nhat Hanh in his awakening above and strive to *"live life fully."*

"Amitufo" (a Buddhist greeting of well wishing)



## About the Town

### Antietam Unit 236 American Legion Auxiliary Awarded Certificates of Achievement

The local Sharpsburg American Legion Auxiliary was presented with Certificate of Achievements from the Department of Maryland, Inc. level. First Place for work in the programs of Americanism, Chaplain, Children and Youth, Community Service, Gold Star, Legislative, National Security, Poppy, and Public Relations, 2nd Place for Cancer Control. At the District level they were awarded Certificate of Achievement for the following programs: First Place for Americanism, Cancer Control, Chaplain, Children and Youth, Community Service, Education, Gold Star, Juniors, Legislative, National Security, Poppy and Best All Around Activities. Second Place for Public Relations and Veterans' Affairs & Rehabilitation.



While the unit appreciates the recognition of achievements for their efforts it was not done to be recognized but done in service to Veterans, Active Military, Children and their local Community. President Ava Gift, speaking on behalf of the Unit, stressed that if it were not for the community supporting the efforts in these programs, i.e. fundraisers or donations and networking with individuals when they were made aware of a need they would be unable to be of service to others not self.

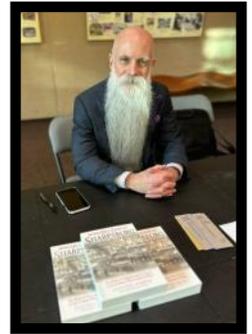
Anyone interested in joining or supporting American Legion Auxiliary Unit 236 may contact any member.

Just another example of the town motto - "Sharpsburg, just what a small town should be".



## Author Steve Cowie Joins Museum Staff

It is my honor to announce Sharpsburgh Museum of History's newest member of our staff, Steve Cowie. He will serve as one of our museum advisors. He will serve along side with Joanne Roulette Happ Wolford and John Frye.



- Ed Beeler, Director Sharpsburgh Museum of History

(Editor's Note: If you only leave the house *once* this year, go hear Steve Cowie's talk at Pry House. He tells a narrative of the real wages of war and it happened to our ancestors right here in Sharpsburg..)

September 12 at 1PM: "When Hell Came to Sharpsburg" Steven Cowie  
Pry House (Barn), 18906 Shepherdstown Pike  
National Museum of Civil War Medicine  
301-695-1864

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## News from Church of the Brethren

The Sharpsburg Church of the Brethren had its monthly luncheon and it was a high success! Our largest turnout ever. The theme was a Hawaiian luau and the food was plentiful with lots of scrumptious desserts.

We played Hawaiian bingo and on the last game which was fill the card, just about everyone shouted bingo at the same time. There was a table of prizes for winners to select from and the cup of chocolate candy was the first to go.

During our open mic two young ladies sang and played the piano. Unfortunately they will be going back to school and not able to join us next month.

There were also jokes told, musical performances and even a little Johnny Cash



number. Rumors has it that next month a brand new group will be performing for the first time anywhere. We look forward to that.

Our next luncheon will be Sept 10th. We eat at 12 noon. Please join this community event of fun and fellowship. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the theme when it's announced.

- Brad Graybill, Pastor

## Community Calendar (August - October)

Week of August 26 Anytime the Library's Open: **Hanging Yarn Art**  
Sharpsburg Library  
301-432-8825

September 3 at 1PM: **Adult Book Share**  
Sharpsburg Library  
301-432-8825

September 6 at 10AM: **Lego Club**  
Sharpsburg Library  
301-432-8825

September 8 at 6PM: **Town Council Meeting**  
Sharpsburg Town Hall  
106 E Main St, Sharpsburg, MD 21782  
301-432-4428

September 12 at 12Noon: **Church of the Brethren Luncheon**  
123 E Main St  
301-432-4944

September 11 at 1:30PM: **Homeschool Program: Veterans**  
(Meet some local veterans and hear their stories. Make cards for local hospitalized veterans.)  
Sharpsburg Library  
301-432-8825

September 12 at 1PM: **"When Hell Came to Sharpsburg" Steven Cowie**  
Pry House (Barn), 18906 Shepherdstown Pike  
National Museum of Civil War Medicine

301-695-1864

September 20 from 10AM to 5PM: **Sharpsburg Days**  
Sharpsburgh Museum of History  
(301) 800-6877  
Ed.Beeler@sharpsburghmuseumofhistory.com

September 20 from 9:30AM to 12:30PM: **Sharpsburg Days Scavenger Hunt**  
Sharpsburg Library  
301-432-8825

September 24 at 1:30PM: **Homeschool Book Club "Babe: The Sheep Pig" by Dick King-Smith**  
Sharpsburg Library  
301-432-8825

September 25 at 3:30PM: **Community Story Time**  
(Meet at the library and we will walk up and explore the new park on the corner of Main and Church.)  
Sharpsburg Library  
301-432-8825

September 25 from 5PM to 6:30PM: **Appalachian Save a Life Day/Narcan Training**  
Sharpsburg Library  
301-432-8825

September 27: Birds Over Antietam,  
Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company  
240-816-1824 / sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com

October 18 12Noon to 5PM: **Crab Feed**,  
Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company  
Cochran's Auction Complex, Boonsboro  
443-398-4510

## Recurring Events

Anytime this Summer: **Library Scavenger Hunt**  
Sharpsburg Library  
301-432-8825

*Just what a  
small town  
should be*

June 1 to August 13: **Tiny Art** (All county library branches)  
Pick up a tiny art kit to take home.  
Sharpsburg Library  
301-432-8825

**Sharpsburg Market:** April 6, April 27, May 4, May 18, June 1, June 22, July 6, July 20, August 3, August 17, September 7, September 21, October 5, October 19  
Behind Battleview Market  
SharpsburgFM@gmail.com

Second Wednesdays from 12Noon to 1:30PM: **Lunch and Fellowship at the Brethren Church**  
123 E Main St.  
301-432-4944 / sharpsburgcob@outlook.com

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

Thursdays at 3:30PM: **Storytime** (Ages 3 and Up)  
Sharpsburg Library  
301-432-8825

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)

## Mayor & Councilpersons

Russ Weaver – Mayor  
Jacob Martz – Vice Mayor  
Randy Short – Council  
Heather Waters – Council  
Ed Beeler-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](mailto:townofsharpsburg@comcast.net)  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg>  
Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung  
[Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com](mailto:Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com)



Ver. 1.0 8/27/25

**Attachment:**

# 2025 SHARPSBURG DAYS



**FREE EVENT**

**FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS • LIVE MUSIC**

SEPT. | Town of  
**20** | Sharpsburg  
**10 AM - 5 PM**



- Live Music: by New Way Drive
- Food Vendors
- Craft Vendors
- Explore the Sharpsburg Museum of History
- Meet your Town Council
- Meet members of the Community
- And Much More!

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:  
Heather Waters • 240-469-8660  
H.waters@sharpsburgmd.com

