

SCHOOL SCENE

Nicholas County School System dedicates flag pole to Bronze Star Veteran

By Tim Jones
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — The Nicholas County School System dedicated their new central office flagpole in the name of long time building fund grounds employee Calvin Munday in a Friday afternoon ceremony.

Munday, a Bronze Star recipient for heroic actions taken during the Philippine campaign in 1945, was totally surprised by the honor.

"It's quite an honor to me," the 86 year old bus driver and maintenance man said. "I didn't know anything about it. They had been asking a lot of questions but I didn't know it had anything to do with a ceremony," Munday added.

The ceremony was scheduled to be held outside. The flagpole dedicated is in front of the central office of the Nicholas County School System.

Due to the cold, rainy weather on Friday, the ceremony was moved inside the All students at Nicholas County High School attended the ceremony.

In addition to the students, several local officials also attended.

Mayer Frankie Hughes and city councilman Betty Barton represented the City of

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Carlisle and Magistrate Justice Smith and Carl Cabern represented the Nicholas County Fiscal Court.

Also in attendance was James Anderson, chairman of the school board, and Louise Zachary, vice-chairman of the board. Newly elected board members Sammy Vice and Dougie Hall were also in attendance.

Other guests were several members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 866 and American Legion Post 17.

The Carlisle National Guard Unit provided the honor guard. The honor guard bore the national colors into the gym and stood at attention throughout the 30 minute ceremony.

Superintendent Cabert Gilbert made the opening remarks to the assembly. Gilbert, who shared the podium with State Senator Ed Ford, Reverend Roy C. Hunt and Father Michael Weglicki, spoke to students and guests about the importance of the flag and the freedom the flag embodies.

State Senator Ed Ford then presented a flag to the school system. The flag was presented to the Nicholas County Superintendent.

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"United we stand, divided we fall" is the motto of our Commonwealth," Ford said. "They are also good words to live our personal lives by."

The Carlisle senator remarked to the crowd. "The superintendent then received a United States flag presented by Boy Scout Troop 50 from Carlisle. The Boy Scout troop presented the flag for Rep. Larry Hopkins, who was unable to attend."

Gilbert then honored Munday, who was unaware of the dedication.

"The only thing that got me was the hot cartridges rolling down my neck," Munday added. "I never got a scratch on me."

"I took him through Manila when he returned like he said he would," Munday said with a smile. Munday had worked at the school system for 31 years.

Munday, who was 22 at the time, can recall his Army days like yesterday. "I registered when I was 18 and it wasn't too long before I had to go," he said.

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Munday went through basic training at Camp Robinson, Arkansas. Boot camp was "pretty rough" during the war, Munday noted.

As soon as Munday was finished with basic training he was sent to Bougainville, a waiting station in the Central Pacific.

"I was on Bougainville 18 months before I went to the Philippines," Munday noted.

Munday was never injured during the war, not even during the action that he was awarded the Bronze Star for.

"I never got a scratch on me," he said. "The only thing that got me was the hot cartridges rolling down my neck," Munday added.

One of Munday's more memorable moments was escorting General Douglas MacArthur through Manila. "I've been as close to MacArthur as I am to you," he said.

"I took him through Manila when he returned like he said he would," Munday said with a smile. Munday had worked at the school system for 31 years.

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Munday honored

Superintendent Cabert, Gilbert congratulated Munday at the flag pole dedication held Friday at Nicholas County High School. The flag pole was dedicated in Munday's name. Below, the staff from the Carlisle National Guard Army stands at attention. The dedication serves as the honor guard to the ceremony.

