Rolla-Richfield-Dermot

by Phoebe Brummett

A diploma 60 years in the making: Rolla honors Vietnam Veteran Tom Myers

Please join us Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. in the Rolla Pirate Arena (new) Gym as we honor the life, service and legacy of Thomas "Tom" Myers (December 19, 1948 – July 6, 2021), a decorated U.S. Army Vietnam War Veteran and recipient of the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Through the State of Kansas Operation Recognition Program, Tom will posthumously receive the high school diploma he left behind when he answered his nation's call to serve.

We invite you to join us in recognizing Tom's extraordinary military service, his dedication to his family and community, and the lasting legacy he leaves in Morton County and Southwest Kansas.

Attention all Veterans: We would be honored to have you attend this special program. To help us plan and ensure we are prepared to recognize all Veterans in attendance, please notify Randy Rockhold at rrockhold@usd217.org if you plan to attend. Your notification should include your name, branch of service, and years served.

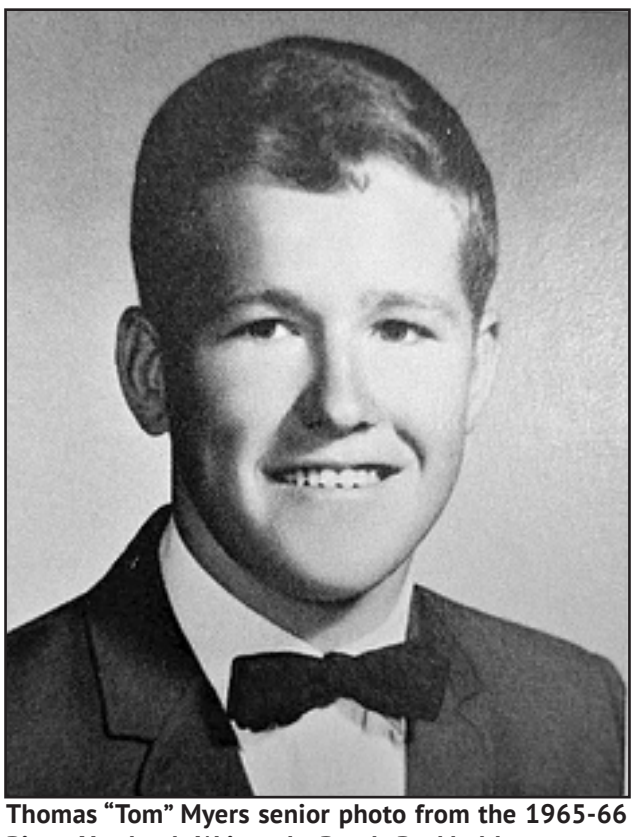
Let us come together to honor Tom's sacrifice, celebrate his life and express our gratitude to all who have served our country.

We look forward to honoring our Veterans and remembering Thomas "Tom" Myers together.

Thomas "Tom" Myers
December 19, 1948 - July 6, 2021
United States Army Vietnam War Veteran | Silver Star and Purple Heart Recipient

Thomas "Tom" Myers was a highly decorated United States Army Veteran, devoted family man, and respected community leader whose life reflected an enduring commitment to service, sacrifice, and the people of Southwest Kansas.

Born in Elkhart and raised on his family's farm near Richfield, Tom had deep roots in Morton County, with family ties extending to some of the area's founding families. He attended Rolla High School, where he participated in athletics and the school band as a tuba player. In 1966, before completing his high school education, Tom was drafted into the United States Army to serve during the Vietnam War.



Thomas "Tom" Myers senior photo from the 1965-66 Pirate Yearbook. Written by Randy Rockhold.

Following his induction, Tom completed basic training and infantry school at Fort Benning, Georgia. During this period, he experienced the personal loss of his father, Carl Myers. Tom subsequently deployed to Vietnam, where he served multiple tours during one of the most challenging periods in American military history. His distinguished service earned him numerous military honors, including the Silver Star, multiple Purple Hearts, and various unit citations. Upon returning to the United States, he continued serving his country as an infantry instructor at Fort Benning.

Following his military career, Tom worked in the oil industry in Montana, Wyoming and Alaska before returning to Southwest Kansas in the mid-1970s. While attending Seward County Community College, where he earned a carpentry degree, he met his future wife, Vickie Wares. The couple married, established their home in Liberal, and eventually returned to Morton County, settling permanently in Elkhart.

Tom became a familiar and trusted presence throughout the community through his work for both Morton County and the City of Elkhart. He also operated Tom's Handyman Service, providing assistance to residents who knew they could depend on him whenever help was needed. His dedication extended to numerous civic and service organizations, including the Jaycees, United Methodist Men, the Kiwanis, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Together with Vickie, he was also well known for the Christmas decorations that brought joy to their community.

Remembered for his generosity, humor, kindness, and selfless nature, Tom devoted countless hours to improving the lives of those around him. Although he rarely spoke of his experiences in Vietnam, his military service remained an important part of a life characterized by quiet strength and unwavering dedication to others.

This Veterans Day, the State of Kansas, through its Operation Recognition program, will posthumously award Thomas Myers the Rolla High School diploma he was unable to receive before answering his nation's call to service.

This recognition honors not only his distinguished military career, but also a lifetime of service to his family, his community, and his country. His legacy remains deeply woven into the history and heart of Morton County, where he was proud to call home.

Harvest Festival Costume Parade brings creativity and fun to Rolla

Formerly known as the annual Spook Parade, the Harvest Festival Costume Parade returned with a new name and a refreshed format. Junior high and high school Student Council members teamed up to create a festive atmosphere and a little friendly competition for Rolla students.

