

City honors veterans with ceremony

By **Dennis P. Hohenberger**
Turley Correspondent

HOLYOKE - As has become the tradition on Memorial Day in the city, Cesar Lopez, a retired Marine, clad in his dress blues and possessing perfect military bearing, led the solemn procession of veterans, officials and residents from the War Memorial building on Appleton St. through the quiet of High St. and to green grass of Veterans Park.

The Holyoke Caledonian Pipe Band and the Holyoke High School Marching Band provided the music for the journey. Veterans groups stopped at sites along the way, which included the Korean War Memorial near city hall and a monument on Lyman St. dedicated to Gold Star Mothers, a designation mothers have prayed for generations never to obtain.

Henry Jennings placed a wreath at the foot of the towering memorial that honors those

who perished in World War I, while Nello Rota and Kenneth Tenney placed a wreath that recognized their falling comrades in World War II. Guests sat on lawn chairs or park benches or stood nearby through the ceremony.

Contingents included The Holyoke Auxiliary Police Color Guard, Dean Tech High ROTC, Vietnam Veterans of America and local veterans groups. James Hoar was the master-of-ceremony.

A trumpeter played "Taps" at the beginning, followed by the Holyoke School Marching Band with the National Anthem.

Barbara C. Bernard, who has had a long and distinguished career in journalism and local media, was the featured speaker. She honored families who lost loved ones in past and current conflicts.

"I used to say at Thanksgiving time, we give our blessings for all

For more photos, turn to page 10 for a Memorial Day photo spread.



Turley Publications Photo by Dennis P. Hohenberger

WWI Veterans Nello Rota and Kenneth Tenney stand at attention during the Memorial Day ceremony.

City Council considers abolishing HEDIC

By **Dennis P. Hohenberger**
Turley Correspondent

HOLYOKE - On Tuesday, the Holyoke City Council considered abolishing the Holyoke Economic Development & Industrial Corporation (HEDIC) and have that agency merge with the Holyoke Redevelopment Authority.

Before the matter could be discussed though, City Council President Joseph M. McGiverin stepped from his rostrum and switched positions with Councilor Patricia Devine, who took the gavel during the discussion.

McGiverin, the municipal government representative on HEDIC, said members of the agency have had discussions on dissolving the organization and a future merger with the Redevelopment Authority. But he told his colleagues that it would be "premature timing" to shutdown HEDIC.

Plans to abolish HEDIC go back to the previous administration of Mayor Michael J. Sullivan. McGiverin said he is concerned about the procedures on how the Redevelopment Authority would operate after the dissolution of HEDIC.

"HEDIC is not voted on or never did anything that has not been part of an economic development plan pre-approved by the city council or the mayor," said McGiverin. He added that HEDIC was set up by the city as an independent corporation for real estate transactions, economic development and for future development of land near the dam after it was purchased by Holyoke Gas & Electric.

McGiverin cited past successes of HEDIC, which included the sale of land to MAROX Corporation on Whitney

See **COUNCIL**, page 12

The Sun and Wistariahurst seeking topics for new series

This summer, the Holyoke Sun will be collaborating with the Wistariahurst Museum to bring to our readers a series of features chronicling Holyoke's history. City Historian Penni Martorell will delve into Holyoke's past to pen pieces on distinguished landmarks, events and interesting people, complete with photos from museum archives.

Together, we are polling Holyoke residents about what pieces of Holyoke's history they would want to read. Have you always won-

dered what happened to Mountain Park's amusement rides? When the dinosaur tracks on Route 5 were discovered? Do you want to know more about the city's historic mills?

Help us compile a list of topics about which to feature. Call the Wistariahurst Museum at (413) 322-5660 or the Holyoke Sun at (413) 536-5333.

E-mail Wistariahurst Museum Director Melissa Boisselle at boissellem@ci.holyoke.ma.us or Holyoke Sun Editor Kristin Will at kwil@turley.com.



Turley Publication Staff Photo by Kristin Will

Karen M. Blanchard, director of Providence Ministries, stocks items on a shelf at Margaret's Pantry.

Communities contribute 8 tons of food

By **Kristin Will**
Turley Publications Staff Writer

HOLYOKE - Together, Holyoke and South Hadley residents donated eight tons of non-perishable items during the 18 annual Postal Workers Food Drive in May.

Eight tons equates to 16,000 pounds of food. And while that may seem like an abundance, realistically it will only last Providence Ministries For The

Needy, a Holyoke-based organization which gives food to those in need, until August.

