Welcome Home!
by Paul Richardson, Coordinator, NAD Reconnecting Ministries

She grew up an Adventist but when she wanted her wedding in her home church, the board had denied the request because her soon-to-be husband was not a member. Devastated, she had not been back to church since then.

But then, tragically, her husband died recently and the people of the church had reached out to her with flowers, food and Facebook messages of love and support. It was a new day in that congregation and their care for their inactively attending members was genuine. She began to be willing to be around Adventists again.

In a recent study conducted with NAD members, more than 40% of those who actively attend said they were instrumental in helping at least one person come back to church in the past year. Now that’s one visit and we have no idea how regularly they kept coming to church, but amazing connections can start with just one visit.

Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Mother’s Day and many other upcoming holidays are natural times when inactively attending members think about reconnecting.

Is your church ready to receive those sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, neighbors and work colleagues back to church? Or will we be unprepared like the greeter who said just a month ago to a returning member, “Well, it must be the end of the world if it brings you back to church!”?

Reconnecting Ministries (RM) has been part of the North American Division since 1993. This year the ministry has joined the Ministerial Department team. To find the latest on RM go to www.nadministerial.org or “like” the NAD Ministerial Department on Facebook.
Thunderbird Adventist Academy (TAA) in Arizona experienced a 20 percent jump in enrollment this school year. Teachers joined the new recruitment team organized in cooperation with a new initiative called the Renaissance Network (RN) which is sponsored by the Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF), and spent their summer weekends at churches and summer camps. Initial funds from AAF were released for marketing and recruitment, facility upgrades and academic enhancements. Buildings have been renovated, teachers and courses added and MORE.

TAA is the first pilot school accepted into the RN, a program developed and funded by AAF. Its purpose is to “rebirth” Adventist secondary education into a network of schools that deliver excellence in the spiritual, academic, social, and physical development of students. The RN will provide outside resources and management expertise to TAA, which will be utilized to facilitate school improvements. AAF intends to expand the program to more schools for the 2012-2013 school year. Schools accepted will establish a partnership with the RN through a contractual agreement.

To learn how you can get involved in the Renaissance coming to Adventist education, visit AlumniAwards.org, call (423) 308-1855 or email kbenge@alumniawards.org.

Gone but not Forgotten - Elder George Atiga, Asian/Pacific Ministries director for the Pacific Union Conference and the North American Division, died Tuesday, November 15, at Kaiser Permanente in Riverside, Calif. To add your condolence message to the families’ online journal, go to http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/georgeatiga.

Several services are planned: Visitation, Friday, November 25, 3-5 p.m., and Wake Service, 6-10 p.m., both at the Central Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church, Los Angeles, Ca.; Memorial Service, Sabbath, November 26 (time and place to be determined); Graveside and Committal Services, Sunday, November 27, 2:00 p.m., Hollywood Hills Forest Lawn Cemetery, Los Angeles, Ca.

Adventists in the News

The following are positive stories that appeared this week in the news about Seventh-day Adventists in the North American Division territory.

• New Believers Bible Study Guides in audio and Braille
• ”Isaac Newton said, We build too many walls
• ”The reason why we came to New Orleans wasn’t
• Upcoming Events
• Adventist World NAD Edition
• November Offerings and Special Days
• Union Magazines and Websites
• Adventist Mission DVD and Quarterly
Adventists in the News

Adventist Health System to Drive Care Improvement with Premier Healthcare
*MarketWatch*
November 14

Bread of Mighty food bank gets refrigerated truck
*Gainesville Sun*
November 13

Lemoore church thanks veterans for service
*Hanford Sentinel*
November 13

Lodi offers salute to veterans
*Lodi News-Sentinel*
November 12

Cold-night shelters open for first snap of chilly weather
*Destin Log*
November 10

Rolfe Commissiong donates money to needy
*Bermuda Sun*
November 9

PC Cafe Alive and Well!
*Seaway News*
November 8

News: p. 11
Update: "Where’s the Passion?” p. 14
Perspective: "Of Wheels and Churches,” p. 17
Feature: “Reaching Native Americans,” p. 37

