


News

EDITOR'S PICK FEATURED

WMC graduate remembers her fallen fiance

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WASHINGTON TWP. - Anna Kettler-Rock will never forget the day she learned that her fiance, Stanley Pfrommer, was killed while serving in the Army in South Vietnam.

Pfrommer was killed on Sept. 6, 1966, when fragments of friendly artillery fire struck him. He was only 22 years old. He is buried at Mount Olive Union Cemetery, Budd Lake.

Pfrommer was among the fallen heroes who were remembered during "A Call to Courage" ceremonies last week at West Morris Central High School.

Kettler-Rock, a 1964 West Morris graduate and Long Valley native, came to the program from her home in Florida. After talking with West Morris Central Principal Timothy Rymer and then considering the matter, she decided it was an event that she didn't want to miss.

Pfrommer was one of five West Morris Central High School graduates killed in action during wartime. Kettler-Rock had a front row seat for Friday's assembly. She returned that evening to hear Mayor Matt Murello's proclamation before West Morris' homecoming football game against Northern Highlands.

"I thought it was marvelous but I thought it was too long in coming," Rock said. "When the soldiers from Vietnam came home they were treated horribly. The ones that came home have so many issues and no one wants to work to fix those issues. They are trying but they are not there yet."

Pfrommer lived in Budd Lake and graduated in 1962 from West Morris High School and entered the Army in 1966. He was assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. He was deployed to South Vietnam.

"Did he want to go? No," Rock said. "Did we think of taking off? Yeah. But deep down we couldn't do it. He gave his life for his country."

The couple was very much in love and when Pfrommer was killed and Kettler-Rock, took it very hard.

"You can remember so many things like where you were standing when you got the call," Kettler-Rock said. "All of it was a very trying time. I met my husband three years later and he probably saved my life. I was on a dead end highway."

Kettler-Rock said that Pfrommer's father and sister have since died. He has one niece who Rock keeps in contact with who moved to the Jacksonville, Fla., area.

Kettler-Rock was happy that her fiancee was remembered and pleased that the school was finding a way to show students that the fallen veterans weren't just names in a book but flesh and blood people who once walked the halls that they do now.

"I think Stanley would have appreciated the ceremony," Kettler-Rock said. "I think his family would have appreciated it also."

The assembly also honored Army Cpl. Jamie Smith, an Army Ranger who was killed in Somalia in 1993.