With those pounds upon pounds of food, Margaret's Pantry, through Providence Ministries, is able to provide residents with a supply of food - breakfast, lunch and dinner - to last them for three days.

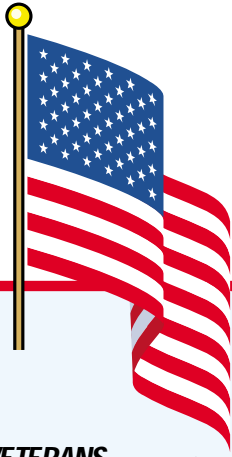
Holyoke Postmaster Wayne Desroches said residents were very generous. Some even continued to put donations outside

of their homes days after the drive. Retired postal workers also returned to volunteer their time picking up the donations and bringing them back to the post office.

The families benefiting from Margaret's Pantry range from single individuals to families of fifteen members.

"We never know who is going to come in the door looking for assistance," said

See **FOOD DRIVE**, page 13



Marching on Memorial Day in remembrance

VETERANS, from page 1

the wonderful things we have. I think on Memorial Day we give our blessings to our veterans, because they are the ones who made it possible for us to have all these things," she said.

Bernard went on to say that it's the veteran, and not a priest or a rabbi or a minister, who has given the nation freedom of religion. "It's certainly isn't the journalist or the newspaper editor, the magazine writer who's given us the freedom of the press," said Bernard. "And your authors and your poets and people who write, they really don't deserve the fact that it is the veterans that has given us the freedom of speech. Because without their sacrifice none of this would be possible."

State Rep. Michael F. Kane (D-Holyoke) quoted former Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. He said, "We not ponder with sad thoughts the passing of our heroes, but rather ponder their legacy, the life they made possible for us and by their commitment and pain."

Kane said the nation lives in a post-9/11 existence, when the world forever changed on that day in 2001. "Gone are the days when we would sit back and believe that our oceans would protect us from those who wish us harm," he said. "We acknowledge that in order to continue to protect the freedoms we hold close to our hearts, we have to take the battle to the terrorists and promote freedom throughout the world."

He then remembered the 118 servicemen and women from Massachusetts who lost their lives protecting the country since 9/11. Mayor Elaine A. Pluta, who was not present, was represented by Nilka M. Ortiz, who thanked the veterans.

Holyoke City Council President Joseph M. McGiverin, who was accompanied by colleagues Patricia Devin, Linda Vacon and Aaron Vega, said Memorial Day reminds Holyokers that the old mill city offers more than bricks and mortars. "Holyokers also understand that we would not have what we have today if it wasn't for those who made that ultimate sacrifice, if it wasn't for the men and women of our armed forces who did not return home fighting for our freedom, fighting for our quality of life, ensuring that we have that quality of life."

The ceremony closed with a benediction from Chaplain Ralph Lefebvre, the United Veterans of Holyoke. "Because of their bravery and fidelity, we have a heritage of courage, determination and love of God and country that will challenge and defeat any force on earth that attempts to destroy our beloved nation," he said. "We also ask for your blessing on our heroic military personnel who defend us at this very moment. Please continue to give them the strength, courage, conviction to perform their dangerous mission and to know that they are constantly in our thoughts and prayers."



A wreath dedicated to Gold Star Mothers.



Veterans march down High St. during the annual Memorial Day parade in Holyoke.



Ret. U.S. Marine leads the procession into Veterans Park during the annual Memorial Day parade.



The Monument to Honor Those Who Served in the United States Army, Navy and Air Force in Holyoke.



Veterans bow their heads in prayer.

Memorial Day

Parade for our Veterans



Gretchen Armstead with her daughter, Imij, 2. Armstead's husband, Christian, recently returned stateside from Afghanistan.



Holyoke School Committee Chairman William Collamore is joined by fellow veterans Nello Rota and Kenneth Tenney.



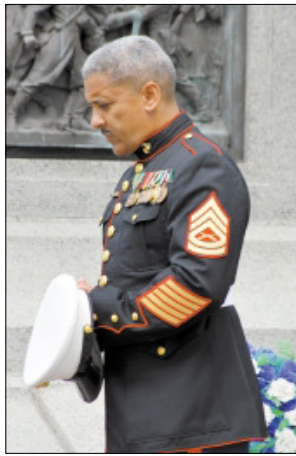
ose Who Perished in



(r-l) Holyoke City Councilors Linda Vacon, Aaron Vega, Joseph McGivern, and Patricia Devine.



The Holyoke Auxiliary Police Color Guard stand at attention.



Ret. U.S. Marine Cesar Lopez offers a moment of silence.



Members of the Dean Tech High School Air Force ROTC.