

Southern Dutchess News

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Fishkill, East Fishkill, Wappingers Falls, Town of Wappinger, Town and City of Poughkeepsie

November 16-22, 2022

New plaque at WJHS honors WWII major killed in action



Major Thomas Francis Trabucco, a Dutchess County native, was recognized with a plaque on November 10 at Wappingers Junior High School. Trabucco was killed in action in 1945 at the age of 26.

-Courtesy photo

By Kristine Coulter

Wappingers Junior High School students took time on November 10 to remember a native son of Dutchess County. Major Thomas Francis Trabucco was honored and remembered by the students, staff, faculty and community members.

“Students should learn about major Thomas Francis Trabucco because he is a part of the history of Wappingers Falls. Thanks to his sacrifice, we are able to

enjoy our freedoms,” said Heidi Kane, a teacher at the junior high school.

“The Major was a young man with hopes and dreams who joined the Air Corp and died in action in Germany. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his sacrifice,” said Kane.

Trabucco was born on May 8, 1918. He was killed in action on March 1, 1945.

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UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Lawler wins 17th C.D.; Beephan takes 105th A.D.

Imperati elected Dutchess County Sheriff



Mike Lawler (left) and Anil Beephan Jr. won their races. Lawler won against Sean Patrick Maloney in the new Congressional District 17. Beephan was opposed by Democratic candidate Jill Fieldstein.

-Courtesy photos

By Kate Goldsmith

All across the region, candidates in last Tuesday’s General Election weighed in on social media about their wins and losses. While the results are unofficial, most of the races have been called.

It was encouraging to read the candidates’ official statements, most of which reflected grace and civility in victory and defeat.

House of Representatives

District 17

Five-term Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney (D, WOR) lost his bid to represent the new District 17. With almost all election districts reporting, Maloney trailed his opponent Michael Lawler (R, C) by five percentage points, 46.38% to 51.54%. On Nov. 9, Maloney conceded to Lawler, who currently is the State Assemblyman for New York’s 97th District.

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Celebrate women’s heart health at the CIA

By Kristine Coulter

The Go Red for Women Celebration will take place at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on November 18. The event is what organizers call “mask friendly,” meaning that masks are not required but attendees can wear them if they want.

Monique Corcoran, Director of Operations for the Heart and Vascular Institute of Nuvance Health is the chair of the 2022 Hudson Valley Go Red for Women Celebration.

“We’re seeing that cardiovascular disease is becoming more and more prevalent, and that COVID really accelerated it. The predictions that tell us how many people will develop cardiovascular disease are staggering. Some people are predisposed to cardiovascular disease, but much of it is preventable. There is a lot that people can do, and the Go Red for Women Celebration will give Hudson Valley women information that they can put into action to prevent cardiovascular diseases in themselves and in the women they love,” said Corcoran via email.

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An auction will take place during the annual Go Red For Women Celebration on November 18 in Hyde Park. Pictured is from a previous year’s event.

-Courtesy photo

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Local hero recognized with plaque at junior high school

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Trabucco was 26 years old. Tom Masch, a local veteran, saw the Major's Hometown Heroes Banner and decided the Dutchess native needed to be recognized and remembered. He contacted Wappingers Central School District officials. The idea for the plaque came about and was okayed.

"I didn't want his name to be another name [forgotten]," said Masch.

According to documentation from Kane, Trabucco was killed in action near Haldenwang, Germany in his P-51 Mustang aircraft. His aircraft was named "Dotty."

"I would like to say that Major Trabucco is a well honored and remembered through his children and grandchildren. I hope that other veterans are remembered in the same way," said student Annalise Froedden, who is with Student Government.

What did she learn from the ceremony, Annalise said, "I learned that many veterans sacrificed themselves for the good of the county. Veterans like Major Trabucco decided to put the lives of many before the life of one."

Trabucco was "a well-known track star," according to the documentation. He held the Dutchess County Cross

Country Championship for two years, 1934-1935. He attended Wappingers Central School District from 1932-1936. He was enrolled at the former high school location, which was on Mesier Ave. He earned 3 letters in the sports of baseball, basketball and track.

In the yearbook, it is quoted of Trabucco was "handsome, late to everything, would never be without a dancing partner and wanted to be the world's greatest athlete."