November Offerings and Special Days

November Focus:
Health

Special Days:
• November 3-24, Native Heritage Month
• November 17, Human Relations Sabbath
• November 24, Welcome Home Sabbath

Helpful website(s):
Health Ministries Department
Vibrant Life Magazine
Native Ministries
Stewardship Department

Related Resources Quick Links:
AdventSource Related Resources
Week of Prayer Readings in *Adventist Review*, Sept 22, 2011 issue
Women in Touch (Friendship Evangelism)
Heart Call – A Ministry to Reclaim Women Who Have Stopped Attending Church

Offerings:
• November 19, Church Budget

Save $50 by registering in time for the Adventist Ministries Convention. The early-bird registration deadline has been extended to December 1. Don’t delay. The holiday rush is nearly here and you are likely to forget. You won’t want to miss this chance to get training updates in your own or in a new area of ministry, network with other leaders, and enjoy time in Florida in January.

Some of the seminars being offered: Crisis Management Boot Camp, Social Media Tactics to Enhance your Ministry, How to Provide an Emotional or Spiritual Care Intervention for Members in Crisis, Making Your Church a Center for Health in the Community, 3,000 Jews Baptized in a Day, Reaching the World Rapidly through the Stranger in our Midst, Muslims in America – Blast Them or Bless Them?, The Seven Deadly Sins Fundraisers Commit, and many more.

Register for the convention, Reserve a room online or call (800) 492-6899 and ask for “Seventh-day Adventists” for reservations in the Innisbrook Resort & Golf Club Hotel.

Calling all Seventh-day Adventist speakers and

Announcements
**musicians!** Sign up now to join Adventist Meetings’ speaker and musician registries. Meeting planners who are looking for good speakers and musicians will use this registry for a variety of planned events.

Join the [Adventist Meetings Speaker Registry](#). Adventist Meetings is a service of AdventSource.

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**Is public evangelism worth it?** Chuck, the only Adventist in his family, prayed for decades for his wife, mother, and other family members to embrace God’s endtime truths and become part of the Adventist family. His mother, always a beautiful Christian with a close walk with Jesus, never shared her son’s enthusiasm for the Adventist “brand” of Christianity. But over the years, she slowly changed. Fourteen years ago when Chuck’s dad died, the family was overwhelmed with the caring concern expressed by the Adventist Church. This past year, the local church conducted several bridging events for the community (Creation-Evolution and Archaeology seminars), and Chuck’s mom attended. When the NET 2011 *Prophecies Decoded* series was launched, she attended. At its conclusion, Chuck’s 88-year-old mother exclaimed, “I’m going to become a Seventh-day Adventist because I think everyone should be a Seventh-day Adventist!”

Chuck was in the water with his mom when she was baptized. Both faces were aglow. Chuck calls it “the best day of my life!”

Does God answer prayer, and is public evangelism worth it? Both Chuck and his mother would agree that He does, and it is.

**DVDs of the 28 presentations of “Prophecies Decoded”** Bible prophecy series by Ron Clouzet can be pre-ordered online at [http://www.propheciesdecoded.com](http://www.propheciesdecoded.com). If you or your church were not able to participate in the live downlinks, you can show the same presentations by using the DVDs at your convenience. DVDs are scheduled to be ready in 6-8 weeks.

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**Reconnecting Sabbath is November 24**, but every Sabbath, especially those surrounding special holidays for families and travel, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and Easter, are reconnecting Sabbaths. These are the times when many people who have not been attending church will go to church with family and friends for the special services and for the association with...
others.

Our actively attending church members can always benefit from some coaching. That's why we encourage every congregation to get the Quick Start Guide for Reconnecting Ministries in English or Spanish, and to listen to this FREE Webinar online.

New Believers Bible Study Guides in audio and Braille are now available. The four Sabbath school lesson quarterlies, In Step with Jesus, were originally prepared by the Pacific Press Publishing Association (PPPA). Now, thanks to Christian Record Services for the Blind, this resource can be extended to visually impaired.

The New Believers Bible Studies are for the purpose of introducing new members to Adventist culture and terminology, and equipping them as new disciples. “I believe this outstanding resource will strengthen and empower the Seventh-day Adventist Church around the world,” said GC President Ted Wilson, in the PPPA video presented to the 2011 Annual Council.

