

## UMBT Park and Recreation Honoring All Veterans Who Served

By Michael Ortoski / John Birmingham - UMBT Supervisor

UMBT - Last week the UMBT Park and Rec held an event at their community park to honor all veterans who served this great country. Part of the ceremony was to collect donations for the Slate Belt Veterans Assoc. (SBVA) who are building a 32 unit complex in Bangor borough to house disabled veterans and their families.

Toni Lynch SBVA board member gave a speech detailing the complex that will be built with state-of-the-art components located on 4th st. in Bangor. Food trucks, beverages, vendors, music and fireworks were all part of the event.

Pastor Dan Christenson led off with a prayer and some honoring of veterans from around the Slate Belt. John Birmingham - UMBT Supervisor was next on stage "It is an honor to be here today as we show our gratitude and thank all the Veterans for their service. Thank you Veterans. The reason we live in the greatest country in the world is because of our Veterans who protected our while serving and those currently in the military who continue to make sure our freedom remains protected. You are our heroes and we are blessed to live in America and blessed to have these men and women here today who did put their lives on the line to defend our freedom. We also thank those, and we will never forget, those who made the ultimate sacrifice" said Birmingham.

**Parts of Birmingham speech:** Tonight I am here to first honor Donald Jones. Donald

served three years in the US Army during WWII with the Military Police in the European Theater and with the 780th Amphibious Tank Battalion in the Pacific Theater of Operations. He was married to his lovely wife Ruby who passed away in 2004.

Donald was a resident of Bangor and a 1940 graduate of Bangor High School. After graduating high school in 1940, December 7, 1941, saw the attack on the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii. Donald was soon drafted by the U.S. Army and he was proud to serve along with many of his friends who joined the military as well. After basic training, Donald got on the Queen Elizabeth and went overseas. In 1944, he landed in Normandy to secure the tunnels in France in which the tunnels were frequently attacked while carrying supplies on trains. As the German Troops got closer and closer to France, Donald soon began taking charge of holding German soldiers as prisoners. At one point Donald was one of a few U.S. soldiers watching over 20,000 German prisoners during WWII.

After the Atomic Bombs were dropped and the War ended, Donald returned home to his Mom and his Dad and as he said, after three years in the Army during WWII, opening my front door with my Mom and Dad there waiting for me, hugging me and being inside my warm home for the first time in three years was "as good as it gets." As he further claimed, "it was like a feeling you can never imagine. I was home after serving."

Donald went on and attended Churchman's Business College. He was employed as a Supervisor of

Dying and Finishing at the former Blue Ridge Winkler Textiles in Bangor, for 30 years until he retired. Donald stayed active with the American Legion and the VFW after being honorably discharged. On September 18, 2023 Donald passed away at 101 years old. His family came up to accept this Upper Mount Bethel Resolution recognizing his service to our country.

Donald Jones is a hero and I thank him and his family for their service.

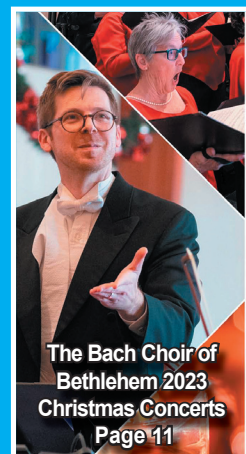
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Bangor Womens Club  
Gfwc Holiday Sale  
Page 12



New movie filming  
at Historic Hotel  
Bethlehem  
Page 19



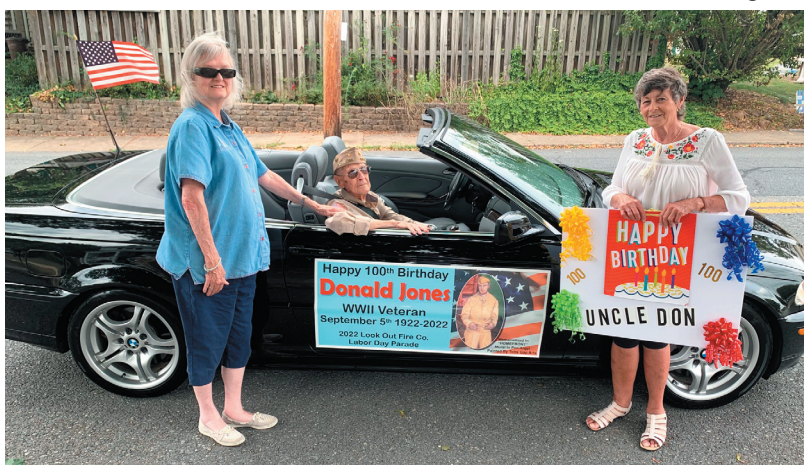
The Bach Choir of  
Bethlehem 2023  
Christmas Concerts  
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Senator Boscola Ap-  
plauds Advancing Bald  
Eagle Protection Bill  
Page 7



Donald Jones at the ground breaking  
ceremony for Slate Belt Veteran As-  
soc. 32 unit complex in Bangor in 22'



L-R Linda Milligan and Joan Uliana the Nieces of Donald Jones. Donald was the  
Grand Marshall in 2022 Look Out Fire Co. parade on the day of his 100 birthday.

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