

Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session June 1st, 2020 at the Ceredo City Hall

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday June 1st, 2020 at the Ceredo City Hall. The Mayor, Paul A. Billups, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present included the Mayor, Paul A. Billups; the Recorder, Stanley E. Fink; and Councilmen Dennis Adkins, Oscar Adkins, Steve Diamond, Robert Leslie and Joe Ratcliff.

Reading of the Minutes

The Mayor asked if Council had any additions or corrections to the Regular Session minutes dated May 4th, 2020. None being heard and on a motion by Dennis Adkins and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to wave the reading of the May 4th, 2020 regular session and accept the minutes as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Robert Leslie, presented Council with the balance of each account and the expenditures as of May 31st, 2020. The Mayor asked for questions on the report. None being heard, the Mayor requested the report be made part of the minutes. On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Dennis Adkins, Council voted to approve the Treasurers' Report as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor also addressed the balances and projected income.

COVID-19 Guidelines

The Mayor addressed the guidelines required for a business to open and listed those who are providing limited services.

Outdoor Pickleball Reopening

The Mayor addressed the reopening of the pickleball courts and advised the basketball courts were not open due to basketball being considered a partial-contact sport. The Mayor also stated how pleasing it was to see people walking, riding bikes and involved in outdoor activities throughout the Town.

2020 Little League Season

The Mayor advised he was working with the Little League to develop workable guidelines that could allow the season to open.

Opening Burning Ordinance and Second Reading

The Mayor addressed Council about the need to add an amendment to the proposed Open Burning Ordinance.

After the reading of the amendment and the reading of the Ordinance on second reading, on a motion by Dennis Adkins and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to approve the Amended Open Burning Ordinance as presented on second reading. All were in favor, motion carried.

Floodwall Inspection Report

The Mayor reported the floodwall gate at the alley on the upper end of B Street would be exercised this week. He also reported the exercise of the Route 60 gate was being held in abeyance by the Department of Highways.

Consolidation of Accounts into General Fund

The Mayor presented, for Council's consideration, a resolution that with the Fiscal Year beginning July 1st, 2020, the Town would no longer designate the Ceredo Floodwall Fund and the New Crescent Fund as enterprise funds, but rather incorporate them as a portion of the General Fund. See attached copy of resolution.

On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to approve the Resolution as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

Final Budget Revisions

The Mayor addressed the revisions required by the State Auditor for the Fiscal 2019-2020 budget, which were due by June 15th, 2020. He also advised the 2020-2021 budget revisions were due July 10th, 2020.

After review of the revisions and on a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Dennis Adkins, Council voted to approve the budget revisions as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

Police Department Report

The Mayor advised Council Officer Stephen Adams, who had been working part time had accepted a full-time position to replace John Lange. He also reported the police department was performing well.

Stormwater Report

The Mayor reported on the work being done on the lift stations and the repairs that have been required.

Adjournment

No further business was brought before the Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. and Council went into Executive Session.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BILLUPS, MAYOR

July is the start of the fiscal year for West Virginia municipalities, the month in which we take stock of where we stand financially and implement our plans for the coming twelve months. The oversight of a municipal budget is somewhat akin to handling your personal checkbook, with the overriding object being not to spend more than you bring in. The one major exception is that with our personal finances we have the ability or opportunity to earn more by working overtime, advancing our position, or taking a second job. A municipality

simply can't do those things – we must rely on our annual tax base, predicted as best possible, and plan to spend no more than what comes in.

As we enter the 2020-2021 fiscal year, our predicted (budgeted) general fund revenue will be approximately \$300,000 less than the revenue received by the Town in 2009. One doesn't need long to think about that to understand that these are different, and difficult times for Ceredo and most other municipalities in West Virginia.

Fortunately, our Town Council has been vigilant in

the oversight of spending for the past number of years and our residents haven't suffered any significant loss of municipal services.

Our current budget should allow us to maintain services at established levels, with one caveat – the coronavirus pandemic. The existence of the coronavirus, let alone the financial impact it has created, could not have been foreseen.

General Fund tax receipts, largely sourced from Business and Occupation taxes levied upon business and industrial concerns, are expected to drop signifi-

cantly due to COVID-related slowdowns. At least two town businesses have closed their doors. The town has incurred unbudgeted expenses in the purchase of equipment and sanitation items to protect our employees from exposure to the virus, and in a totally unpredictable turn, we have incurred significant expenses occasioned by people flushing "disposable" items, including PPE items, into parts of our sanitary sewer system. Since mid-March, we have been forced to spend in excess of \$10,000 to replace or repair sewer pumps damaged by the

increased use and improper disposal of hand wipes, paper towels, and other such items.

Will our residents see a difference in municipal services as a result of the coronavirus? We certainly hope not. If we continue to follow state-mandated guidelines and don't suffer a spike in local cases, we should be able to cover the lost revenue and increased expenses by eliminating discretionary-spending items. How can our residents help? Avoid contracting the virus by following recommended guidelines. Don't

flush hand wipes, paper towels, PPE masks or gloves into our sewer system, and please do a little extra around your street to lessen the burden on our maintenance department. If our residents do these few things, we will work through the pandemic with no decrease in what we believe to be the best municipal services in the state. Your help will allow Ceredo to hold the line, eliminate extra expenses, and remain fiscally sound in spite of the conditions we now face.

CEREDO COVID STATUS

As was predicted by many, it appears that the coronavirus pandemic is again gaining strength as more positive cases are being reported daily. We have been fortunate so far in Ceredo, thanks in good part to most everyone following guidelines distributed by medical professionals, but with the summer weather we are all anxious to regain "normalcy."

The Town Hall lobby has reopened, with a limit of one visitor at a time in any office. The Sheriff's Tax Office and Assessor's Office have reopened with hours on Monday and Tuesday. Persons desiring to conduct business in those offices are required to sign a visitor's log in the lobby and wait in your car to be called for your turn. Hand sanitizer is available in the lobby, and visitors are encouraged to wear face masks in consideration of employees and other visitors.

Town maintenance services are running on schedule, although the staff has been overworked in keeping town common areas clean of potentially hazardous materials such as discarded masks, gloves, and sanitary wipes. We urge each of you to properly dispose of PPE items and under no circumstances should PPE items be discarded on the ground or left in public areas.

