

MEMORIES

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one of self-determination. The youngest of nine children, Dombroski was adamant about graduating from high school and college, something his eight siblings had not done.

He spent one year in King's College's chemistry program and felt the financial burden of a college education.

"I was broke," he said.

Dombroski traveled to Detroit, Mich. to work in an automotive factory until he was drafted in 1951. He was sent to Fort Hood in Texas, where he completed his basic training in the U.S. Army Infantry, 1st Armored Division in 1952. What came next was a surprise he thought he could avoid.

He said he often listened to the experiences of his three brothers, all of whom served in the Army during World War II. Each of his brothers had served overseas — one in Western Europe, another in Italy and the third in the Pacific Theater.

"My brothers always told me 'Don't volunteer to do anything.' A commander asked us during lunch one day, 'Anybody want to go to Europe?' and so many people raised their hands, but I didn't. I listened to their advice," said Dombroski. "The commander came back after lunch and told us, 'Everybody who didn't raise their hands is going to Korea.' I told my brothers, 'You gave me some bad information.'"

After his graduation from basic training, Dombroski flew to Seattle, Wash. and then to Tokyo, Japan and Seoul, Korea. He was stationed in an area referred to as the Punch Bowl, which was locat-

To see a video of Thomas Dombroski reflecting on his experiences during the Korean War, visit www.mydallaspost.com.

ed about 60 miles north of Chuncheon, Korea at the 38th parallel, the pre-war border between North and South Korea.

"In Tokyo we were given our guns and other equipment," he said. "I knew this wasn't going to be for fun."

The area is characterized by hills and deep valleys, but Dombroski said his battalion was located in a relatively safe place — as safe as one can be in the midst of battle. The Battle of Heartbreak Ridge, a major battle in the Korean War, had been fought from Sept.-Oct. of 1951 and Dombroski said the area was stabilized prior to his arrival.

While touring Washington, D.C. last week, his memory was jogged almost instantly upon seeing the Korean Veterans Memorial. The memorial is comprised of 19 stainless steel lifelike sculptures, depicting men in battle during the time, and it leads to a granite wall etched with the phrase, "Freedom is not free."

A 21-year-old at the time of the war, Dombroski said he didn't pay close attention to the news, but he knew Korea was "a hot potato" during the early 1950s.

"I was hoping I would come out all right," he said. "But I was not one to shirk my duty. I would take whatever the cards dealt me."

After 11 months, though, he had had enough. Though the area was technically stable, there was gunfire, grenades and other dangers that left him exhausted — but not enough to take a break.

"After 10 months, you're sup-



Thomas Dombroski, 80, of Trucksville, is shown here in his U.S. Army Infantry uniform circa 1952.

posed to take rest and relaxation in Tokyo," he said. "I didn't because I wanted to get home."

He's thankful he did. When he returned home from Korea in March 1953, he heard news of another major battle in Korea — the Battle of Pork Chop Hill between U.S. Infantry troops and Communist Chinese and Korean soldiers.

Dombroski's life returned to normal once he returned home. He was honorably discharged in 1958 and went on to graduate from King's College with a degree in chemistry. He settled in Trucksville, got married in 1956 and became a father of four children.

But he'll never forget the time he spent overseas, from the once-a-week showers to the once-daily hot meals. While he said it wasn't an easy time, he believes the time he spent in the military made him a stronger person.

"I was driven," he said.



Members of the Masonic Village Activities Committee and the Back Pack Committee at Trinity Presbyterian Church (TPC) work together to feed hungry children. From left, first row, Lucille Luksic, Rita Zampetti, Catherine Bolinski, Nancy Lambertson and Barbara Lodwick. Second row, Thelma Smith, Annie Bisher, Mary Chappell, and Carlene McCaffrey. Third row, Alice Kocher, C. Don Kocher and Rev. Roger Griffith, pastor, Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Back Pack Project benefits CDC

To ensure local children have enough to eat when they aren't in school, Trinity Presbyterian Church started a Back Pack Project in 2007 to benefit the Child Development Center.

To assist with this worthwhile project, members of the Masonic Village at Dallas' Activities Committee recently stepped up to help.

Through the program, volunteers fill between 10 and 12 back packs weekly, each with two breakfasts, two lunches, snacks and fruits, vegetables and a dessert to complement a family dinner. Children, ranging in age from 4 to 12, take home the back packs on Friday

so they have enough food to eat throughout the weekend when they can't take advantage of school meal programs. The food selection includes peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese and other items which children can easily prepare themselves.

In four months, Masonic Village residents raised more than \$500 to support the project and also volunteered their time to fill the back packs. The extra money and helping hands from Masonic Village and other friends of the program have enabled the church to add items to the back packs including school supplies, a

summer picnic lunch, fresh fruit and age-appropriate books during special times of the year.