Contact services@ChristianRecord.org or call (402) 488-0981, ext 227 for more information or to order.

"Isaac Newton said, ‘We build too many walls and not enough bridges.’ Therefore, entities must define core values of each organization and encourage all members of the entity collaborate their efforts to maximize its potential growth and impact in the society.” - Sung Kwon while in Changwon, South Korea for the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) Asia-Pacific Regional Volunteer Conference, October 28-31.

“The reason why we came to New Orleans wasn’t just to build homes. It was to let others know that their lives can be rebuilt also. The same God that can rebuild your house can renovate your life.” - Pete Palmer, pastor of the Germantown (Pa.) Seventh-day Adventist Church, at the Caffin Avenue International Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Orleans, La., on Sabbath, November 12, for the Adventist Community Services celebration of the work done for Hurricane Katrina survivors.  

Stay Socially Connected with NAD
Thunderbird Adventist Academy Improvements

Posted on October 7th, 2011

We keep talking about the amazing progress that is being made at the Renaissance Network’s first pilot school—Thunderbird Adventist Academy. Now we want to share some pictures with you. The master plan is a work-in-progress, but we are thrilled by the improvements that have taken place just since July!

Here is what has been going on…

**The Student Center:** Old furniture was moved out to make room for new seating and old carpet was replaced. One wall was knocked out and another wall was built to section off a new library and Media Center where the students can gather to study and work on projects.

**Girls Dorm:** Although the girl’s dorm is in need of renovation, for now, the lobby has been freshened up with new paint, décor and seating.

**Classrooms:** The classrooms underwent a complete re-organization and were freshened up a bit.

**Landscaping:** Color flower pots were placed around campus and filled with flowers.

You will notice the before pictures are in the left column and latest updates on the right.
Adventist Health System to Drive Care Improvement with Premier Healthcare Alliance Clinical Outcomes Data

Premier's QualityAdvisor(TM) solution helps reduce HACs, mortality, readmissions and costs while addressing physician practice evaluation

CHARTLOTTE, N.C., Nov 14, 2011 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Adventist Health System, the largest not-for-profit Protestant healthcare provider in the nation, will help support care delivery across 10 states with clinical data from the Premier healthcare alliance.

Serving more than 4 million patients and 7,700-plus licensed beds across 43 campuses, the health system will use QualityAdvisor(TM) to integrate and compare information from Premier's outcomes database, the nation's largest compilation of inpatient data with nearly 20 percent of all U.S. hospital discharges.

"Adventist Health System is always looking for opportunities to improve the quality, safety and cost-effectiveness of the care we provide. Today, hospitals need to operate even more efficiently due to reform regulations tied to patient outcomes," said Loran D. Hauck, M.D., senior vice president/chief medical officer for Adventist Health System in Winter Park, Fla. "We've been an owner of Premier for more than 15 years and look forward to further benefiting from this data as we work to enhance care delivery across the organization."

QualityAdvisor, which integrates quality, safety and financial data, helps hospitals make better decisions in care delivery for reductions in hospital-acquired conditions (HACs), mortality, readmissions and costs. It also helps health facilities avoid value-based purchasing penalties while addressing physician practice evaluation for Joint Commission readiness.

Keith J. Figlioli, Premier senior vice president of Healthcare Informatics said, "The future of healthcare requires that providers have access to the right data at the right time and in a way that
is instantly meaningful and useful. As a national leader in developing new paths to more efficient
care, Adventist Health System is making the proper advancements to deliver the highest quality,
safest outcomes to their patients."

QualityAdvisor combines clinically proven analytical methods with a benchmark database of
more than 700 facilities to provide timely, actionable information in all levels of a healthcare
organization. The solution identifies clinical and financial improvement opportunities,
understands drivers for variation in practice, and monitors quality of care.

Additionally, Premier, a top technology innovator on the 2011 InformationWeek 500 list, is
working with IBM to expand its data platform to better integrate healthcare information across
the entire continuum of care. This will support performance improvement and measurement for
new care delivery models. The nearly 80 health system members of PACT(TM) (Premier's
Partnership for Care Transformation), including 13 Adventist Health System hospital campuses
in Florida and Illinois, are working together to develop and prepare for such delivery models to
improve population health status for the 2 million lives across 42 states that they cover.