We continue to have problems with residents flushing hand wipes and other sanitizing items in household toilets. Although many of these items advertise as "disposable," they are disposable only in gravity-flow sewage systems. Much of South Ceredo operates on forced-flow sewers, meaning each house has a grinder pump that forces sewage into larger lines. Unfortunately, the advertised "disposable" items will not pass through a grinder system and the result is

a burned-out pump and clogged sewer. These pumps cost the town approximately \$800 each, and we have been forced to replace a number of them since experiencing the increased use of hand wipes. Please do not flush anything except toilet paper.

ing indoor dining. Subway, Pizza Hut, Holy Smokes, and Rocco's have altered seating arrangements that allow them to comply with capacity limits and proper distancing. Austin's continues to offer drive-thru and curbside service, but does not

Retail vendors that have remained open, such as Harbor Freight and Food Fair, request that customers use common sense while walking inside the stores. Both establishments have constructed barriers at checkout counters, and again request that customers wear masks when possible.

The Ceredo Museum and Ramsdell House have reopened with visitors limited to three at any time. The outdoor pickleball courts and basketball courts are open, and will remain open so long as users practice good housekeeping by placing all water or soft drink bottles and any other trash in provided receptacles. The walking track is open with the six-foot social distancing rule in effect.

Mitch Stadium and the park softball field are now open for use under strict guidelines that include a sufficient number of adults in a supervisory capacity to

ensure social distancing is enforced. Parents and fans are requested to stay outside fences and where possible, to watch events from behind outfield fences.

Public restrooms in the Town Park and at ball fields are not open, as it would be impossible for the town to maintain sanitary conditions in those facilities.

As this issue was going to press, Governor Justice was considering the imposition of a "mask required" mandate to curb the increase in coronavirus cases. If that directive, or others that will affect daily lives in Ceredo are announced, the Town will exercise best efforts to communicate with you. Please follow the guidelines. The quicker we do so, the quicker we can eliminate the risks associated with the coronavirus and return to life as we want it to be in Ceredo.

Local restaurants have been operating in accord with state guidelines regard-

currently allow window service in order to comply with distancing guidelines.

- DO**
- **Wear a cloth face covering**
 - **Wash hands frequently**
 - **Disinfect common areas**
 - **Get tested if you feel symptomatic**
 - **Social distance**
 - **Make utility payments online, by mail, or By using the deposit box at Town Hall**

- DON'T**
- **Engage in large crowds**
 - **Go out if you feel don't feel well**
 - **Travel to high risk hotspots**

Ott Invitational Cancelled

The annual Ott Invitational Golf Tournament has been cancelled for 2020 due to coronavirus concerns. This year's event was scheduled to be held at the Greenbrier Resort on the Old White Course, with defending champion E.G. Cox already committed to defend the title he won last year with a miraculous double-eagle on the 18th hole at Sugarwood Golf Course.

State-imposed restrictions that mandate a 14-day quarantine for any person returning to West Virginia from overseas was the determining factor in the can-

cellation. The Invitational was scheduled to be held August 29-30. Unfortunately, defending champion Cox had previously committed to defend his East Asia Seniors Table Tennis title in Singapore during the week of August 16th. Even with a quick return to the Mountain State by his corporate sponsor, NetJets, it would be impossible for Cox to defend his golf title in August.

Sponsors of the event expressed their dismay at having to cancel this year's event, but cited the fact that several other entrants are "at-risk" individuals and the

potential harm outweighed the benefit of moving forward. Cox, contacted at his training facility Rump Arena, home of the Kenova Subterranean Ping Pong League, said "I am saddened by not being able to defend the Ott Invitational title, but having previously committed to playing in the East Asia Seniors and knowing this may be my last chance to play against the fellows I faced before the 1960 Olympics, I feel obligated to go. I certainly hope to be in shape to play golf with the local boys later in the Fall."

Invitational Commit-

tee Executive Chairman David Pennington advised that the tournament may be re-scheduled sometime in early 2021. "With the potential risk to our participants, along with the real tournament draw that fans want to see, Mr. Cox, not being able to play, it only makes sense to step back and let the risk pass. We all wish Hush Puppy well on his trip to Singapore, and look forward to playing against him soon."

Chairman Pennington did hold out some slight hope that this year's tournament might be saved. After word of the cancellation

spread around the sports community, Pennington was contacted by representatives of The Golf Club of Edmond concerning the possibility of moving this year's Ott Invitational to Oklahoma. Apparently, Hush Puppy Cox has a huge fan base in central Oklahoma, having played several softball games at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City while touring with the All-Air Force Team while serving his country on active duty.

Chairman Pennington has tasked Deputy Chairman and former Ceredo resident Mike Watts, who

now resides in Edmond, Oklahoma to follow-up on this overture. According to inside sources, several companies, including Chesapeake Energy, have expressed an interest in underwriting the tournament if appearance terms can be arranged with Cox. Nothing is yet finalized, but negotiations are ongoing between the Tournament Committee, Chesapeake, and the agent for Hush Puppy.

Antique Auto Show

The Twentieth Annual Huntington Region Antique Auto Show will take place on Saturday, August 1, 2020. The show, held each year at the Ceredo Plaza, will be open for entry registration from 9 AM until noon. Registration fee is \$10, with plaques for the first 175 entries. Admission is free to the general public, with ample parking on the Plaza lot.

A number of door prizes will be awarded during the day, and those entering antique vehicles will be judged for several trophies, including the Volunteer's Choice, People's Choice, and Mayor's Choice. Recent trophy winners from the area include Lane Chandler, Kenny Acord, and Bill Chatterton.

The show is sponsored by the Town of Ceredo, Kenneth Hicks, American Legion Post 93, and the Proctorville Flea Market.

The Ceredo show is annually one of the largest shows in the area, and if you haven't attended a previous show please come, walk around, and enjoy some of the finest automobiles ever produced in America. Local Antique Automobile Club of America chapter President Carroll Browning and his members do a great job in organizing this event that is enjoyed by all that attend.

Celebrate the Seasons Post Card Photo Contest

The Ceredo Beautification Committee is requesting entries to the Ceredo Post Card Contest. The Committee is looking for pictures of Ceredo to include on post cards that will be sold during each of our four seasons, with any funds raised going toward beautification projects.

The topic of pictures is limited only by the requirement that they must reflect Ceredo scenes, be it buildings, flowers, parks, landscapes or any other subject that may be suitable for placing on a post card that gives a great seasonal impression of our town.

