



## Widow accepts Medal of Honor

By Amanda Miller  
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President Barack Obama honored Jack Weinstein, who was a resident of St. Francis, with the nation's highest honor in one of the largest Medal of Honor ceremonies in history. Cheyenne County resident Nancy Weinstein was invited to Washington, D.C. to accept the Medal of Honor on behalf of her late husband.

Nancy went with her daughter Judy, son Randy, Cindy Fiedler, Arlene Walz and Arlene's daughters Jana Wilhelm and Marta Walz to Washington, D.C. She and Judy flew out on March 16. When she arrived, there was an escort waiting for her at the airport to take her to her hotel, the Sheraton at Pentagon City. Nancy said she could look out her window and see the Pentagon and the memorial from when a plane struck the building on 9/11.

On March 18, she got to meet President Obama as she was presented with the prestigious award on behalf of Jack. Nancy said that the White House was "like a museum," with paintings, antique furniture and elegant decorations. She was led into the Oval Office, where she met the President.

"It was awesome. He is such a compassionate, caring person," she said. "And he treated us as though we were the same status." She said the President gave everyone hugs.

As she accepted the medal on behalf of Jack, the President held her hand. She said this made her feel at ease, as the entire day was overwhelming.

"The entire trip was like I was walking in a dream. I haven't really come out of it yet."

On March 19 she visited the Pentagon, where she was presented the Medal of Honor Flag by Secretary of Army John McHugh.

She said the Pentagon was like

a city, completely self-sufficient.

"It was really something to see," Nancy said.

Nancy said she was proud to accept the medal for her husband of 54 years. The two were close, and they had met before he was drafted into the Army.

She met him when she was 16. Nancy was living in her hometown of Lamar, Mo. Jack's parents had moved to a farm outside of Lamar, so he was living there as well.

She saw him from across the room at a dance one night. The very next night, he drove her home from the skating rink. They dated from then on.

Jack Weinstein was drafted into the Army in 1950. He was a Cheyenne County native, but was living in Lamar when he was drafted. He completed his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood. He was then shipped to Korea on April 24, where he spent the next one and a half years.

Jack was trained in the 21st Infantry Regiment, Company G of the 24th Division. According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History, the 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Division, was the first fighting unit deployed to Korea at the start of hostilities when North Korean forces invaded South Korea. The 24th Division fought the first battle of the Korean War at Osan, South Korea.

On Oct. 19, 1951, Sergeant Weinstein was a member of the platoon which had just secured a strategic hill position from the enemy in the vicinity of Kumson, Korea. However, the enemy immediately launched a fierce counterattack against the platoon. His unit "was hit," according to the regimental report, "by a fierce counterattack by about 30 fanatical Chinese Communist troops."

Most of the members of the platoon had been wounded in the previous action and withdrew under the heavy attack.



**NANCY WEINSTEIN accepts the Medal of Honor on behalf of her late husband, Jack. The Medal of Honor was presented by President Barack Obama at a ceremony held March 18 in Washington, D.C. Photo by U.S. Army photo by Leroy Council/Released**

Sergeant Weinstein saw that it was necessary to withdraw the men but, in order for them to withdraw, there would need to be cover for them. Sergeant Weinstein volunteered to stay, firing on the enemy.

After killing six men, he was out of ammunition and was injured. Instead of leaving, he started gathering enemy grenades which lay round him and threw them at the enemy. Alone and unaided he held the ground his

platoon had fought hard to take.

The enemy suffered many casualties. On a broken leg, and against overwhelming odds, he held out until friendly forces were able to move in and the enemy was driven back again.

"He was doing it for his guys under him," Nancy explained.

His outstanding courage and complete disregard for his own life was an inspiration to his comrades. It was this act of

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## Students perform at annual recital

The St. Francis Community High School music department will present a spring concert/recital at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, in the high school cafeteria.

