



THOMASVILLE TIMES

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LEGAL MINDS

Brier Creek Elementary student invited to attend 'Law Day' at state capital in Raleigh.
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Famed image etched in vet's mind

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

Six soldiers raising the American flag atop a hill on a small island in the Pacific Ocean in the final months of World War II. The image would find itself on stamps and posters, and renditions of the photograph taken on Feb. 23, 1945, at the top of Mt. Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima continue to conjure up memories and emotions more than 60 years later.

For Thomasville's Charles Cline, the image is still hard to talk about

without breaking out in tears. Cline stood aboard the U.S.S. Auburn that day, watching the flag go up from the bow of his battleship, not far from the surf where 5,000 Americans died during the initial 24 hours of the 35-day campaign aimed to root the Japanese from their Pacific Ocean stronghold. Victory at Iwo Jima marked another step toward an Allied victory and an end to the bloody war to end all wars.

"I never told a soul this till last year," Cline said. "I got so fed up with all the Bush-bashing concerning the war. I saw them raise

the flag at Suribachi. I went on 12 o'clock. They did sometime after lunch and we had a long glass we could look through for other flagmen. I turned it up on Suribachi and they were raising the flag. I wouldn't tell people that because they would think I was full of bull. It's the honest truth. They raised two flags. The second one was bigger and that's the one I saw."

It's hard for Cline to look back at those days without remembering the sacrifice of so many young men. He spent his days aboard the



TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

Charles Cline holds a picture of himself from his time in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

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TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

From left, Pam Cooper, Jody Jackson and Chan Baker of CV Products and Xceldyne Technologies help pack backpacks for local school children to have on weekends during the summer months.

Pack a Lunch

CV Products, Communities In Schools join to provide weekend meals to underprivileged children

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

CV Products and Communities In Schools of Thomasville are forming a partnership to help low-income students on free or reduced lunches eat healthy meals during the weekend. Extending a program that started at Thomasville Primary School, CV Products and CIS of Thomasville are providing needy students at Liberty Drive Elementary with a carepack full of food to last them through the weekend when school is out. CV Products, a Thomasville-based company that distributes racing parts and accessories, is hoping other companies will join

'When a child comes up in a community that cares, that child will care about the community.'

— JUDY YOUNTS
Communities In Schools

in and help out the nine out of 10 Thomasville City Schools' students who receive free or reduced lunches. "That was astonishing to me that 90 percent of the students in the city schools are on free or reduced lunch right here," Melissa Black-

well, a marketing communications specialist with CV Products, said. "We would like for this to be a focus for a call to action. We're not asking for contributions. CV Products wants to issue a challenge to other companies in the community to get involved." Employees of CV Products and Xceldyne Technologies, a sister company that also is headquartered at 42 high Tech Boulevard, have been bringing in food for the program, as well as donating money through payroll deductions. Every Thursday, volunteers sort out the donated food items and fill up customized backpacks to be handed out Friday afternoon. CV Products

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MARKED IN HISTORY

City Cemetery a marker to town's past, compassion

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

It was an era that tore the country in half, pitting father against son, neighbor against neighbor. Friends became enemies, and the great ideals that first united Americans seemed on the brink of destruction.

But in the quiet town of Thomasville, at least by the war's end, friend and foe alike were treated in local hospitals and buried side by side.

Coming up on its 150th anniversary, the Thomasville City Cemetery is the only known cemetery with Confederate and Union soldiers buried together in a common grave. Of the 36 soldiers buried there, 28 are Confederate soldiers, four Union soldiers and four unknown soldiers.

"It's pretty rare for that time," said Bill Colonna of the Thomasville Historic Preservation Commission. "They were enemies to the nth degree, and to be buried side by side shows that it's significant."

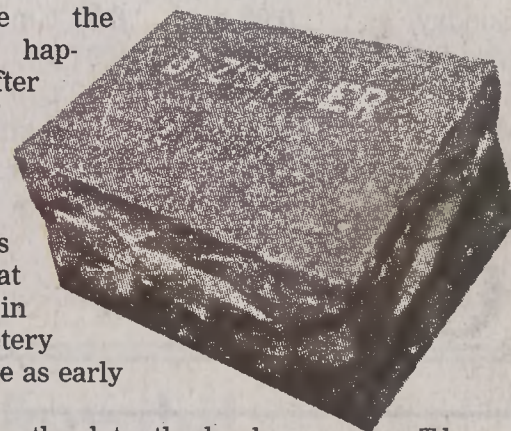
The City Cemetery began when city founder John W. Thomas donated property for use as a cemetery. Some accounts say that this transfer of land occurred in 1860, and some historians

conjecture the donation happened after Thomas' death in 1871, but other stories say that burials in the cemetery were made as early as 1855.

Whatever the date, the land Thomas donated became known as Willow Branch Cemetery North and South. In 1924, the cemetery was taken over by the City of Thomasville and renamed City Cemetery.

Thomas, his wife, and several of his children are buried in the cemetery, along with a number of Thomasville's other early prominent figures.

But what sets the grave-site apart from others of its kind is the Civil War soldiers buried there. Union and Confederate soldiers wounded in the battle of Bentonville, who were treated — and ul-



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