The costumes brought plenty of variety, from imaginative, one-of-a-kind creations of counting blocks to classic witches and skeletons. With so many creative looks on display, the parade offered a fun way for students to celebrate the season together. The event was Thursday, October 29 in the old gym with plenty of spectators to enjoy and applaud the students.



Pirates at Satanta L-R Charlotte Wood, Izzy Havens, Cambreya Milburn, Tyson Apelu, Abe Wiebe and Alex Fierro. *Photo courtesy of USD 217 Facebook page.*

Scholars' Bowl finishes third in Satanta

The Rolla High School scholars' bowl team has hit the ground running. They attended a meet in Satanta Monday, October 26. The Mighty Pirates finished third, with a record of 11-3. They played again Tuesday, October 27 at Lakin but did not place in the top tier. Their season will continue as the next match will be November 3 at Southwestern Heights. Best wishes on a successful season, Coach Becky Sohm and the mighty Pirates!

Wild Pirates wrap up inaugural season as Morton County team

The Morton County Wild Pirates traveled to Kiowa County/Greensburg Thursday, October 29, to face the Mavericks, who entered the game with a 7–1 record. Morton County came in at 5–3, but injuries had reduced the team's roster from 22 players to just 12. Playing on their home field, the Mavericks controlled the game and defeated the Wild Pirates 72–0. Despite the difficult circumstances, Morton County fought hard from start to finish.

The combined Rolla-Elkhart team brought players from both schools together for the first time. After neither school had a winning season in the previous year, the Wild Pirates finished their inaugural season with a 5–4 record—a strong achievement for the new collaboration.

Morton County can be proud of the team's effort and progress. With eighth graders joining the roster next season, the Wild Pirates have plenty to build on as they look ahead.

What's for LUNCH?

USD #217 Menu

November 5
B: Breakfast Bar, Cereal, Cantaloupe, Juice
L: Chicken Quesadilla, Tortilla Chips, Corn, Ssalsa, Refried, Beans, Fruit Cocktail
November 9
B: Mini Waffles, Fruit Cocktail, Juice
L: Hamburger, Lettuce, Tomato, Oven Fries, Banana
November 10
B: Pancake, Sausage Patty, Bananas, Juice
L: Chili, Tortilla Chips, Bell Pepper, Peaches, Cinammon Roll
November 11
B: Mini Bagle, Peaches, Juice
L: Chicken Nuggets, Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Salad, Orange
November 12
B: Cinnamon Roll, Cereal, Oranges, Juice,
L: Macaroni & Cheese, Meatballs, Baked Beans, Carrots, Bread, Oranges

Community Calendar

November 5
MS Basketball @ Johnson
November 6
No School
November 9
No 3y/o Pre-K
11am: National Guard Presentation
MS Basketball @ Sublette
6:30 pm BOE Meeting
November 10
4 pm: HS Scholars' Bowl @ Syracuse
November 11
9 am: Science Fair
2:30pm: Veteran's Day Presentation
November 12
9:30 am: Stem Fire Career Assembly
MS Basketball @ Lakin
November 13
No School: Staff Development

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Hugoton Hermes, Thursday, October 29, 2026) 3t

IN THE TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT, STEVENS COUNTY, KANSAS
PROBATE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PAMELA K. FULTON, Deceased.
PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 59

Case No. SV-2026-PR-29
Title to Real Estate Involved

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on October 22, 2026, a Petition was filed in this Court by Gerald D. Fulton, heir of Pamela K. Fulton, deceased, requesting:

Descent be determined on the following described real estate situated in Stevens County, Kansas:

An undivided one-half interest in and to all of the following:

The surface and surface interest, including water rights, in the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section Twenty-five (25), Township Thirty-one (31) South, Range Thirty-eight (38) West of the 6th P.M., less eight (8) acres located in the northwest corner, Stevens County, Kansas;
AND
An undivided one-fourth (1/4th) interest in and to all of the oil, gas and other minerals of whatsoever kind of nature lying in and under or that may be produced from the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section Sixteen (16), Township Thirty-four (34) South, Range Thirty-six (36) West of the 6th P.M., Stevens County, Kansas, together with the right of ingress and egress and the right to use so much of the surface of said land as is reasonably necessary or convenient for the exploration, development, production, storage and transportation of such minerals;
AND
An undivided one-fourth (1/4th) interest in and to all of the oil, gas and other minerals of whatsoever kind of nature lying in and under or that may be produced from the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section Twenty-three (23), Township Thirty-one (31) South, Range Thirty-eight (38) West of the 6th P.M., Stevens County, Kansas, together with the right of ingress and egress and the right to use so much of the surface of said land as is reasonably necessary or convenient for the exploration, development, production, storage and transportation of such minerals;
AND
An undivided one-eighth (1/8th) interest in and to all of the oil, gas and other minerals of whatsoever kind of nature lying in and under or that may be produced from the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section Twenty-two (22), Township Thirty-one (31) South, Range Thirty-eight (38) West of the 6th P.M., Stevens County, Kansas, together with the right of ingress and egress and the right to use so much of the surface of said land as is reasonably necessary or convenient for the exploration, development, production, storage and transportation of such minerals.
EXCEPT AND SUBJECT TO: Surface and mineral interests owned by others as appears of record, and further subject to oil and gas leases, lease modification agreements, unitization agreements, and easements of record, restrictions and rights-of-way, if any, insofar as the same are valid,
and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death, and that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the Family Settlement Agreement.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before December 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in this Court, in the City of Hugoton, Stevens County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course on the Petition.

Gerald D. Fulton, Petitioner

Kelsey A. Ebert, #26437
Larson, Brown & Ebert, P.A.
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(316) 729-0100
Attorney for Petitioner