Please look through your old pictures or take some new ones. In addition to being recognized as the photographer on any picture used on a post card, winners will receive a prize of \$25 for each photo selected.

Pictures may be submitted either by hard copy to Town Hall, or by scanning them to info@ceredovv.gov. Please note "Attention: Photo Contest". We look forward to many great pictures depicting the Seasons of Ceredo!

School Goal Reached

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our residents, the Beautification Committee fundraising goal to improve landscaping and the outside appearance of the former Ceredo Graded School has been reached. The Committee wishes to thank each of the donors.

All those persons donating to the cause will have their names listed on a plaque inside the building, and the memories of the school included by many donors are being catalogued and will be displayed at the Ceredo Museum. Several donors included very touching memories about the old school grounds, including a submission by Dr. Eleanor Terry that recounts a rather strange coincidence. When Dr. Terry was a fifth-grade student at Kenova Elementary, a fire occurred on Valentine's Day at four o'clock in the morning. In 1957, Dr. Terry was employed as a fifth-grade teacher at Ceredo Elementary when, on Valentine's Day, a fire occurred at four o'clock in the afternoon.

A portion of the landscaping work has been completed, and we look forward to seeing progress as the former school is transformed for community use.

Spring Valley Graduates Awarded BLESS SCHOLARSHIP



BLESS Scholarship award recipient Tyrus Anthony Baumgardner and family

In 1999 Spring Valley High School of Wayne Co. celebrated its first graduating class. Stephen Paul 'Bub' Amis, son of Stephen and Patricia Amis of Kenova, WV was among them. Not long after graduation, Bub was diagnosed with a massive brain tumor, underwent surgery and 18 months of rehab. He would make a valiant deci-

sion because of the help he received and he became a Physical Therapist Assistant to "Pay It Forward" so that he could help others as he was helped. He would work as a PTA for 15 years helping many people recover from strokes and injuries. He passed away on July 5th, 2018 after suffering for 13 months in the hospital and so the BLESS Scholarship

was established to continue his legacy of helping others. On Friday June 26th, 2020 two Spring Valley graduating seniors were selected to receive the award, Tyrus Anthony Baumgardner, who will attend West Virginia State University on a Baseball Scholarship and Chloe Alyssa McCloud who will be attending Morehead State University

on a Cheerleading Scholarship, each received a \$1,000.00 scholarship and both will be attending college to embark on a career as a Physical Therapist. The BLESS Scholarship is an acronym for the creed that he lived by: "BUB LOVED EVERY SINGLE SOUL"

By: Stephen R. Amis

COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTER

Open 7 Days a Week

HOURS:
Mon-Thurs 7am-9pm
Fri 7am-8pm
Sat 8am-3pm
Sun 1pm-5pm

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Kenova, WV 25530
304-453-2449

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Nautilus Exercise Equipment

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Cardiovascular Equipment

New Shower Facilities

Classes Available

MONDAY
Toning 9-10am
Silver Sneakers 10-11am
R.I.P.P.E.D. 5:30-6:30pm
Zumba Gold 6:30-7:30pm

TUESDAY
Zumb Toning 6:30-7:30pm

WEDNESDAY
Toning 9-10am
Silver Sneakers 10-11am
Zumba Gold 6:30-7:30pm

THURSDAY
R.I.P.P.E.D. 5:30-6:30pm
Zumba 6:30-7:30pm

FRIDAY
Toning 9-10am
Silver Sneakers 10-11am

SUNDAY
Zumba Sentao 2-3:15pm

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You may qualify for:
Healthways SilverSneakers® Fitness Program

INSTRUCTORS:
Heather Ferguson (Zumba, Silver Sneakers, R.I.P.P.E.D., Toning)
Sarah Lester (Zumba Gold)

TOWN OF CEREDO FARMERS MARKET

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY
9:00AM - 4:00PM
MITCH STADIUM | 6TH ST W. CEREDO, WV

“FIRST THINGS FIRST”

– Devotional thoughts from Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ceredo.

“I Have My Rights”

It must have been a hot day in Philadelphia in July of 1776 when delegates from the thirteen American colonies gathered in “Independence Hall” to attach their names to the “birth certificate” of the United States: The Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson, the polymath from Virginia, had been tasked to write the document, and, as they say, the rest is history.

That document listed the reasons why it was necessary for the colonies to break away from British rule. But as the opening paragraph states, the ultimate reason was this: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator

with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

These words are (or should be) forever emblazoned on the collective consciousness of our nation. They define what we call “the American Dream” and they are core principles upon which this country was built. This “dream” is most often mistaken to be simply material prosperity, something that is not promised to all of any nation’s citizens. But, as Jefferson stated, it is within our “rights” to “pursue” that prosperity and our general “happiness,” however that may be defined.

For the Christian, these “rights” of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” take on a different flavor. These are more than rights; they are gifts granted

through faith in God’s Son, Jesus Christ. In the oft-quoted verse John 3:16, we are told that if we believe in the Son whom God sent from heaven, we “should not perish [come into eternal judgment], but have everlasting life.” But lest we think this “everlasting life” is some “pie-in-the-sky, by and by” something that is beyond our present reach, Jesus said further in John 10:10, “I have come to that [those who believe in Me] might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly [to the full].” And with that life comes liberty, for as Jesus said in John 8:36, “If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed,” a freedom from sin, a greater freedom than any human government can provide!

But what about “the pursuit of happiness”? The good news of the gospel

is that Jesus can give us that too! All one needs to do is simply read the “Beatitudes” (you can find them in Matthew 5:3-12), where each of them begins with the word “Blessed,” or “Happy.” Granted, the Beatitudes do not define “happiness” as we normally do. But the true secret to spiritual and lasting happiness is found in those characteristics of Christ’s true “kingdom people.” No wonder Jesus said to his followers: “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be in full” (John 15:11)! Jesus wants us to have true happiness and joy!

David said in Psalm 16:11, “You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your hand are pleasures forever.” May you find these in Jesus Christ today!

Jeffrey F. Canterbury is the pastor of the First Baptist Church, 448 Main Street, Ceredo, WV. For more information about the church, including service times and archived messages, please visit the church’s website at www.fbceredo.com, or call the church at 304-453-2092. All scripture quotations are from the New

King James Version of the Bible. If you have any questions related to the Bible you would like answered, please send them to Pastor Jeff at fbsecretary@zoom-internet.net or mail them to P.O. Box 967, Ceredo, WV 25507.



Our Doors Are Open To You!