About Adventist Health System

Adventist Health System is a not-for-profit healthcare organization that emphasizes Christ at the
center of care. Founded in 1973, Adventist Health System has grown to become the largest not-
for-profit Protestant healthcare provider in the nation. Today, Adventist Health System supports
43 campuses and employs 55,000 people. Adventist Health System hospitals are composed of
7,700-plus licensed beds, providing care for 4 million patients each year in inpatient, outpatient
and emergency room visits. Adventist Health System's flagship, Florida Hospital, is one of the
largest healthcare providers in America and a national leader in cardiac care. Established in
1908, Florida Hospital now includes almost 2,200 beds on eight campuses.

About the Premier healthcare alliance, Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient

Premier is a performance improvement alliance of more than 2,500 U.S. hospitals and 78,000-
plus other healthcare sites using the power of collaboration to lead the transformation to high
quality, cost-effective care. Owned by hospitals, health systems and other providers, Premier
maintains the nation's most comprehensive repository of clinical, financial and outcomes
information and operates a leading healthcare purchasing network. A world leader in helping
deliver measurable improvements in care, Premier has worked with the Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services and the United Kingdom's National Health Service North West to improve
hospital performance. Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Premier also has an office in
and YouTube.

SOURCE: Premier
More than 200 people assembled in an emotionally charged Lemoore church ceremony Saturday to honor the service of veterans from World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as active-duty personnel.

The annual patriotic ceremony took place at Lemoore Seventh-Day Adventist Church, where the tribute highlighted the message that a simple "thank you" goes a long way in recognizing the sacrifice veterans have made to keep America safe.

Retired Marine Corps Chaplain Ron Ringo, a special speaker at the event, told those gathered that "in most cases, these two words would mean more than any medals."

See Monday's Sentinel for more details and photos.
BY MARK A. KELLNER

Two days before the tenth anniversary of the largest-ever terrorist attack so far on American soil, the September 11, 2001, hijackings that led to the deaths of 2,977 innocents, Senator Joseph Lieberman, Independent-Democrat of Connecticut, sits in his office calmly conversing with a visitor.

Forget his Sunday schedule of many television interviews related to his work as chair of the Senate’s Homeland Security Committee. Forget the classified briefing he was about to receive on potential September 11 anniversary-related terrorist threats. Forget the many demands on the time and attention of a member of one of the world’s most exclusive “clubs,” as the United States Senate has been called.

Instead, one source of Lieberman’s calm is the approach—about eight hours after our meeting—of the weekly day of rest known as the Sabbath. An Orthodox Jewish believer, Lieberman—with the exception of issues involving the preservation or saving of a life—will not vote in the Senate on the Sabbath; if he either goes home after sundown Friday or has to be on the Senate floor during Sabbath hours, he’ll walk to and from his home in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C., usually accompanied by U.S. Capitol Police officers as bodyguards.

When he became the first Jewish-American to run on a national political ticket—he was then-vice president Al Gore’s running mate in 2000—he did not campaign on the Sabbath, something he’s maintained throughout his political career. Lieberman’s running mate, the Tennessean who at one point was a student at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, was “very understanding” of Lieberman’s Sabbath commitment, the senator said. In fact, the Gores celebrated Sabbath with Lieberman and his wife, Hadassah, more than once after the campaign ended.

Such dedication is not often seen in the halls of Congress. The sixty-third chaplain of the United States Senate, Barry C. Black (USN Ret.), is a Seventh-day Adventist, and in the House of Representatives, Representatives Roscoe Bartlett (R-Md.) and Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-Tex.) are church members. But among many of his colleagues, including some of his Jewish brethren, Lieberman stands almost alone in his dedication to keeping the Sabbath day holy, as Scripture commands (Ex. 20:8-11).

A Message for Today

Lieberman, referencing famed Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, calls the day “a sanctuary in time.” He said the Sabbath “began as a command, but it really is a gift.”

