

By Mayor Ben Garlich

Last Wednesday we had our annual Halloween celebration. I drove through our Village and was amazed at the amount of children participating. In the developments of Glen Valley and Woodson, we could have used traffic control. I am happy to report there were not reports of vandalism or pedestrian injury. The Fire Department sponsored the annual celebration of costume judging and serving refreshments. The innocence of the participants and their young excitement is always inspiring. Thanks to all who participated and volunteered to make this annual event a success.

This weekend, we will be celebrating Veterans Day. History tells us the first day honoring our war heroes was established in 1919 by President Wilson. This day of veteran recognition was originally called Armistice Day as it was recognizing those heroes that served in World War I. This war started in July of 1914 and officially ended at 11 a.m., the 11th month (November) and on the 11th day, 1918. Since 1919, Armistice Day has been celebrated on Nov. 11. In 1954 after World War II and the Korean War, Congress realized the need to acknowledge and honor all war heroes from all three wars and renamed this day of recognition Veteran's Day. This year the day of honoring falls on Sunday. I did not serve in the Armed Forces but know many friends and relatives that did. My father was a veteran serving proudly in World War II and in later years my brother served as well.

I recently read a book authored by Mona Trybus, a long-time Middlefield resident, which chronicled the life of her husband from his life of poverty in a coal mining town in Pennsylvania to becoming one of Middlefield's prominent physicians. Her husband, Dr. Henry Trybus, was also a veteran. I remember hearing stories from my father on the impact those years had on him both positive and negative. I see my friends who have health issues related to chemicals used during their service in the Vietnam War. I read in Mona's book how upon returning, Henry had trouble finding his identity. I say all this to make the following point. Shame on any of us that take our freedom for granted and fail to realize why we had the freedom to vote on Tuesday, why we have the freedom to worship and be in control of our individual destiny. I hope none of us forget our quality of life came at a price and we are forever indebted and grateful. I thank God every day for having the privilege of being an American. I hope Sunday you will reach out to veterans who, you know and let them know how much you appreciate their sacrifice and service to our great country.

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