Service Times:
Sunday 10:45 am
 (In-person & Live Stream)
Sunday 7 pm
 (Live Stream)
Wednesday 7 pm
 (Live Stream)

Services live streamed on our website.

448 Main St.
Ceredo, WV 25507
 Phone: 304-453-2092
www.fbceredo.com

Find us on Facebook:
 First Baptist Church
 Ceredo West Virginia

First Baptist Church Ceredo
 Pastor Jeffrey F. Canterbury

HONOR ROLL

Eleanor Terry.....	10/20
Jim and Pat Billups	02/21
John C. Hall	05/21
Paul and Kathy Billups.....	10/21
Jack and Ann Riggs	05/21
Mike and Susan Watts.....	09/20
Leigh Ann Johnson.....	04/22
Connie & Mark Beford.....	10/20
Dinah and Dale Ledbetter	10/20
In Memory of Herb & Helen Stephens.....	08/20
In Memory of Coach Dale Craycraft	08/20
In Memory of J. J. & Roma Gail Billups	08/20
In Memory of Houston & Gladys Woolwine.....	04/21
Katrina Childers	05/21
In Memory of Alberta “Dossie” & Sherman Medley	04/21
Tim Wilson	05/20
Dr. Ron & Lucinda Akers.....	06/20
In Memory of Clarence & Dotty Clarkson.....	07/20
Marlene Simmons.....	07/20
Herm Matney	08/20
In Memory of Anagene Wooten Gibbs.....	08/20
In Memory of Kathleen Wooren Marcum	08/20
In Memory of Larry Cole	08/20
In Memory of Charles & Dorothy Watts	09/20
Jeanette & Roger Barker	03/21
Karin & Mike Dawson	02/21
American Legion.....	01/21
Ceredo-Kenova Community Center	01/21
Evaronis	01/21
CUMC	12/20
Roberta and Charlie Mitchell	03/21
In Memory of Robert (Pete) & Carolyn Sullivan	04/21
Jennifer Ferguson.....	04/21
Oscar, Bonnie, Michelle Booth.....	04/21
John M. Spangler, Esq.....	05/21
In Memory of Frances Cornell.....	05/21
In Memory of W.W. Mills, MD.....	05/21
In Honor of Larry Jack Heck.....	06/21
Floyd Mays.....	06/21
Mike & Karen Skeens.....	07/21
Keith and Freda Chadwick.....	07/21
Tyler Dawson, DDS	07/21
Raymond Keigley.....	07/21
Brenda Francis	07/21
O’Dell Mannon	07/21

The New Crescent Honor Roll is intended to be a way we give special recognition to those persons who donate at least \$50.00 during the year to support our publication. Since the Honor Roll is a twelve-month feature, you will need to renew your contribution every twelve months to remain on the Roll. Your name not appearing indicates your year had expired. A very special “Thank You!” to all of you who have helped us to continue the paper with your gifts. With your help, we have been able to publish and deliver The New Crescent to every home in Ceredo since February 1990!

CEREDO BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE JULY 2020 YARDS, BLOCK AND BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



YARD OF THE MONTH

9 GREENWOOD TERRY AND ANNETTE BRUMFIELD

YARD OF THE MONTH

BRUMFIELD 257 B STREET BILL AND LILLY HALL



BLOCK OF THE MONTH

400 BLOCK OF MAIN STREET

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

KANAWHA RIVER TERMINAL (KRT)



Supporting Our Community Ceredo United Methodist Church Thrift Store

Clothing, Shoes, Housewares, Books, Collectibles For everyone in the family
 Hours: Tuesday thru Friday 10:00am-4:30pm • Saturday 10am-2pm
 All Donations Greatly Appreciated
 Location: 218 Main Street, Ceredo

Mr. Smith Comes To Ceredo

People have moved to Ceredo over the past 163 years for a variety of reasons. Our early settlers came to create an abolitionist town in the South, followed by a number of emigrants desiring to open industrial concerns with river access to midwestern and southern states. Over the last 100 years a majority of people relocating to Ceredo were looking for reasonably priced property in an incorporated town, and a few, such as Curtis Smith, came to Ceredo hoping to make a better life for his children.

In the summer of 1952, Curtis and Elizabeth Smith were residing in West Huntington. Curtis was employed by Ferguson Plumbing during the week, and took extra work on weekends repairing boilers on office buildings in downtown Huntington. Elizabeth Smith was, at that time, a stay-at-home mother caring for the family's seven children, the oldest of which, Jim, had just completed the ninth grade at West Junior High.

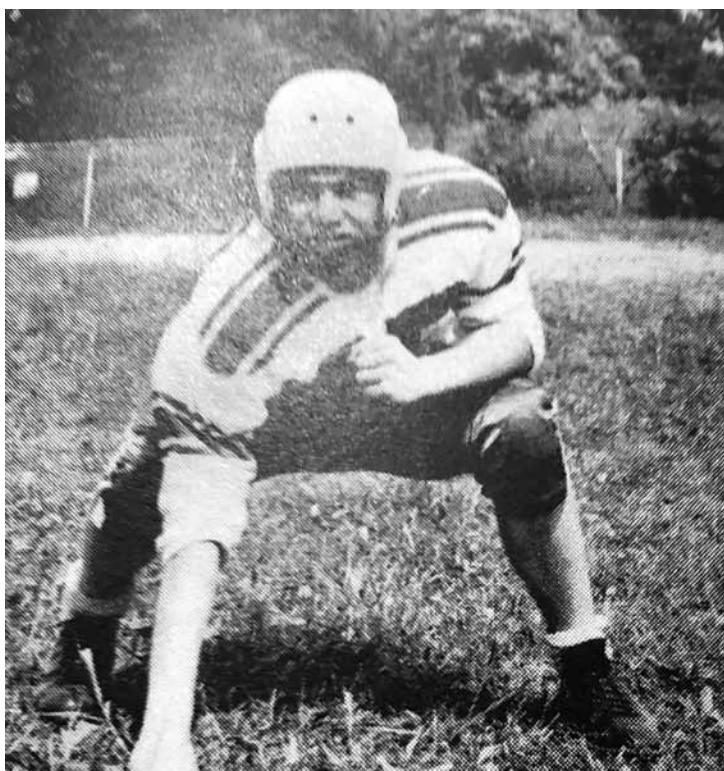
Likely influenced by his eldest sons' athletic success in junior high, Curtis Smith looked at his young family and decided that the children would benefit from living in a smaller place, where they could take part in several activities, have smaller class sizes, and not be "one of many" during their formative years. In short order, Curtis and Elizabeth decided to move to Ceredo.