That view—of the Bible Sabbath as a gift from a loving God to all creation—suffused our conversation. Over the summer Lieberman published The Gift of Rest: Rediscovering the Beauty of the Sabbath (Howard Books), a volume that has been endorsed by figures as diverse as Cecil O. Samuelson, president of Brigham Young University, and Archbishop Timothy Dolan, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in New York City.

Book industry leader Publishers Weekly declared: “This deeply sincere and highly readable composition is certain to help people rethink their concept of Sabbath and prod them to rest.”

Lieberman said his rabbi “pushed” him to write the book, curiously enough the seventh volume he’s published, the senator noted with a smile. He said he is familiar with the Seventh-day Adventist understanding of the Sabbath, and sees that there would be understanding by Adventists of his position. He’s discussed Sabbath matters with Chaplain Black, who is the first Adventist to serve as Senate chaplain.

Asked why the Sabbath is important, he responded, “How is it not important? That day reminds me of the opportunities and responsibilities I have in the other six days.” He added that the Sabbath commandment includes the directive “six days you shall labor and do all your work” (Ex. 20:9). And indeed, Lieberman’s book includes a chapter on attitudes...
toward work during those six days.

Lieberman thinks that observance of the Sabbath, while not a point in his book, might help some in political circles to lower the tone of rhetoric seen in today’s overheated environment.

The Sabbath, he said, “encourages humility” by making people disconnect from the normal routine. “If the world needs to find you, it will find you,” he said, adding that “one of the things [about Sabbath] is that it gets you off the treadmill.” And by taking time for family, a worship community, and nature, “you hear things you don’t hear otherwise.”

This promotion of the Sabbath is a far cry from the legislative actions of another, much earlier, senator from the northeastern United States, H. W. Blair of New Hampshire. It was Blair, in 1888 and several subsequent years, who introduced a “national Sunday law,” calling for Americans to respect the first day of the week as a day of rest. Blair’s bills died in committee, but his actions were enough to galvanize the leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to begin work on religious liberty that continues today.

Returning to the Creation question, Lieberman said he wasn’t at all concerned about politicians expressing their beliefs, as several potential Republican 2012 presidential contenders have. However, he said, affirmations of faith must stop at any attempt to breach the establishment clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits the creation of a “state religion.”

Mark A. Kellner is news editor of Adventist Review and Adventist World magazines [Photo: Astrid Riecken]. This article was published November 10, 2011.
Wednesday, November 09, 2011

**Rolfe Commissiong donates money to needy**

*Raymond Hainey
Senior Reporter*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9: Businessman and Cabinet Office adviser Rolfe Commissiong has dug into his own pocket to support a church’s drive to help the needy.

Mr Commissiong’s Black Star Communications firm donated $500 to the Hamilton Seventh Day Adventist Church Operation Five Loaves and Two Fish appeal after reading reports that numbers turning up at the church’s food programme had rocketed as the recession hits families.

Church elder James Landy, who launched the appeal last month, said: “We’re very grateful to Mr Commissiong — this appeal is all about people wanting to make a difference and giving what they can.

“To see smaller businesses step up is really great – next month is coming up to Christmas which could be a very tough time for families.

“We couldn’t do what we do without donations from big businesses, small and medium sized ones and individual contributions.”

Mr Commissiong said he had known Mr Landy and church Pastor Kenneth Manders since they were all schoolboys.

He added: “The work they’re doing in this time of growing economic uncertainty is very commendable.

“I’m pleased to be able to support a programme to help people who, through no fault of their own, to get some of the help they need.

“I’d like to encourage other businesses, not just big ones, to find ways to contribute. We’re seeing growing instances of genuine need.

“The numbers of people using the Seventh Day Adventist programme has grown significantly over the past 18 months and they need all the help they can get.”

When the appeal was launched, major supermarkets like MarketPlace and Arnolds and distribution firms Butterfield & Vallis and BGA all donated crates of tinned food and other items. Members of the public also...
rallied round and donated food, cash and even soft toys.

The Seventh Day programme, originally set up to feed the homeless – now sees seniors and families with young children who are suffering as a result of the recession.

The number of meals distributed has risen from around 20 to more than 100 as the recession cuts into family incomes.

