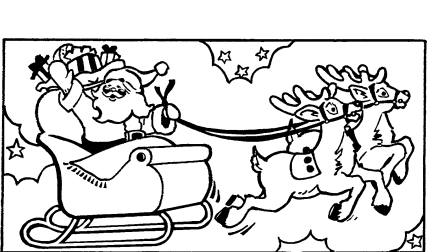
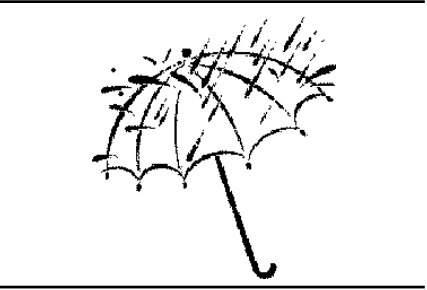
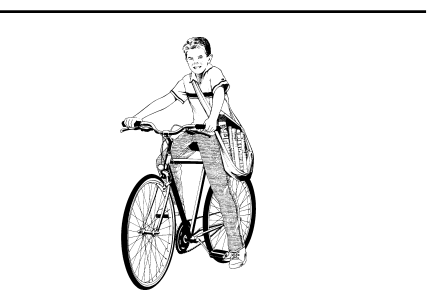


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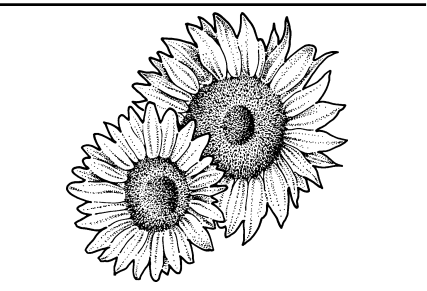
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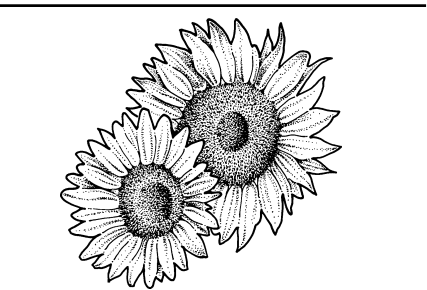


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Blue Star Banners recognize families of men and women in the military



Milton and Twila Murray with their two star banner for two of their grandsons, Cory and Jeremy Murray in the Marines.

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

For the fourth year, the Goodland Elks Lodge honored families who have members serving on active duty in the military with a Blue Star Banner Program on Sunday, Dec. 4.

The lodge gave 15 banners to families of 11 servicemen, bringing the total given here to 84.

Banners went to the families of:

- Specialist Nick Beneda, with the Army at Fort Gordon, Ga. His mother is Natalie Konstadinids of Woodstock, Ga., and his grandparents are Tom and Mary Jane Sponsel of Edson.
- Specialist Sean Bryant, with the Army at Fort Stewart, Ga. His grandparents are Duane and Judy Headley of Brewster.
- First Lt. Nathan G. Craig, with the Army National Guard at Camp Cedar, Iraq. His parents are Gregory and Debra Craig Goodland.
- Staff Sgt. Chris English, with the Army National Guard, 170th Maintenance Co., in Iraq. His wife is Jennifer English of Stratton, Colo.
- 1st Lt. Jeremy Evert, with the Air Force at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City. His parents are Dave and Sheryl Evert, Brewster.
- Seaman Apprentice Jeremy J. Gould, with the Navy on the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz. His parents are Tina and Jon Anderson of Goodland and his grandparents are Jay and Nancy Dahl of Rexford.
- Petty Officer 2nd Class Brent Like, with the Navy on the ballistic missile submarine USS Pennsylvania in Silverdale, Wash. His father is Paul Like and his grandparents are Max and Irene Muller, all of Wray, Colo.

Ed Schulte, Exalted Ruler of the Elks, and Isabelle Hellerud, who has a grandson, Jake Shearer in the Marines in Iraq.

- Cpl. Cory J. Murray, on active duty with the Marines at Marine Air Station, Buford, S.C., and his brother,
 - Sgt. Jeremy C. Murray, on active duty with the Marines at Marine Air Station, Al Asad, Iraq. Their father is Roger Murray, Garden City, and their grandparents are Milton and Twila Murray, St. Francis.
 - Lance Cpl. Jake D. Shearer, on the active duty with the Marines in Iraq. His grandmother is Isabel Hellerud of Goodland.
 - Petty Officer 3rd Class Bradley Paul Showalter, with the Navy on the guided missile destroyer USS Kidd. His mother is Lora Showalter, Garden City, and his grandfather is LeRoy Rupp of Goodland.
- Members of the 170th Maintenance Company of the Kansas Army National Guard presented the colors. Exalted Ruler Ed Schulte welcomed the audience and Walt Linthacum, Special Deputy to the

Grand Exalted Ruler for the State of Kansas, was the master of ceremonies and gave the Elks tribute to the flag.

Dick Leiss said he really wanted to remind people that military service is a family affair and we sometimes forget that. Families make sacrifices too and they should be honored too. Janet Redlin provided patriotic music.

Schulte presented the families with their banners. The Murrays got two-star banners.

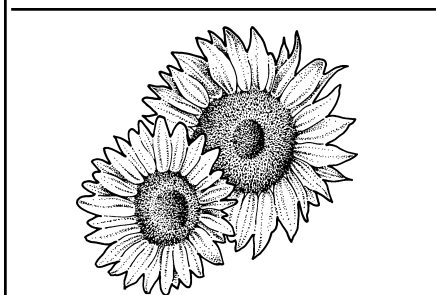
Robert Queissner, a captain in the Army, designed the banner in 1917 for his two sons serving on the front lines in France during World War I., said Ron Barkley, Elks Americanism chairman. It has become the symbol of having a member of the family in the service.

The banners are usually displayed in the front window of a home. The most stars a banner can have is five. Any more requires a second banner.



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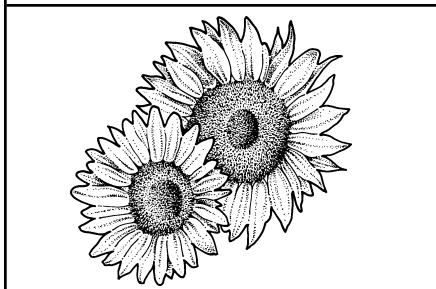
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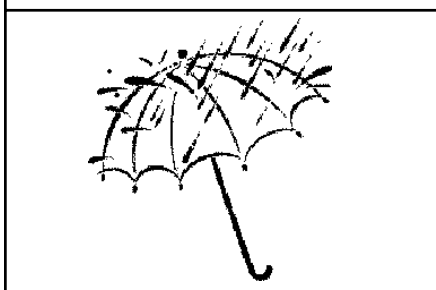
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