



Dick Mason/The Observer

John Martin, left, a U.S. Marine veteran, and Burl Pugh, front right, a U.S. Army veteran, participate in a flag-raising ceremony at the Summerville Cemetery. Doran Hopkins, back right, salutes as the flag is raised.

SALUTE

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He explained that Olin's ship was once hit by a Japanese Kamikaze plane, igniting an oil fire and causing numerous injuries. A large piece of equipment fell on one man's leg, preventing him from being able to escape an approaching fire on deck.

"Olin cut off the man's leg to save his life," Doran said. "Later in life, Olin once asked me with tears in his eyes whether he should have cut off the man's leg."

Doran said he tried his best to comfort him.

"I answered, 'You saved the man's life.' Imagine the pain these veterans brought back with them," he said.

Doran said he vividly remembers having Sunday dinners at this grandparents' house during WWII and hearing them talk about whether their sons were safe.

"I was too young to understand the anguish these people must have endured," he said.

Doran told of how his aunt's husband, Bill Furman of Imbler, was injured while serving as a tail gunner in World War II and walked with a limp the rest of his life. He also shared a powerful story about Robert Chapman, the uncle of his wife, Fran.

Chapman went in on a glider during the battle of Market Garden in the Netherlands during WWII. It was his first battle as a private in the Army, and he was killed the first day. His sacrifice was not forgotten, though, for Chapman posthumously received a Silver Star and a Bronze Star from the U.S. Army and most notably a Bronze Lion honor from Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands.

"Only 1,200 Bronze Lion awards have been given, and they are for deeds of extreme bravery," Doran said.

Speaking to an audience of about 70 people at the Summerville Cemetery, Doran said that although Armed Forces Day, Veterans Day and

Memorial Day have become interchangeable in the minds of many, it is important to make a distinction among the three.

"Armed Forces Day is for those who wear the uniform. Veterans Day is for those who wore the uniform. Memorial Day is for those who never got to take the uniform off," he said.

Doran thinks of this each year when he helps put American flags at the headstones of veterans at the Summerville Cemetery.

"As I place a flag on each of these graves, I wonder about the sacrifices these vets made. Living in the mud. Living in the jungle heat and the mountain cold. Living among the dead. The fear of death always with them," he said.

Doran wants people who know about the sacrifices these men made to come forward and share their stories. He also encourages those who are acquainted with a veteran to do some note-taking.

"If you know a veteran, please write down their history so future generations will know of this sacrifice," he said.

The retired Air Force colonel, who served in the Air Force for 28 years, including one year in a Vietnam combat zone, said he would not be where he is now without the backing of Fran, his wife of 56 years.

"I would never have had a career in the Air Force without her love and support. She has determined that we have lived in over 25 houses during our marriage," Doran said.

Those who organized and participated in Monday's Memorial Day ceremony at the Summerville Cemetery included local veterans John Martin and Burl Pugh, Rev. Franklin Humber of the Summerville Baptist Church, and the Patriot Guard Riders and the American Legion Riders.

Other Memorial Day programs in Union County included the 33rd annual Avenue of Flags ceremony at Grandview Cemetery in La Grande.

The ceremony was conducted among 135 American flags mounted on poles all along the road running through Grandview Cemetery. All are burial flags for American veterans that were donated by their families.

The flags were put up early Saturday morning by members of La Grande's American Legion Post 43 and other volunteers.

The ceremony included a presentation by Roger Cochran, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church; the playing of taps and the National Anthem; a prayer; and the raising of the colors.

Cochran opened his address by discussing spirituality. He said the Bible is what he thinks of first when discussing Memorial Day.

"Only the shedding of blood all the way from Calvary holds this ground firm and free that we stand on today — constant vigilance and willing hearts and hands to stand on the firing line to defend our free nation," Cochran said.

He then addressed America's flag and its meaning, noting that despite the challenges the United States faces, it represents much to take pride in.

"America does not claim perfection — she does proclaim freedom and valor to the world," Cochran said.

The pastor said our flag holds a special place in the world despite the criticism the United States receives daily.