Word of Curt Smith's decision to move was hardly public before Huntington High coach Ray McCoy paid Curt a visit, trying to convince him to keep his family that included four potential athletes in Huntington. The attempt of Coach McCoy failed, Curtis and Elizabeth bought a house on 2nd Street East in Ceredo during August, 1952, and within a few weeks the entire clan had assimilated into life in Ceredo.

The transition was likely made easier by the fact that Jim Smith immediately joined Coach Babe Mazza's football squad as a sophomore, leading the way for his six younger siblings. Jim's junior high team at West had won the 1951 Cabell County championship with a 7-1 record, defeating Cammack in the champion-

ship game that was played before the annual Huntington High – Huntington East rivalry game. Jim took to C-K sports as if he had been born in Wonder green, lettering three years in football, basketball and baseball, along with one year on the track team before being named the "Most Athletic" boy in his senior class.

Jim Smith's baseball career



Jim Smith

at C-K was stellar, as he was named the starting third baseman on the first Cabell-Wayne All-Star team chosen by Huntington sportswriter Duke Ridgley following the 1954 season. Smith took part in one of the most unusual games in C-K history during his senior season when the Wonders were playing a good Wayne team. The Herald Dispatch headline following the game read "Wonders Steal Game From Wayne". As reported by the Dispatch, the C-K nine trailed by a score of 3-2 in the last inning when Pat McFann and Jim Smith led off the inning with singles. On the first pitch after Smith's single, McFann stole third and Smith stole second base. On the following pitch, McFann stole home to tie the game and Smith took third. Two pitches later, Smith stole home giving the Wonders the victory. In the course of four pitches, McFann and Smith managed to steal a combined five bases.

Jim Smith graduated in 1955, but the Wonders didn't miss a beat as his brother Ron

was by then becoming a star player. Ron lettered four years in both football and baseball, plus three years in basketball. Ron was followed by brother Ed, a 1958 graduate and the first of the Smith boys to play Little League in C-K. Ed played two years on the C-K basketball team, but is best remembered for his talent as Drum Major of the C-K Band. Ed led the band for three years

as Drum Major, then moved on to the Marshall Marching Band for two years before starting a 43-year career as a teacher.

By this time Curtis and Elizabeth Smith were deeply involved in their children's activities. Curt sold programs at every C-K athletic contest, and Elizabeth worked in the concession stand as a member of the Band Boosters at every game. It is of note that the Smith boys credit a good deal of their athletic success to their mother, as she often played various types of ball with them while Curtis was working.

The Smith contribution to C-K athletics continued with brother Bill, a 1960 graduate who played three years at Mitch Stadium before lettering for three years in football and baseball and two years in basketball for the Wonders.

The story doesn't end with the Smith boys. Sisters Pat (1961), Sandy (1964), and Shirley (1965) all contributed to CKHS in their own ways. Pat was a member of the C-K

Band for two years, followed by two years as a Majorette. A number of the Smith's, both boys and girls, were chosen as members of the National Honor Society and belonged various other scholastic clubs.

Life for the Smith family went on as the children moved into adulthood. Jim Smith joined the Air Force, where he spent four years and continued to play baseball and softball as often as possible. Upon his return to West Virginia, Jim began a long career with Public Finance – Washington Mutual, where he built the largest office east of the Mississippi and was named Manager of the Year of the 750-office firm several times. In addition to his work, Jim continued to play baseball in the Huntington Industrial League and softball in various leagues until his 43rd birthday.

"Our family was very fortunate that our parents moved to Ceredo", said Jim Smith. "I stepped into a great situation, playing for Babe Mazza. Coach Ward was just starting his coaching career my senior season, and he was an assistant coach. I played with a group of great fellows that accepted me as if I had been born in Ceredo. Ivan McGlone, Fred Conley, Jim Hamer, and Pat McFann to name a few. They were good athletes that went on to have good careers, thanks in large part to the upbringing we had in Ceredo and Kenova."

With wife Nancy, Jim continued to be involved in youth sports as an umpire, coach, and league president before becoming the Assistant District Administrator of Little League for a number of years. In 2012, Jim and Nancy were

living in a large home near Salt Rock when they heard of an available house on B Street. With little hesitation, the Smiths returned to Ceredo.

"Ceredo has always been such a nice, clean town with great residents. We were getting older, and simply didn't want to pass up the chance to move back," said Smith. "Nancy and I love living here, we have absolutely great neigh-



Ed Smith – Drum Major 1956-58

bors in Joyce Coburn and JD and Rhonda McKinney. JD was a baseball guy, and I really enjoy talking sports with him and his son, Bailey. I'm very thankful that my parents chose to come to Ceredo, and I am glad to be back."

In the words of late Ceredo resident and Wonders Booster extraordinaire Jack Hardin, Curtis and Elizabeth Smith should have been given an award for "Boosters of the Decade" for bringing their children, along with their



Patty Smith (Carter)

volunteer help, to Ceredo-Kenova.

"My dad didn't have the opportunity to participate in sports," said Smith, "but he wanted to be sure all his children had opportunities. One of my best memories of Dad was on 'parent's night' during my senior football season. The parents were introduced on the field and Dad was wearing a jersey with my number on front and Ron's number on the back. He was smiling ear to ear."

Jim currently works as a volunteer docent at the Ramsdell House, still giving for the good of the community some 68 years after Curtis first brought him to town and turned him over to Babe Mazza to become a Wonder. The decision of Curt and Elizabeth Smith to move to Ceredo was good for their family, and it was equally good for Ceredo. We are certainly glad they came.



