



## 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 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.

### Sunken US Navy WWII destroyer discovered off Okinawan coast

The U.S. Navy has identified a sunken ship off the coast of Okinawa, Japan, as the Sumner-class destroyer Mannert L. Abele, the first U.S. warship to sink on April 12, 1945, after it was hit with a Japanese suicide rocket bomb, according to the Naval History and Heritage Command.

“Mannert L. Abele is the final resting place for 84 American sailors who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their country,” NHHC Director Samuel Cox said in a statement. “Its discovery allows some closure to the families of those lost, and provides us all another opportunity to remember and honor them.”

The day of its sinking, the destroyer came in contact with Japanese aircraft about 75 miles off the coast of Okinawa. Although the warship damaged multiple enemy planes, one Japanese kamikaze pilot managed to cut through the anti-aircraft fire and crashed into the starboard side of the ship, according to the release.

The ship was then hit at the water line by a rocket-powered human-guided kamikaze bomb — a Yokosuka MXY-7 Ohka, also called the Cherry Blossom — that caused the bow and stern of the ship to buckle, dooming the vessel.

The wreck of Mannert L. Abele is protected and falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Navy, the statement noted. “The wreck represents the final resting place of sailors that gave their life in defense of the nation and should be respected by all parties as a war grave,” the NHHC release states.

Naval History and Heritage Command traces its history back to 1794, according to the command’s website. The Navy Department Library was established under the Naval Bureau within the War Department. In 1800, President John Adams asked the first secretary of the Navy to prepare a list of books suited for a Navy library.

The command now includes 10 museums across the country and a detachment that contributes to the upkeep of the service’s oldest ship, the USS Constitution.

### NEW FLAG POLICY!

ATTENTION, Bad news and Good news ! "FLAGS"

#### THE BAD NEWS.

Unfortunately, due to multiple logistic changes outside of our control, the office will no longer be able to keep an inventory of U.S. Flags for purchase through the Congressman's office. But we can still assist.

In prior years we were able to maintain an inventory of flags and the public would be able to write a check to the congressman's office and we would be reimbursed the flag that was given out.

Due to changes in ordering, billing, shipping and pricing we will now only be able to assist YOU with the purchase. The new ordering process takes place one flag at a time, online, through our new Congressman's website.

If you stop in, we can provide the following.

1. Order your flag online for you.
2. Accept your check to the Congressman. (cost+shipping now)
3. Mail your check with conformation to the proper office.
4. You will then receive your flag in the mail.

You may also do this yourself online at ,<https://balderson.house.gov/>

Under the tab "services", "flag Requests"

#### THE GOOD NEWS.

We are offering FREE 3x5 nylon, all-weather, made in the USA Flags every year to all those who attend our Open House in person. This being ONE per Knox County household/family. Our annual Open House is always on the Monday before Memorial Day every year.

This year's Open house is Monday May 22nd 8am-5pm.

We will also entertain and review special requests for a flag to be donated based on location, need, event etc.

We are also entertaining additional free flag giveaway events throughout the year with no decisions being made yet.

We apologize for this inconvenience. See you in the office soon !



## Russian private army chief says handing off Bakhmut to main army

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The head of the Russian private military contractor Wagner claimed Thursday that his forces have started pulling out of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine and handing over control to the Russian military, days after he said Wagner troops had captured the ruined city. Yevgeny Prigozhin, Wagner's millionaire owner with longtime links to Russian President Vladimir Putin, said in a video published on Telegram that the handover would be completed by June 1. There was no immediate comment from the Russian defense ministry.

It was not possible to independently verify whether Wagner's pullout from the bombed-out city has begun after a nine-month battle that killed tens of thousands of people. Prigozhin says he lost 20,000 troops in the fight for the industrial city. Ukraine's deputy defense minister said Thursday that Wagner units have been replaced with regular troops in the suburbs but Wagner fighters remain inside the city. Ukrainian forces still have a foothold in the southwestern outskirts, Deputy Minister of Defense Hanna Maliar said.

Prigozhin's Bakhmut triumph delivered a badly needed victory for Putin, whose invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has lost momentum and now faces the possibility of a Ukrainian counteroffensive using advanced weapons supplied by Kyiv's Western allies.

Top Ukrainian presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak said Thursday that Ukraine's counteroffensive was already underway, cautioning that it should not be anticipated as a "single event" starting "at a specific hour of a specific day." Writing on Twitter, Podolyak said that "dozens of different actions to destroy Russian occupation forces" had "already been taking place yesterday, are taking place today and will continue tomorrow."

Prigozhin has a long-running feud with the Russian military leadership, dating back to Wagner's creation. He has also built a reputation for inflammatory — and often unverifiable — headline-grabbing statements that he later backtracks on.

During the 15-month war in Ukraine, he has repeatedly and publicly chastised Russia's military leadership, accusing them of incompetence and failure to properly provision his troops as they spearheaded the battle for Bakhmut.

Wagner's involvement in the capture of Bakhmut has added to Prigozhin's standing, which he has used to set forth his personal views about the conduct of the war.

"Prigozhin is ... using the perception that Wagner is responsible for the capture of Bakhmut to advocate for a preposterous level of influence over the Russian war effort in Ukraine," the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington think tank, said.

His frequent critical commentary about Russia's military performance is uncommon in Russia's tightly controlled political system, in which only Putin can usually air such criticism.

His flat statement of what he would do over the next week in Bakhmut came a day after he again broke with the Kremlin line on Ukraine. He said its goal of demilitarizing the country has backfired, acknowledged Russian troops have killed civilians and agreed with Western estimates that he lost more than 20,000 men in the battle for Bakhmut.

## Pictures of the Month



The USS Paul Hamilton operates in the Gulf of Oman, May 20, 2023. .



A Marine Corps light armored vehicle fires its chain gun during the 2023 Bushmaster Challenge at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 11, 2023.