



The Knox County Joint Veterans Council are looking for **volunteers!!!**

The Knox County Joint Veterans Council is located at the Knox County Veterans Service Office located at 105 E Chestnut St. Mount Vernon, Ohio. The post conducts regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month. The meeting time is 7:00 P.M. **Contact Carol Riley @**

[740-504-3264](tel:740-504-3264) if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you!



They stand guard silently, vigilantly through whatever Mother Nature dares throw at them. They do so with great pride to honor one of their own. And they do this without thought of payment. For them, honoring a fallen brother-in-arms is compensation enough.

For the families of the deceased soldier, they are the ever-watchful sentinels, and their selfless act is a much-appreciated tribute.

December is Ham Time!!

December 1st-December 29th

Come in any day during the month of December, only, for your annual ham voucher! No waiting! Head to Smithisler Meats, with your voucher, anytime during the month to pick up your ham!

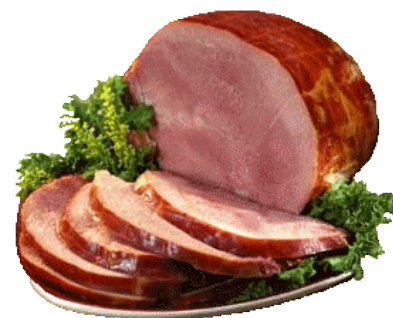
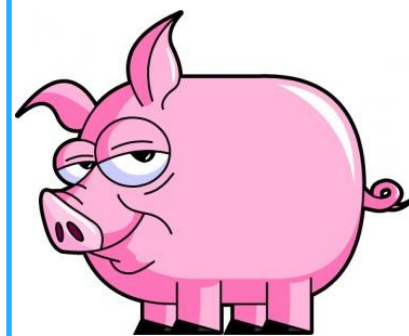
Smithisler Meats

8835 Columbus Rd

Tuesday-Friday 9AM-5:30 PM

Saturday 9AM-2PM

Closed Sunday and Monday



4 Historical Events That Happened on Christmas



1776: WASHINGTON CROSSED THE DELAWARE

George Washington wasn't our first president for no reason. During the American Revolution, he wasn't about to take a cocoa break on Christmas. No way. At 6 p.m, Washington pushed his exhausted, borderline hopeless troops across the Delaware River in Pennsylvania at McConkey's Ferry. For those who have only seen the Delaware as a blue line on a U.S. map, that might not sound like such a remarkable feat. In reality, the crossing was treacherous and daring to the extreme. When Washington first arrived at the riverside, he was short on supplies, and at least 1,700 of his soldiers were too ill or injured to fight. Even more of his men were needed to stay back to guard them. That left 2,400 to prepare a variety of boats and ferries for the crossing. The river was more than 30 feet deep in some areas and freezing cold. The boats were loaded with cannons and artillery, and the crossing began. Over the course of several hours, the men picked their way across, dodging floating ice through the night. Their eventual success marked a turning point in the Revolutionary War. After the crossing, Washington led a series of attacks while the opposing forces were still off their game from nights of holiday merrymaking. His risky move resulted in victories in Trenton and Princeton shortly after the new year, restoring hope to the weathered Continental Army.

1814: THE TREATY OF GHENT ENDED THE WAR OF 1812

After the Revolutionary War was won, America was far from finished arguing with the British. Great Britain continued trying to restrict U.S. trade and expand its own territory, and Americans weren't having it. They took on the naval superpower in a conflict that would last nearly three years. The fighting was destructive and costly, reaching a peak when the British [burned down the White House](#). It wasn't sustainable for either party, so they met in Ghent, Belgium, to negotiate a peace agreement. After four months of arguing, a settlement was finally reached. The treaty basically called the war a truce, and all prisoners and captured ships were returned to their home nations. The treaty didn't go into effect until February 1815, so the war didn't instantly cease. The Battle of New Orleans actually took place in January after it was signed on Christmas. Still, the [Treaty of Ghent](#) was effectively responsible for ending the war.