Smith Family – Top L-R – Bill, Ed, Ron, Jim; Middle L-R – Sandy, Curtis, Elizabeth, Pat; Front – Shirley

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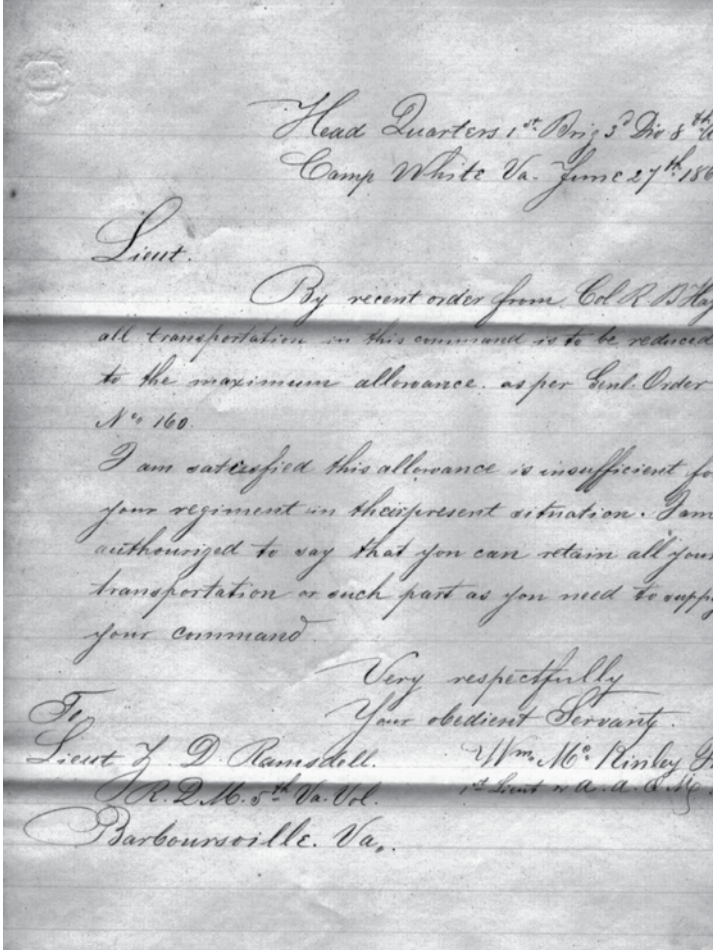


RAMSDELL HOUSE HISTORIC DISCOVERIES ONGOING - MORE THAN 2,000 VISITORS SINCE RE-OPENING.

The Z. D. Ramsdell House on B Street in Ceredo continues to be “a beacon of hope” as it was referred to during remarks at its September 2019 re-opening celebration, which was attended by over 350 patrons.



**Ramsdell House research intern
Isabella Carpintero**



McKinnley Letter

The home has welcomed over two thousand patrons since that time, drawing visitors from as far away as the Philippines to Ceredo, which was founded as an abolitionist colony by Massachusetts congressman, Eli Thayer. Thayer recruited roughly 500 anti-slavery leaders to build a town on what had been the plantation of Thomas Jordan. It is recorded that Jordan owned 16 slaves when Thayer purchased the property. One must ponder the courage and resolve of Ceredo's original settlers to establish an anti-slavery colony in the midst of slave-owning territory. Since the most recent renovation of the Ramsdell House, original hand-written documents and historic artifacts continue to come to light as Ramsdell staff and well-trained interns painstakingly work to find and research historic treasures within the books, trunks, crates and structural spaces of the home. Recently, Morehead State University Public History major and Ramsdell House research intern, Isabella Carpintero found another hand-written letter from “First Lieutenant” William McKinley, Jr. to “Lieutenant Z.D. Ramsdell”, Regimental Quartermaster 5th Virginia Volunteer Infantry, tucked in a book which had been in the Ramsdell attic. The letter from the man who would become the 25th President of the United States, references Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes, who became the 19th President. Zophar Ramsdell reached the rank of Captain in the Union Army before the end of the Civil War. The McKinley letter created

quite a stir after Morehead State University's office of communications posted Carpintero's find on social media and the story was picked up by several international wire services, with articles appearing in several states and countries, in Archaeology Magazine, on Historynet.com and leading to a recent three-page feature article in The Ironton Tribune. There is ongoing communication with The McKinley Library regarding this and other McKinley documents found in the Ramsdell House.

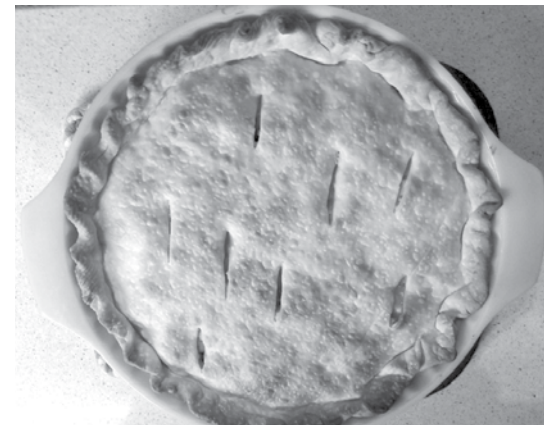
WANT TO JOIN IN THE TREASURE HUNTING? Ramsdell staff believes that the “treasure hunting” in the form of careful exploration and harvesting, research and acquisitions will continue for years. In the meantime, the Ramsdell House offers free visits and tours on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., and other days may be scheduled by appointment by calling: 304-908-9696.



Working in partnership with the Ceredo Historical Society Museum and research associates, Ceredo historians are searching for a document which was referenced in this Herald-Dispatch newspaper article in 1942. This article references the parchment commission document signed by Abraham Lincoln conferring the rank of Captain on Zophar Ramsdell. It was displayed “in a Ceredo home” along with Zophar’s service hat. The Town of Ceredo would love to find, preserve and display this precious item from Ceredo’s history. If anyone has any recollections of where this document (and the hat, or other historic items) might be, please call Mayor Billups at City Hall or the Ramsdell House at 304-908-9696.

The Crescent Kitchen

Pot Pie
by Natalie Hemann



I think we all deserve some “comfort food” after the past few months. When my husband, Rick, and I think of comfort food, we think of the frozen pot pies we enjoyed when we were growing up. I looked online at the ingredients and nutritional content and knew that in our “advanced” age, we could not enjoy them any longer. I started hunting for a recipe for pot pies. I came across this one and thought I would give it a try, not expecting much success. To my surprise, when we tried the finished product, it was very similar to the pot pies we remembered, even without the double crust...our favorite part of the pie! (If you have any comments or questions about any of the recipes I have submitted, feel free to email me at: nipit@zoominternet.net)

Ingredients:
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon salt
1 ¼ cups packed brown sugar
2 apples, peeled, cored, and chopped (1-1/3 cups)
1 ¼ cups finely shredded carrots
½ cup raisins
½ cup coconut

¾ cup chopped walnuts
1 8 ounce can crushed pineapple (juice pack), undrained
¾ cup cooking oil
3 eggs
½ teaspoon vanilla

Directions:
• Preheat oven to 450°. In a large saucepan, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add onion; cook and stir until tender. Stir in flour and poultry seasoning until blended; gradually whisk in broth and milk. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir 2-3 minutes or until thickened. Stir in chicken and vegetables.
• Transfer to a greased 9-in. deep-dish pie plate; place crust over filling. Trim, seal and flute edges. Cut slits in crust. Bake 15-20 minutes or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly.