Residents of the Masonic Village, an age 60 and over retirement community, also serve their neighbors by baking cookies for the Dallas Township fire and ambulance and a local soup kitchen during the holiday season.

Trinity Presbyterian Church is the first in Luzerne County to participate in the program and receives assistance from the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) in Wilkes-Barre and Weis Market in Dallas.



Jim O'Connell, creative director with Resource Media, greets a participant at the 2010 Back Mountain Business Association Expo.

IF YOU GO...

The Back Mountain Business Expo will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20 in Insalaco Hall on Misericordia University's campus, Dallas.

Two lectures, "Liability Risks Business Do Not Often Understand" from 10 a.m. to noon and "Health Care Reform" from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., will be held in the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library on the third floor in the McGowan Room. The lectures are free but registration is required due to limited seating. Contact the BMBA at 675-9380.

seating. Those wishing to participate are asked to contact the BMBA at 675-9380.

Nardone said the BMBA will continue to host monthly workshops for business owners from May through November on a variety of topics ranging from mar-

keting/advertising to managing cash flow conducted by Wilkes University's Small Business Development Center. A \$25 fee is required for these upcoming events. A full list of upcoming lectures is available on the BMBA website.

Powwow slated for Mother's Day weekend

The Sixth Annual Mothers Day Intertribal Powwow with free admission will be held from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, May 7 and from 10 a.m. to dusk on Sunday, May 8 at the Noxen Fire Co. grounds, Stull Road.

The event, which honors all mothers, is a gathering for all people that benefits the Noxen

Fire Co.

Gates open at 10 a.m. both days, with Grand Entry of all dignitaries and dancers in full regalia at noon Indian Time.

The event will feature Native American dancing, drumming, storytelling, children's dances, fry bread by Donna, crafts, beadwork, jewelry, blankets, food by

the Noxen Fire Company and much more.

Special events include a giveaway on Saturday.

Admission is free. Dogs are welcome but must be leashed and cleaned up after at all times. Visitors are asked to bring their own lawn chair.

All drums are welcome.

GUILTY

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and need money and treatment to get through their lives."

Superintendent Frank Galicki, who spent most of his time on the phone soliciting "bail money," said he's proud to see the students so involved in a great cause.

"It's a great fundraiser and it's a great opportunity to show how the schools and students work together with the community," said Galicki, who managed to raise \$500 for the cause within an hour.

Sandy Scott, of Kunkle, and Rose Higgins, of Harveys Lake, didn't mind being behind bars at all — in fact, the Curry Donuts representatives kept their pris-

oner costumes on long after photos were taken.

"We're always doing something," said Higgins. "We even dress up during the holidays."

The pair spent about a month raising awareness about the event, and left a sign for customers to "bail them out" while the women were away from the doughnut shop on Route 415.

Higgins said the Curry staff donated about 25 percent of its tips to the fund, but for the last couple days they donated 100 percent. The pair also received donations from Ochman's Jewelry in Dallas for an auction in support of the cause.

"It's all about the kids," said Scott. "We've had such great support from our customers and the community."

Higgins even made jailbird doughnuts with white icing and chocolate stripes to alert cus-

tomers of the fundraiser.

"We're having fun," she said.

Middle school students Jared Krawets, 12, of Dallas, and Nathan Kollar, 13, of Trucksville, were happy to take time off from class to enjoy the pizza party but were more concerned about aiding others who need it most.

"We're here because of the MDA and we know some people aren't as fortunate as us," said Kollar. "It's nice to help people."

He said that the students were more than willing to donate time and finances toward the cause, but there was one aspect of the fundraiser that also urged students to take part.

"I think that's the reason why so many kids participated — to see (Duffy and Galicki) behind bars," laughed Kollar. "If they didn't do that, I think there would be less participation."

EXPO

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A second lecture, titled "Health Care Reform" from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. will review aspects of the Health Care Reform Law of which employers should be aware, Nardone said. Both lectures, presented by the Sletzer Group from Pottsville, will be held in the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library on the third floor in the McGowan Room.

The lectures are free but registration is required due to limited

PUZZLE ANSWERS

King Crossword

Solution time: 21 mins.

E	A	S	A	P	R	A	J	A
T	U	N	A	L	I	E	E	V
C	R	U	M	P	L	E	D	S
H	A	G	A	I	D	H	A	R
S	I	N	K	I	M			
S	E	T	I	N	D	I	M	P
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Go Figure!

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6	x	4	-	1	23
-		x		+	
9	÷	3	+	7	10
21		18		14	

Super Crossword

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J	A	Y				W	A	L	K	E	R				C	A	N	D								
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A	N	T				D	E	L	A						B	E	E	R								

Puzzles, Page 2

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