Trabucco attended and graduated from the University of

Purdue. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1939. According to documentation, Trabucco was assigned to the 435th Fighter Squadron, which was part of the 479th Fighter Group.

According to documentation, Trabucco, out of the 700 men from this community that enlisted in the service, achieved the highest rank.

Masch said being at the ceremony he wanted to make sure everything went right.

"The ceremony did go right," he said. He thanked school district officials and board members, Dutchess County Legislator Joseph Cavaccini and Wappinger Town Supervisor Richard Thurston. He also noted the excellent work done by ABC Plaques in East Fishkill on the



A plaque that will be placed in Wappingers Junior High School to honor Major Trabucco was unveiled recently.

-Courtesy photo

Notes from the Town of Wappinger Supervisor

Honoring Our Heroes

Last week our community held four moving memorial events to honor our Veterans. On Friday, November 11th, we gathered together in the morning at the Major Joseph McDonald MIA/POW Park in the Village of Wappingers Falls and in the afternoon we met in the Town Hall of the Town of Wappinger. On Thursday, November 10th, Roy C. Ketcham held its annual Veterans ceremony at the High School, and a couple of hours later we met at the Wappingers Junior High School. We assembled together to thank all soldiers who have served our nation, living or deceased, but most especially our living heroes. We celebrated and honored our Veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and unquestioning service and sacrifice for the common good of the people of the United States of America.



Supervisor Richard Thurston

some of the banners of our Hometown Heroes. We hope that those banners and many more banners installed throughout the Town on utility poles, will ensure that our veterans will never be forgotten. When you stop by Town Hall, please take a moment to view the banners and to pay your respect. We continue to accept applications for Hometown Heroes banners and also Memorial Bricks (to be installed at Schlathaus Park).

As often as possible, please stop for a moment or two to recognize in your own way all Veterans and their families among us who have been a part of the great fellowship we call the U.S. military—our Veterans, active-duty service members, guardsmen and reservists. It is their service and sacrifices that have kept our country safe and free.

In the words of John F. Kennedy, "as we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." As new generations step forward, some, too, will make the ultimate sacrifice defending our great nation. We hope and pray that those sacrifices will be minimized, but sacrifices there will be.

God bless you all, God bless our Veterans, and God bless the United States of America.

Major's plaque.

"Major Trabucco was your typical All-American boy who gave his life for his country," remarked Kane.

Trabucco's body was returned to the United States in 1950, it was stated. He is buried in Wappingers Falls in St. Mary's Cemetery.

The Wappinger Town Board dedicated a

second plaque to honor the Major on November 14. It will be installed in the Wappinger Town Hall, according to Wappinger Supervisor Richard Thurston.

Annalise said she would tell veterans "thank you for serving our country and putting your lives ahead of others. You are all good people and I hope you are all remembered forever."

During the morning ceremony on Veterans Day, led by Commander Raymond Chase Jr. at the Major Joseph McDonald MIA/POW Park, the Village recognized Thomas Martin Lynch J., who served in the US Navy during WWII, 1943-1946. Commander Chase presented a wonderful, framed collection of medals to Thomas Lynch's three daughters and son. The day before, on November 10th, at the Junior High, we honored Major Thomas F. Trabucco, who died on March 1, 1945 while flying "Dotty," his P-51 fighter, to stop Nazi aggression. Thanks to Veteran Tom Masch and the Wappingers Central School District, a memorial plaque was unveiled in the Major's honor in the presence of his family. On Monday night, November 14th, at the beginning of our Town Board meeting, we dedicated a second replica plaque to be installed in Town Hall.

On Veterans Day we also renewed our Town's very deep commitment to our ongoing outreach to our veterans. Our Town Board proudly sponsors our Veterans Advisory Group, chaired by Veteran Kevin Hathorn. A special thanks to Kevin and our Board for this commitment.

As we continue to pay homage both to the members of our Armed Forces who have gone before us and to those who are still defending our nation, we display, within the Town's Board meeting room,

'She Kills Monsters' by Masque & Mime Nov. 18-20

Don't miss the great Dungeons and Dragons adventure in Roy C. Ketcham's Masque and Mime Society's production of "She Kills Monsters" on Friday and Saturday, November 18 and 19 at 7:30

p.m. and Sunday matinee on November 20 at 2 p.m. Tickets available online at rcktkts.com.

This play is recommended for people ages 12+.

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