"Although our flag is coming under fire for the moment it signifies the greatest nation on earth," Cochran said.

The pastor also said that Americans need to remain forever vigilant.

"We must never make the mistake of thinking our homes and families are safe and stay home — excusing ourselves from the battle lines. An enemy successful on any front will ultimately be emboldened to try bigger fronts. Our homeland safety requires world safety," Cochran said.

from Seattle Pacific University, according to ThurstonTalk, a website that covers the news of Thurston County Washington, which the Olympia School District is in.

She earlier taught high school level math and science for five years and middle school level math and science for 11 years in the Olympia School District.

West's administrative-level experience includes times as assistant principal and dean of students at Jefferson Middle School. Another title West has held in the school district is director of its Learning Assistance Program.

Pending board approval, West will begin her new job July 1.

WEST

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has won include the Olympia School District's 2017 "Unsung Hero" award.

"I am very pleased to welcome Mrs. West to the administrative team. Not only does she bring very relevant experience, but also a genuine desire to serve the La Grande students and families," Mendoza said in a news release.

West has a bachelor of science degree from College of Idaho and a master's in educational leadership from Portland State University. She received her administrative credentials

IHS seniors attend kindergarten graduation



Dick Mason/The Observer

Imbler Elementary School kindergarten students (from left) Kahler Adams, Owen Sweet and Casey Elmer pose for a photo before going to their graduation ceremony Friday. They are with Imbler High School seniors Ryan Patterson, left, and Wil Coston. Patterson, Coston and all of IHS's graduating seniors walked with the kindergartners to the children's graduation ceremony in the Imbler Elementary gym.

B2H

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area near the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, on the east side of Baker Valley, and in the Durkee area southeast of Baker City. Idaho Power initially proposed to route the line east of the Interpretive Center, but concerns about the potential effect on sage grouse habitat there led to the current proposed route on the east side of Baker Valley. That section would run near Idaho Power's existing 230-kilovolt transmission line, which crosses Highway 86 on Flagstaff Hill between Baker Valley and the Interpretive Center.

B2H opponents have also criticized Idaho Power for proposing a route that is predominantly on private property. Of the 68.4 miles of line proposed in Baker County, 56.5 miles (83%) would be on private land, with the balance on public property managed by the BLM. In Union County, the proposed route would cover 39.9 miles, 31.5 miles (81%) of which would be on private land.

In December 2017 Baker County offered to negotiate easements with Idaho Power for the estimated 35 property owners along the proposed B2H route.

"The county is committed to continuing the fight for equity for our landowners specifically and the county at large," according to a letter sent to property owners.

Jeff Maffucio, Idaho Power's facility siting coordinator, said company officials would negotiate with private landowners along the route to buy easements. These typically would be 150 feet wide, he said. Although the easements would prohibit the construction of buildings within that corridor, Maffucio said landowners could continue current activities such as farming and livestock grazing.

Idaho Power projects that it would build 290 towers in Baker County as part of the project, build 28.2 miles of roads, and improve 63.2 miles of existing access roads. The figures for Union County are 171 towers, 7.6 miles of new roads, and improvements to 37.5 miles of existing roads.

The public hearings will coincide with a 60-day public comment period that began May 22, when the Oregon Department of Energy issued a draft proposed order for B2H. That order includes the recommendation that the Energy Facility Siting Council approve the proposal and issue Idaho Power a site certificate.

Maffucio estimated last month that the Siting Council could issue a final order in late 2019 and a permit allowing construction of the power line 12 to 18 months after that. The current schedule calls for construction to start in 2022, with the line carrying power starting in 2026.

People who aren't able to attend a public hearing may submit written comments by 5 p.m. July 23. Comments can be emailed to B2H.DPOComments@Oregon.gov or mailed to Kellen Tardawether, senior siting analyst, Oregon Department of Energy, 550 Capitol St. NE, Salem 97301.

More information about the B2H project is available

at www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/B2H.aspx.

Electronic copies of Idaho Power's application are available at the Baker County Library, 2400 Resort St. in Baker City, and Cook Memorial Library, 2006 Fourth St. in La Grande.

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