Anyone who can help the appeal can contact Mr Landy on 534 9600, the church at 292 4276 or at HamiltonSDA@northrock.bm

Related Stories:
- The new political map: what we know so far
- Black schoolboys fear 'gay' label for academic success
- Walton Brown beats Government Minister Wayne Perinchief in Pembroke Central
- PLP shuffles the candidates deck
- 'He is unelectable'
- Commissiong beats DeVent in PLP primary

Related Links:
Bread of Mighty food bank gets refrigerated truck

The refrigerated truck will take food to the needy

By Cindy Swirko
Staff writer
Published: Sunday, November 13, 2011 at 9:29 p.m.

Gainesville’s Bread of the Mighty food bank today will get a new refrigerated truck from the Walmart Foundation and Feeding America.

The truck will be used to pick up donated food from stores and wholesalers for distribution to needy residents, said Debbie Talbot, the food bank’s development coordinator.

“The product is free, but you have to have a refrigerated vehicle to pick it up, and that is an expensive item,” Talbot said. “The need for food has absolutely not leveled off. Since the first of the year, the need has doubled.”

Talbot said Bread of the Mighty distributes more than 300,000 pounds of food a month. More than 4 million pounds of food was given out from October 2010 through September.

Walmart and Feeding America have $4 million in grant money that will be given to more than 30 food banks for refrigerated trucks and mobile pantries, according to a press release.

Also today, Gainesville residents will have an opportunity to participate in a food donation Facebook campaign by going to Walmart’s Facebook page to nominate local nonprofits for a chance to receive funding from Walmart this holiday season.

It is part of Walmart’s Holiday Giving Campaign in which $1.5 million will be given to nonprofits.
Lodi offers salute to veterans

By Maggie Creamer/News-Sentinel Staff Writer | Posted: Saturday, November 12, 2011 12:00 am

A girl from Lodi Seventh-day Adventist School handed 83-year-old Raymond Ring a letter written by a student in honor of his service in the Navy.

The Korean War veteran looked down, read the short letter and smiled. The third-grader was also named Raymond.

The letter read: "Dear hero, Thank you for keeping us safe."

About 300 veterans, family members and local residents attended the American Legion Veterans Day celebration on Friday morning.

There were veterans ranging from World War II to Iraq in the crowd, and all of them were asked to stand and given a round of applause.

Cheers rang out through the room when they asked for Iraq War veterans, and Lodi High alumni and Marines Cpl. Victor Viramontes and Cpl. Andres Lopez stood up.

"It reminds me how important military people are and how much the city supports us out there," Viramontes said.

Two Girl Scout troops led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance and members of the Lodi Seventh-day Adventist School sang the National Anthem.

Guest speakers included Frank Reed, who wrote "Mother's Six Marines, A Memoir," and Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, who said it was hard to follow the children's performance.

"Nothing will arise the feeling of patriotism for our country as these young voices pledging to the flag and singing the songs of our great nations," McNerney said.

The yearly ceremony focused on the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which served during World War II and was made up of mainly Nisei, second-generation Japanese-Americans.

Mayor Bob Johnson, who served as a Marine, gave some background on the men who joined the regiment and how many of them were considered second-class citizens before the war. Despite the discrimination, they still went out and fought valiantly.

"These men went to war and fought for the values their parents spoke of: duty, honor and responsibility. They fought for the love of their country when their country disrespected them," Johnson said.

Larry Shimada joined the regiment when his family was at Rohwer Relocation Center, a Japanese internment camp, in Arkansas. He was stationed in France and Italy, and served as a medic tending to the wounded.

After the war, he came back and started farming in Acampo with his brother, who also served in the regiment.

While he is glad he went to the ceremony Friday, he said it can be difficult at times.

"I appreciate it. Everyone is saying thanks, but we are thankful, too," Shimada said.

Lodi resident Joan Nakashima displayed a replica of a Congressional Gold Medal, which she received Nov. 2 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on behalf of her husband, Donald Nakashima, who died in 1996.

The medal was given to the regiment in recognition of their unit being the most decorated in United States military history for its size and length of service.

McNerney challenged local residents to sit down with a veteran and listen to their stories.
"These are stories that make up American history. They are interesting, fascinating; they are moving," he said.

