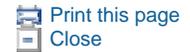


SPRINGFIELD NEWS-SUN



Field of flags honors veterans

Display at Limestone Street funeral home will continue through June 14.

By [Matt Sanctis](#), Staff Writer

Updated 2:15 PM Monday, June 6, 2011

SPRINGFIELD — Sandy Schwarm slowly walked among the 400 American flags at the Jackson, Lytle and Lewis Funeral Home on Sunday, lightly touching the yellow ribbons that were attached to each one.

Schwarm, who dedicated one of the flags to her husband John, was one of several area residents who attended the opening ceremonies for the Field of Honor display that will continue for the next few weeks.

Now in its second year, the event allows area residents and businesses to donate flags, which will stand in the grass in front of the funeral home until June 14. The ceremony is a tribute to local veterans such as Schwarm's husband, who served as a radio signal operator in the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

"It's just something to remember him by," Schwarm said of the flag.

Tracey Tackett, who helped organize the ceremony Sunday, said residents still can purchase a flag for \$30, with proceeds going to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1031. Money will help purchase a new van to take area veterans to their medical appointments, she said. Residents will be allowed to take their flag home after the closing ceremonies at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 14.

Similar projects are being carried out across the country, she said, but the program, now in its second year, is the only one in Ohio.

For veterans like Tom Geiger, who served in the U.S. Navy during Vietnam, the ceremony serves as a sign that society's views of soldiers have changed dramatically since he served.

"When we came home we were very unpopular," he said of his return from Vietnam. Now it's a ton of difference."

Ken Hershberger, who also sponsored a flag, served in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam. He said he lost 37 friends during the war, whose names are etched onto the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"If I can participate in this wonderful display, I wouldn't miss it for the world," Hershberger said.

Contact this reporter at (937) 328-0355.

Find this article at:

Print this page Close

<http://www.springfieldnewssun.com/news/field-of-flags-honors-veterans-1178055.html>