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AROUND TOWN

Social life in Ceredo has not gone away, despite COVID-19 restrictions. Ceredo resident Mary Lee Leslie is setting an example for the rest of us by using her beautiful front porch to host weekly social gatherings. The ladies are able to social-distance by taking advantage of the open air while enjoying baked goods, coffee and tea. This was a great idea by Mary Lee and an example of what we can do to enjoy the season in a safe manner.

The Ceredo flower gardens are fully planted and thriving, as beautiful as ever. Delcie and David Elkins are doing their typical great job with the flower gardens, and David Patrick may soon be recognized as a master horticulturist for his work on the hanging flower baskets.

Special thanks to the Street Department for cleaning the Route 60 median between the Mose Napier Bridge and Camden Park. The roadway is within the Ceredo corporate

limits, and our employees did their typical great job in removing over four tons of dirt and debris from the median. It is certainly easy to tell the location of the Ceredo boundary line by the cleanliness of the roadway.

Kudos to Ceredo residents Brenda Francis and George Kegley for weeding the new landscaping in front of the former elementary school. It was a tough job, completed during one of the warmest days of the year. Brenda and George are always willing to help with town projects. Having residents that do a little extra for the common good helps set Ceredo apart.

The Golden Girl Group Home plans to start construction any day on their retail outlet and training center on Main Street. The new building will be a great improvement in South Ceredo, being built on property made available after the town condemned and demolished two old houses.

Through a joint effort of the Golden Girl Home and the Ceredo Police Department, the Home has received a significant grant of federal funds to furnish an exercise room at the former elementary school. The state-of-the-art exercise equipment will be utilized, at different hours, by Golden Girl residents and town employees. The town thanks Golden Girl for allowing us to be part of this project.

The C-K Alumni Band was featured on Armstrong Cable TV over the 4th of July weekend. The local cable channel televised the 2017 Alumni Band Patriotic Concert and the band was excellent, as were vocalists Diane Corns and Dale Capehart. The pandemic has caused the Alumni Band to cancel practice and appearances thus far in 2020, causing us to appreciate even more how fortunate we are to have this organization in Ceredo and Kenova.

The band, now permanently

housed in the former elementary school, is a true treasure and the New Crescent salutes all the faithful members that have provided us with excellent music for many years.

Thanks to our residents for exercising common sense and safe practices while setting-off fireworks on Independence Day. The practice of celebrating the holiday with fireworks is nearly as old as the country, and while it is an appropriate display it is also a dangerous activity. Our Volunteer Fire Department is very helpful in providing safety tips to local residents. Any year that we get through the holiday with no injuries and no fires is a good year.

The Cemetery Board is working hard to make our cemetery, Crescent Hill, a fully decorated member of the Wreaths Across America campaign. Working in conjunction with the Gold Star Mothers, our Board is attempting to raise approximately \$1,700 in

order to buy 170 wreaths for placement on the graves of military veterans interred at Crescent Hill. A donation of \$10 is a small sacrifice for each of us to make in honor of those that sacrificed much more for us. Please consider donating so that we can fully decorate our veteran's graves this year.

A number of the older graves at Crescent Hill were moved during construction of I-64, but the Board is attempting to identify the oldest veteran buried at our cemetery. It is doubtful that they will be able to identify anyone that served during the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812, but there is some certainty that a few Civil War veterans are interred in Ceredo.

In the ten months since its re-opening in October, 2019, the Ramsdell House has received in excess of 2,000 visitors, a number that surpasses our expectations. Groups from as far as Cincinnati have visited, along with several authors doing research

for Underground Railroad books and articles. Thanks to curator Debbie Wolfe and her staff of volunteer docents that have worked hard to make the Ramsdell a regional attraction.

Along with our increased number of walkers and bikers during the pandemic we have also noticed an increase in the number of locals fishing in both Twelve Pole Creek and the Ohio River. There was a time when river access was easy and a number of local anglers could be found on the river bank about every summer evening. Increased barge traffic and posted access points have nearly eliminated bank fishing along the Ohio in Ceredo, but a few locals appear to have found a legal place to catch catfish.

As for the walkers and bicyclists, on a recent Saturday a total of 124 bikers and 42 walkers were counted on B Street. As bad as the pandemic is, it has at least caused us to turn to outdoor exercise, not a bad thing for any of us.

CHARACTERS OF CEREDO

Ozzie Hawes, Columnist

EDITOR'S NOTE: There was a time in America when every small burg had a handful of "characters," people that marched to the beat of a different drummer, lived life their way, and had no desire to conform to societal expectations. From every social, financial, and political class, these characters could bring a smile to your face, cause you to shake your head in wonderment, and often make those living in the social norm to vicariously enjoy the personal freedoms expressed by a character. Ceredo has had its share.

Unfortunately, characters are a vanishing breed. Perhaps because characters stood out in situations of social interaction, and today we have become a Facebook, Twitter, and cell phone society where social interaction is less valued and less used, we just don't see the characters. It's safe to say that none of the characters of Ceredo would have had much use for social tools, preferring to exhibit their traits in a brutally honest, "what you see is what I am" fashion.

This is another column in a series about the characters of Ceredo, hoping to create a record of their existence and an appreciation for the drummer, whatever his beat may be.

To say that Jimmy Hardin was unique would be an understatement. Jimmy was born in the 1920's with a vision defect that left him legally blind, but as he went through life Jimmy actually saw more than most of us with 20-20 vision see. A son of the late George and Della Mae Hardin and twin brother to late Ceredo sports legend Jack Hardin, Jimmy spent his entire life on B Street, with visions of what the world, and especially Cincinnati, must be like.

Although his start to formal education was delayed by his eyesight, Jimmy did attend Ceredo Elementary and with some vision aids he remarkably progressed very well. While his eyes may have had a problem, there was absolutely nothing wrong with Jimmy's intellect. Following his school years, Jimmy went to work at Leonard Hensley's Ceredo Cab Company as a dispatcher.