He applauded the passage of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act in the Senate that will expand on-the-job training and give tax credits to companies that hire veterans who have disabilities from their time in the service or have been jobless for six months or longer.

"Nobody wants to serve this country more than our veterans. They deserve these privileges to allow them become a productive part of our society," McNerney said.

Carl Sayre, who served as an Army staff sergeant, was recognized for donating a collection of medals to the VFW that he spent decades collecting.

He served for four years during the Korean War, and said he would do it again, even at the age of 80.

He said it's important to celebrate Veterans Day and thank those who have served.

"Veterans Day is a real honor. I'm actually being saluted instead of saluting someone else," Sayre said.

For M.L. Horton, who served as both a Marine and a Navy SEAL, Veterans Day is to celebrate the four freedoms U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt coined: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

"From what I've seen in other counties, there's no place like home," he said.

Lodi resident Sharon Davis went to Veterans Plaza on Friday morning before the ceremony with her sister, Teresa Williamson, who lives in Seattle.

They copied a quote said by Edmund Burke, a philosopher, in 1774 from one of the stones in the plaza that they felt illustrates the importance of honoring military service.

"The blood of man should never be shed but to redeem the blood of man. It is well shed for our family, for our friends, for our God, for our country, for our kind. The rest is vanity; the rest is crime."

Contact reporter Maggie Creamer at maggie@lodinews.com. Read her blog at www.lodinews.com/blogs/citybuzz.
Cold-night shelters opening their doors

November 10, 2011 7:18 PM
Angel McCurdy
Daily News

The chilly weather Thursday night prompted cold-night shelters in Okaloosa County to open for the first time this season.

The shelters also will open their doors at 6 p.m. Friday, depending on whether the temperature drops below 40 degrees.

The National Weather Service in Mobile, Ala., has predicted temperatures as low as 38 degrees tonight.

First Christian Church, First Presbyterian Church and Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Fort Walton Beach will be open if needed. New Beginnings Church, First Presbyterian Church and Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Crestview also are prepared to open.

The shelters are open from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. the following day when temperatures warrant.

National Weather Service meteorologist David Eversole said a cold front moved through the area late Wednesday. The cold, dry air is expected to linger through tonight.

“This weekend, the weather will crawl back to a seasonal value by Sunday and then should be several degrees above normal the first part of the week,” Eversole said.

He predicted temperatures in the mid to high 70s early next week before another, weaker, cold front moves in Wednesday.

“I’m not expecting it to be a big blast of cold air, but it will be cooler than usual,” he said. “There will also be a 20 percent chance of rain Tuesday and a 30 percent chance of rain coming Wednesday that will contribute to some of the cooler weather.”
PC Cafe Alive and Well!

"The Firemen are coming!" Such was the excitement of the children at PC Cafe on October 16, 2011 at the Cornwall Seventh-day Adventist Church. This was the 5th edition of PC Cafe, a community service event, since its debut in October, 2010 and there were several new additions. Director, Richard McCullough, and his crew of firemen were just one of the new features, but the most exciting for the children. They were allowed to climb aboard the fire truck and look around inside. The firemen explained what everything was for and showed them where everything was stored. They even demonstrated how they get into their uniforms so quickly in preparation for fighting a real fire.

There was an immigration consultant there, Lucya Spencer of Ottawa, with information and pamphlets to answer any questions and give counsel regarding matters related to immigration, rights privileges, and laws of Canada and Ontario. Senior Constable Gary Leger represented the Cornwall Police Department and shared some important tips on preventing fraud, identity theft, etc. While their parents enjoyed the free foot massages, manicures, and haircuts, the kiddies enjoyed colouring and other children's activities before joining their parents for a healthy free snack. At one time, the firemen offered the little guys some competition in a brief soccer game.

Attendees received a mini treat bag with encouraging messages and information about their host, the Seventh-day Adventists and samples of delicious-scented strawberry soap by JOA Bath and Beauty from Cindy Hardy of the Ottawa Seventh-day Church. A good time was had by all.

PC Cafe, held three times a year, occurs again in February, 2012. Don't miss it for anything!