

HONOR

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In a February 2021 interview with the Baker City Herald, Morrissey recalled how two German divisions “plowed right through” his unit, mostly made up of soldiers who, like himself, had yet to experience combat.

Morrissey ended up about 25 miles behind the German lines, but he and a group of about 50 other American soldiers managed to make it back to their side of the lines, moving only at night.

But they weren’t yet safe. Morrissey said American troops, mistaking his group for Germans, called in an artillery barrage. He made it through that frightening predicament unscathed, and was later promoted to staff sergeant.

Morrissey was in Austria, having advanced with his unit through Germany, when he learned, in May 1945, that the Germans had surrendered, ending the war in Europe.

After the war Morrissey didn’t have definite plans for his future until his mother, Margaret, told him that she and his stepfather, Robert Steward, had bought a cattle ranch in Keating Valley.

Soon after, Morrissey, who was born in Grass Valley, south of The Dalles, came for the first time to Baker County.

He earned a degree in animal sciences at Washington State University and then helped run the ranch.

Morrissey and his wife, Beth, who celebrated their 50th anniversary on Feb. 6,



Samantha O'Conner/Baker City Herald

Rick Gloria, right, Baker County's Veterans Services Officer, salutes Patrick Morrissey, seated, during a ceremony to honor Morrissey's service with the U.S. Army during World War II. Morrissey's daughter, Sara Lee, watched.

2021, were active members of the community, instrumental in starting the Baker County YMCA and in constructing the current Baker City Church of the Nazarene.

During Thursday's ceremony at Settler's Park, Gloria presented Morrissey with the American flag and pinned a U.S. pin on Morrissey's collar before saluting him.

Morrissey was then given a certificate in recognition of his service.

Standing with Morrissey were his daughter, Sara Lee, his stepdaughter, Betty

Palmer, and his stepson Paul Johnson.

Lois Grushka, a social worker with Heart 'N Home Hospice, also gave Morrissey a card from the Heart 'N Home team, thanking him for his service.

Heart 'N Home has partnered with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Veter-

ans Administration to ensure excellent end-of-life care for the nation's veterans and their families.

Gloria said he would like to schedule pinning ceremonies for other veterans.

“Hopefully we get to do this more often because our World War II veterans are going pretty quick; we don't have too many of them left,” Gloria said.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Baker County Commissioners to discuss Greater Idaho proposal on Wednesday

Baker County Commissioners will discuss a proposal to add many Oregon counties, including Baker, to Idaho during their meeting Wednesday, July 14 at 9 a.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

In the May 2021 election, Baker County voters approved a measure that requires county commissioners to meet at least three times yearly to discuss the Greater Idaho proposal. On Wednesday commissioners will meet with Mike McCarter, president of Citizens for Greater Idaho.

Miners Jubilee fun run/walk set for Saturday morning, July 17 in Baker City

The Miners Jubilee fun run/walk event will take place Saturday morning, July 17 in Baker City. Two courses — a 5K (3.1 miles) and a 10K (6.2 miles) — both start on Main Street in front of Kicks sportswear. Race day registration will begin at 7 a.m. Both races will start at 8 a.m.

Participants can pre-register by picking up registration forms at the Baker County YMCA Fitness Center at 3715 Pochontas Road in Baker City.

The cost of the event is \$20, or \$10 for ages younger than 10, including an event T-shirt for the first 75 participants to pre-register and to show up on race day.

Proceeds will benefit the Baker High School cross-country and track and field programs. Sorbenots is the sponsor of the event.

Baker High School Class of 1961 planning reunion Saturday, July 17

The Baker High School Class of 1961 will have a reunion Saturday, July 17 at 5 p.m. at Lefty's, 1934 Broadway St. Other BHS alumni and friends are invited to join the group at 8 p.m.

With summer here, there is lots of traveling. Be safe & have fun!



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