Ceredo Cab was located beside the Ceredo Pool Room, and through proximity to



Jimmy Hardin

that fine establishment Jimmy became a lifelong fan of the Cincinnati Reds, shooting pool, and confiscated wine from the evidence room. It is safe to say that Jimmy listened to nearly every Reds game on the radio between 1950 his death in 2002. Most summers, Jimmy would find a way to attend at least one Reds game, and those days were among some of his best.

When the cab company closed in the 1950's, Jimmy took employment at Town Hall, working there until shortly before his final illness. In addition to janitorial work, Jimmy was in charge of picking-up mail each morning and walking the daily deposits to the Ceredo Bank. If ever there is a need to describe just what type of man Jimmy was, or what type of town Ceredo was, the fact that a legally blind man was entrusted to walk thousands of dollars to the bank each day, and that there was never one issue, should pretty well sum it up.

Jimmy's passion for the Reds was followed by his passion for boxing, particularly the Golden Gloves. Twin brother Jack, being a reporter for the Herald-Dispatch, was able to get Jimmy a front-row ringside seat for the annual tournament, and Jim never missed a fight. Although he was unable to clearly see the combatants, Jimmy made do and enjoyed the aura of being in attendance and having his many acquaintances stop to chat each year.

For many years Jimmy was able to ride a bicycle, somehow dodging cars parked along B

Street on his way to Town Hall and waving at drivers giving him the courtesy of a wide lane of travel. In addition to his other duties at Town Hall, Jimmy was the unofficial caretaker of the "town dog," a brown mut adopted at various times by the police, fire, and street departments. Given the appropriate name of "Brown Dog," the canine faithfully waited outside the Hardin home each morning to join Jimmy on his trek to work, and a sure way to locate Jimmy during the day was to look on the sidewalk in front of the Party Shop, Pool Room, Copley's Grocery, or the bank. Brown Dog walked with Jimmy and waited on the sidewalk at hid various stops.

We should also remember Jimmy as a talented musician with a strong taste for country music. Jimmy played the accordion and harmonica, and performed at several town reunions.

The life and times of Jimmy Hardin can't be fully told without remembering that he was a faithful member of the Ceredo Congregational Church, attending services every Sunday and being the official bell ringer, signaling the town that services were about to begin. It is of note that, by his wish, Jimmy's funeral procession went by the Congregational Church, where the bell was tolling, and by Town Hall, where he spent a good portion of his adult life.

Ceredo has been blessed with a number of good men, many of whom were characters in their own right. Jimmy Hardin fits both categories, as he was as fine a person as ever walked our streets, and he lived life his way. A true character of Ceredo and a Son of Ceredo, he left us with the memory of how a fellow dealt a bad hand at birth didn't simply give up. Through his personal effort Jimmy Hardin lived a good, full life and we are fortunate that he lived it in Ceredo.

CIVIL WAR MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT'S TOMBSTONE INSTALLED AT RAMSDELL HOUSE

The Town of Ceredo and the Ramsdell House received an extraordinary honor with the gift and installation of the original grave marker of one of the first recipients of the (Congressional) Medal of Honor, James Calvin Summers of The 4th West Virginia Infantry of the U.S. Army. Born in Elk River (Charleston), (West) Virginia on February 14th, 1838, Summers served as a Private in Company H of the 4th West Virginia Infantry in the Union Army. He received his Medal of Honor for Valor at the Battle of Vicksburg (Mississippi) on May 22nd, 1863. His Medal of Honor citation reads, for "Gallantry in charge of the 'volunteer storming party'". Summers died on May 9, 1927 at the age of 89, although his date of death is not on his original memorial. He was initially buried in northern Kanawha County near his birthplace. Woody Williams, recipient of the Medal of Honor at Iwo Jima, got wind of Summers' resting place and arranged to have Summers' body moved to the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery in Institute, Kanawha County, West Virginia where it was interred with military honors with a "Medal of Honor" grave marker. Williams founded and oversees The Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, responsible for establishing Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments across the United States to recognize the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. After moving Summers' remains, Williams was left with a quandary: What to do with Summers' original tombstone?



Hershel Woodrow "Woody" Williams posing by the Summers Monument at the Ramsdell House

A speaker at the Ramsdell House opening and return visitor thereafter, Woody offered the monument to the director of The Ramsdell House Civil War Home Museum, to stand in remembrance of all of those who served in the Civil War. At the opening, the home was referred to as "A Beacon of Hope", a label which was accurate in 1858 and which remains relevant today. Pat Reger of Reger Funeral Homes made the arrangements and the monument was delivered and installed at the Ramsdell House on July 2, 2020 by Tri-State Wilbert Vault Company. The Town of Ceredo and the Ramsdell House are extremely proud of this sacred honor to represent any and all who served during the Civil War and all who continue to serve in the name of freedom. The monument is placed directly behind the house in the center of a small garden of yellow roses.

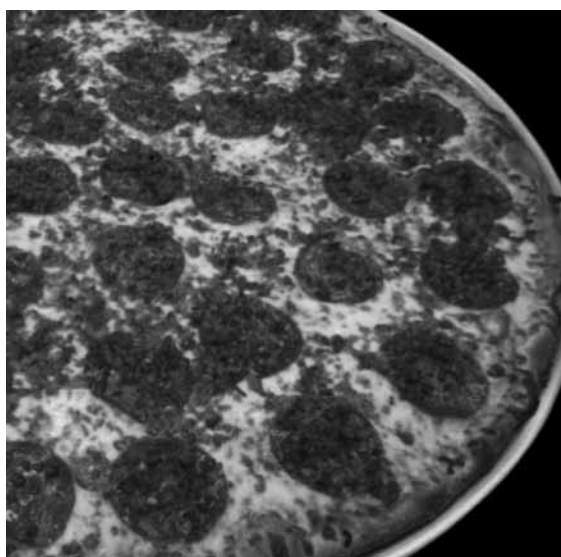
Ceredo's history of service and its' extraordinary and ever-growing collection of historic homes, museums, churches and monuments, along with the town's commitment to preserving them, makes Ceredo an important site for history buffs. The Ceredo Historical Society Museum on Main Street is a good place to start a historic tour, and they are open on Tuesdays and Fridays. Free tours of The Ramsdell House are offered every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., and are available on other days by appointment by calling: 304-908-9696.



Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient's original tombstone



Summers current Medal of Honor marker at Donel C. Memorial Veterans Cemetery



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