1868: ANDREW JOHNSON PARDONED CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS

The Civil War isn't exactly America's most shining moment, but after it was over, unifying the country was necessary to restore stability. Abraham Lincoln's vice president and successor, Andrew Johnson, did this by doling out a truly massive Christmas gift: With Proclamation 179, he offered amnesty to every single person who fought against the U.S. throughout the Civil War. The proclamation was actually the fourth order of its kind, with earlier agreements reestablishing legal rights to Confederate soldiers if they signed oaths of loyalty to the United States. The Christmas proclamation brought the postwar agreements to a close.

1968: APOLLO 8 WENT INTO ORBIT AROUND THE MOON

Not all holiday historical events were political. Gazing at the winter moon on Christmas Eve sounds romantic enough, but in 1968, three astronauts spent the night orbiting around it. Originally, the Apollo 8 mission was intended to be no more than a test run for a lunar landing. When progress on the lunar module took longer than anticipated, NASA adjusted its mission plan, transforming it into a full-blown moon mission. The mission was a huge success. Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders were the first men to escape Earth's gravitational pull, see the Earth from space and orbit the moon, and it all happened on Christmas Eve! From orbit, the astronauts broadcasted a report back to Earth, ending in, "Merry Christmas, and God bless all of you, all of you on the good Earth." To date, that moment is one of the most-watched in all of television history.

Navy and Austal Pay Tribute to Native American Leader as Keel of First Steel Ship Is Laid

Austal USA laid the keel for its first steel ship on Tuesday, a symbolic milestone not just in the life of the ship but of the shipyard itself. In the process, the shipbuilder and the Navy paid tribute to a Native American man who served in the U.S. Marine Corps and went on to become a respected advocate for Native American rights and environmental concerns.

The ship, designated T-ATS 11, is one of several Navajo-class towing, rescue and salvage ships that Austal is under contract to build in Mobile. When it enters service it will become the USNS Billy Frank Jr.

Frank died in 2014 at age 104 after an eventful life. Born into the Nisqually tribe in Washington state, he served in the Marine Corps for two years in the 1950s. He went on to become a champion of tribal fishing rights and posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015.

In Tuesday's keel-laying ceremony, William Frank III and his wife, ship sponsor Peggen Frank, burned their initials into a steel plate that will be fixed within the ship. Peggen Frank, using the traditional language of the ceremony, certified that the keel had been "well and truly laid."

Larry Ryder, vice president of business development and external affairs for Austal USA, said "the fact that we have, I think, six tribes represented today shows you the importance of this event."

"Today's ceremony is especially meaningful for Austal USA as it is the first keel-laying we've had for a steel ship," said Ryder. "So it's a big deal for the shipbuilders you see here."

Though changing economic conditions have caused Austal USA's parent company to designate the deal as "onerous," the fact remains that securing it was a major development in Austal's transition from a builder specializing in aluminum work into one able to compete for more plentiful steel work. More steel contracts, including one for construction of U.S. Coast Guard cutters, have followed.

U.S. Navy Capt. Ryan Bohning described Frank as "a man of uncommon courage and character" whose participation in fishing protests resulted in him being arrested 50 times. Frank "persevered against great odds to protect Native American rights," he said.

"From the bottom of my heart this is truly an honor," said William Frank III, chairman of the Nisqually tribal council. "To have this opportunity to really educate people about who my father was, about who our tribes are."

It was a striking contrast to a past era in which Native American children were sent to boarding schools where they couldn't speak their tribal languages or observe tribal ways, he said. "To think about where we are today, in 2023, where we're getting a Navy ship named after one of our own tribal members, that's huge."

Peggen Frank joked that the way things are going, her late father-in-law will end up with more awards and accolades than arrests. She said she believed that if he could have been present, he'd be grinning from ear to ear "and we'd be hearing that big, deep, Billy laugh. Can you hear it? I can." She said Billy Frank Jr. had been a "powerful beacon" of cultural strength in changing times, and that the ship bearing his name will carry that spirit into the waters of the world in years to come.

As the Franks welded their initials onto the plate, they were assisted by A-class structural fitter Brandon Auld.

T-ATS 11 is the first of five Navajo-class ships to be built in Mobile, according to Austal.



Pictures of the Month



A mammal trainer with Navy's Marine Mammal Program demonstrates techniques with a bottlenose dolphin during Fleet Week San Diego



The USS Ramage conducts a replenishment with the USNS Laramie in the Mediterranean Sea