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Veterans Memorial Committee seeks support



Pictured is Marlin Keathley—brother of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient George Dennis Keathley of Olney—presenting the wreath at the original veteran’s memorial site in Graham, TX.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY RONNI WALKER
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The Young County New Century Veteran’s Memorial (NCVM) Project is a non-profit organization of individuals committed to raising funds for the design and build of an expansion to the existing Young County Veterans Memorial wall in Graham, TX. The purpose of the NCVM project is to honor new Young County veterans with the dedication of the new wall on July 4.

“The NCVM project adds eight new sections with additional space for 2400 names to honor current and future generations of Young County veterans who have served in the military since 2001,” said Reta McCallum, NCVM committee chair.

The fundraising goal is \$125,000; the committee is pushing for the final 30 percent needed to achieve 100 percent success. The L.F. and Carla Perry Foundation has offered a matching grant up to \$25,000 to encourage residents

to donate to a worthy cause. The foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)3 foundation, and all deductions are tax-exempt to the extent allowed by law.

“We are grateful beyond words for the grant and so excited with the news of this \$25,000 matching grant gifted to the New Century Veterans Memorial Project. This [grant] is such encouragement to a committed group of volunteers who have worked hard for the past 18 months to make this vision of a living memorial come true,” said McCallum.

Many Young County residents who served in the military rose to positions of honor, which has brought immeasurable esteem and pride to the towns from which they come.

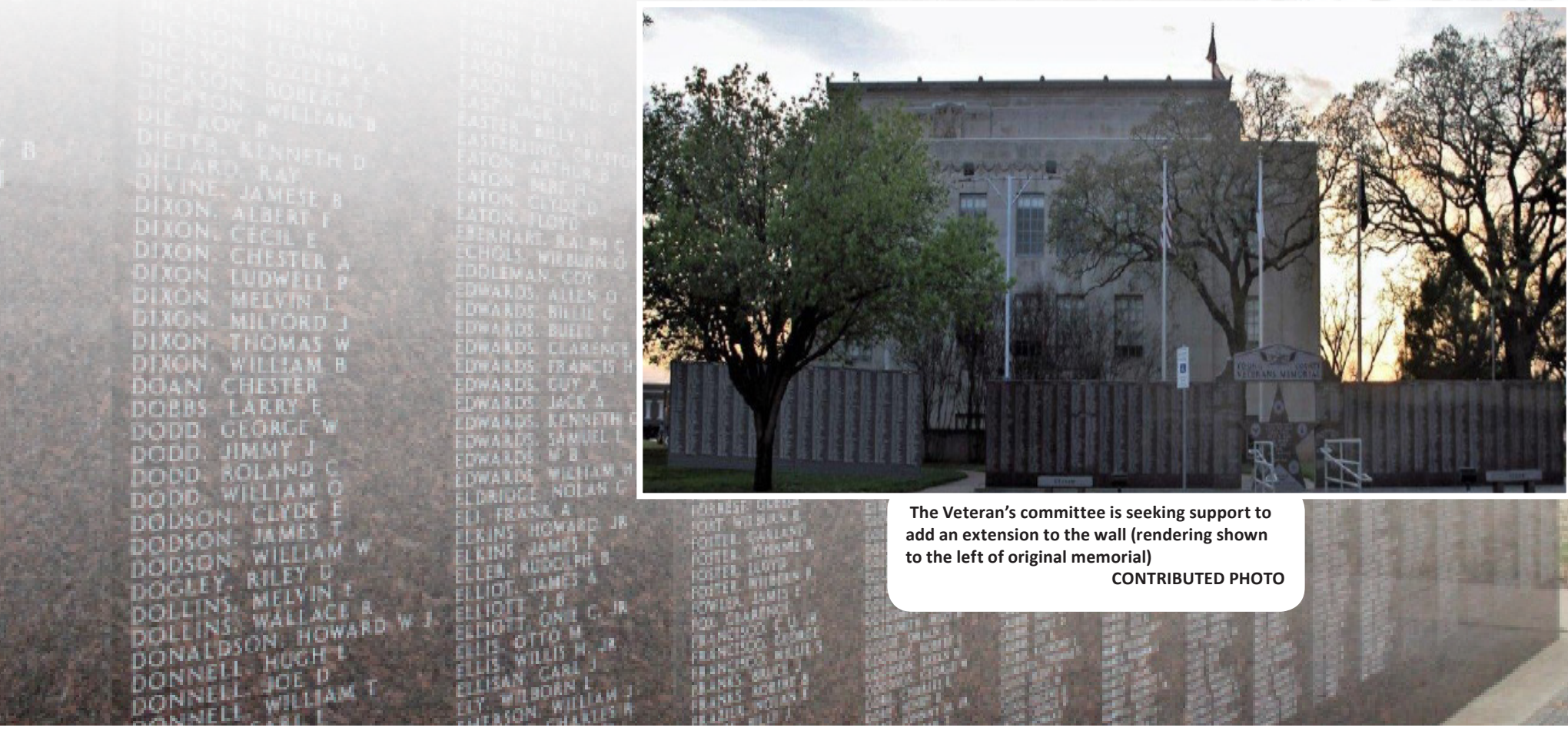
The NCVM committee hopes to honor Young County servicemen and servicewomen. Olney resident Jake Bailey says soldiers are taught to remain humble while doing their job.

“Supporting the NCVM project is a great way for us as a county to say thanks for your humble service, and we support you.” He said seeing the names on the wall drives home the realization that the war is not a distant endeavor, but close to home as it is fought by people we grew up with and those we go to church with among other things.

Some Olney veterans have similar stories of ties that bind men and women together in battle as they fight for our freedom and liberty. Chris Koontz—veteran and Joint Service Accommodation Award-Winner and past Commander of American Legion Post 414 in Olney— says it is hard for some veterans to talk about their experiences, which further strengthens the need for civilians to show their support.

“These are the people who stood up to protect our country. We can’t fathom the horrors

See VETERAN on page 6



The Veteran’s committee is seeking support to add an extension to the wall (rendering shown to the left of original memorial)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Weather

THU 3/8	FRI 3/9	SAT 3/10	SUN 3/11	MON 3/12	TUE 3/13	WED 3/14	THU 3/15
63° /46°	58° /44°	77° /45°	72° /41°	66° /37°	74° /46°	68° /37°	66° /45°
Cloudy	Mostly sunny	Considerable cloudiness	Brilliant sunshine	Sunny	Mostly cloudy	Partly sunny	Sunny
Hist. Avg. 66°/38°	Hist. Avg. 66°/39°	Hist. Avg. 67°/39°	Hist. Avg. 67°/39°	Hist. Avg. 68°/40°	Hist. Avg. 68°/40°	Hist. Avg. 68°/40°	Hist. Avg. 69°/40°

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Inside

Life & Style.... page 2	Business & Briefs.... page 4	Opinion/ Entertainment.... page 6	Sports.... page 8
Community Calendar.... page 3	Religion.... page 5	Classifieds.... page 7	

