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# Parade, award ceremony pay tribute to veterans

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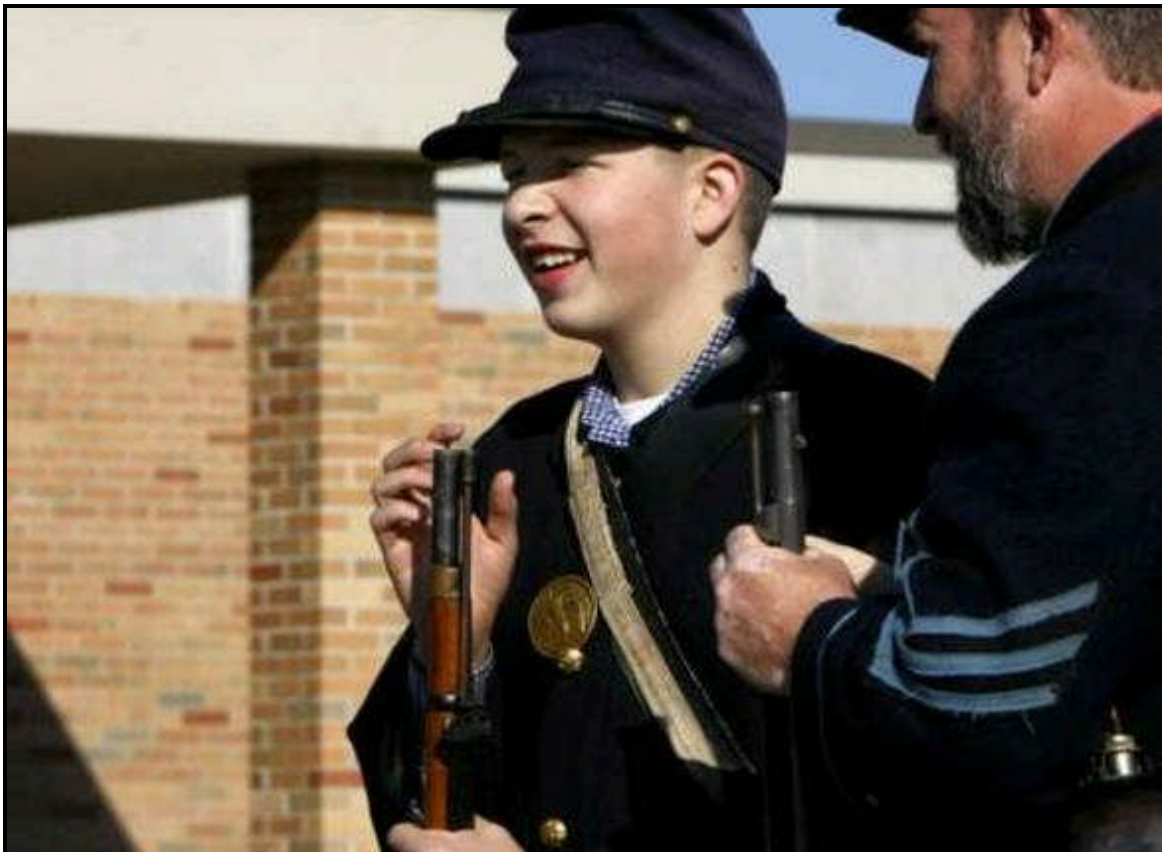
One would think not much would surprise Mack Bates after 92 years of life and being injured twice while serving in World War II. But the Lansing man, an Army veteran, said he was caught off-guard Saturday when he was handed a certificate honoring his service during an annual Veterans Day Tribute in Lansing.

"It's a surprise to me," said Bates, who also has received two Purple Hearts. "I appreciate it," he said.

Veterans and their supporters gathered at Lansing's Don Johnson Fieldhouse to honor those who have served in the military. Bates said he was 22 years old when he joined the service in 1939 and worked mostly as a radio operator. "Mr. Bates is very, very active in the Purple Hearts community," said Alfreda Schmidt, 83, of Lansing.

Schmidt watched intently for a picture of her husband, Frank, to appear in a slide show honoring area veterans. He served in World War II in the Army, she said. Kim Milton, who sang Saturday with the Ingham County Diversity Choir, said it was "touching" to be a part of the ceremony because her 20-year-old daughter Jamie Jones enlisted in the Army about a year ago. "She is supposed to go over to Afghanistan next year," said the 39-year-old Lansing woman. "When you have a daughter serving the country for your freedom ... it certainly makes you proud."

A Veterans Day parade took place in Mason on Saturday afternoon. Parade organizers said 85 units of about 10 to 20 people each were to participate in the parade. "I think it's important for everybody to participate in, and support our troops and veterans," said Keith Pokrefky, a 49-year-old Holt man, as he walked alongside the parade. He served in the Navy from 1982 to 1995



VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARADE IN MASON Matthew Dae Smith | for LSJ

Ian Searles, (L.), 15, of Grand Ledge prepares for Mason's Veteran's Memorial Parade with his father Craig Saturday afternoon. Ian has been doing Civil War reenactments since he was six months old



**VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARADE IN MASON** Matthew Dae Smith | for LSJ.

Jim MacKinnon (l.) prepares for his role as a WW I soldier for Mason's Veteran's Memorial Parade, while Ian Searles, 15, and his father Craig, both of Grand Ledge costume up as Civil War soldiers



**VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARADE IN MASON** Matthew Dae Smith | for LSJ

Soldiers from the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War , Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States march with Mason's Middle school Civil War Fife and Drum Corps fin Mason's Veteran's Memorial Parade Saturday afternoon





**VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARADE IN MASON** Matthew Dae Smith | for LSJ  
US Armed Forces Veterans march in the Veteran's Memorial Parade Saturday afternoon in Mason



**VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARADE IN MASON** Matthew Dae Smith | for LSJ  
Jim Smalley, of Fenwick takes a solemn moment to view a memorial in front of the old courthouse in Mason after the Veteran's Memorial Parade Saturday afternoon. Smalley grew up in Mason, and served in the US Army during Vietnam.