Band, vocal, and advanced music will each present a few selections, with the rest of the program devoted to soloists who are preparing for Regional Music Festival held the following Saturday in Oberlin.

Soloists scheduled to perform on Thursday are: Jenna Confer - clarinet and vocal; Katie Schmid - vocal; Bailey Merklin - vocal; Kattie Jenik - flute; Wade Jones - violin; Sydney Sundstrom - trumpet; Hannah Wolff - snare drum; and Taryn Zwegardt - vocal. All students are directed and accompanied by Debbie Fiala.

There is no admission charge for the concert, and the public is encouraged to attend and enjoy the music and the refreshments made by the culinary arts class following the program.



**HANNAH WOLFF performed at a recent production. Hannah will be playing at the recital**



**MILA BANDEL, county health nurse, goes over the vital signs checkup with Bud Houtman. Every week, Mrs. Bandel is there for residents coming to the Senior Center in St. Francis.**

Herald staff photo by Amanda Miller

## July 4th events planned in Sainty

By Amanda Miller  
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Some Saint Francis residents are trying to get a 4th of July fireworks celebration together to hold here in town.

John and Anita Amack, along with Ed and A.J. Marin, Cynthia Poling and Gilbert Sherlock have grouped together to generate interest in the idea of a fireworks show. Hilt's Fireworks is planning to hold the show in the Parkhill parking lot on July 4th.

They will need donations from the community to provide the show, but said that many people have approached them hoping to keep a show in St. Francis.

"A lot of people want to keep it here," said Anita Amack.

She said the group was also interested in hearing ideas for things to do throughout the day from people as well. They were looking at possibly doing games and other fun events. If you have any ideas for activities you would like to do for that evening, please contact the Amacks, Marins, Cynthia Poling or Gilbert Sherlock.

If you are interested in donating to the St. Francis fireworks show, Heartland HVAC, Electrical and Plumbing, Poling Chiropractic and Parkhill are all taking the donations. Please make checks payable to St. Francis Fireworks Show. Cynthia Poling and A.J. Marin will be in charge on the donations.

## Farmers, ranchers recognized this week

National Agriculture Week is being celebrated March 23 through 29 across America, recognizing America's farmers and ranchers who work to provide food for our families both at home and around the world.

Here in Kansas, a person probably does not have to think very long before a hard-working ag producer comes to mind. Perhaps it is a grandparent, an uncle, or maybe even a friend.

The theme this year is "Agriculture: 365 Sunrises and 7

Billion Mouths to Feed." Farmers not only produce food, fiber and fuel, but they also contribute to a strong economy. The total impact of agriculture and agribusinesses account for 20 percent of the states economy, according to Kansas Inc.

The role of farmers will become even more critical, with the exploding world population. We reached 7 billion people in 2011. The United Nations forecasts that world population will reach 9 billion by 2050 - and that farmers will have to produce 70 percent

more food than they do today.

Today, you, me, and 155 other people ate because of one American farmer. This is an increase of 800 percent over the past 73 years, according to Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership. In 1940, each farmer produced enough food to feed 19 people.

Agriculture is this nation's #1 export, and vitally important in sustaining a healthy economy.

And it's not just the farmer who makes our food possible. The entire agriculture industries, all the

way to the grocery store, are vital links in a chain that brings food to every citizen - and millions of people abroad.

Farms of every size are important today, whether they are just feeding their families or the entire world. In fact, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, 25 percent of farms have an average of 55 acres and sales of less than \$2,500.

Agriculture week is a great time to reflect, and be grateful for, American agriculture. It is a

nationwide effort to tell the true story of American agriculture and remind everyone that agriculture is a part of all of us.

Be part of America's Agriculture, if even just for one day. Take a drive in the country with your family. There's no prettier green than winter wheat fields waking from winter dormancy. And wave if you see a farmer. I guarantee they'll wave back.

For more information, please visit [www.agday.org](http://www.agday.org)