

# Hundreds turn out to honor Edgecombe County's veterans in multiple ceremonies

A couple of hundred Tarboro citizens turned out on what turned out to be a beautiful Veterans Day 2024 to honor Edgecombe County's and America's veterans in ceremonies held at the Edgecombe County Veterans Memorial, the Edgecombe County Veterans Military Museum, and Edgecombe Community College.

**(More photos from today's ceremonies can be found on our Facebook page at My Tarboro Today.)**

Among those paying their respects was Edgecombe County's oldest living veteran, 98-year-old Irvin "Buck" Price who, as a 17-year-old lied about his age so as to be able to enlist in the Navy.

Just a few months later, Price found himself piloting LST 285 between a supply ship and Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944 — better known to the world as D-Day.

On Monday, as the 49th Pilot Club of Tarboro observance was winding down, Emcee Marcia Cherry spotted Price as he walked up to the outer edge of the crowd.

Cherry pointed Price out to the more than 100 people in attendance, who broke in cheers and applause in recognition.

Following the conclusion of the ceremony, a steady stream of people walked past Price, thanking him for his service and visiting with him, including several members of the Tarboro High School Air Force JROTC color guard, who had just participated in the observance.

Then, about 20 minutes later, the Veteran's Museum observance and brick laying got underway.

Many of the persons who attended the Pilot Club observance either walked the two blocks to the parking lot between Town Hall and the former Colonial Theatre as the sun broke through the morning cloud cover just prior to the noon start.

The Eason Tiney American Legion Post 19 Color Guard presented the colors, followed by the singing of the "Star-Spangled Banner" by Vietnam veteran Johnnie Gray.

Museum board member Marcia Cherry delivered the program, pointing out that the audience was able to gather without the presence of the police or fear of reprisal because of the service and many sacrifices of the men and women who have worn the uniform.

"We are forever in your debt," she told veterans in the audience.

After the names of the 13 individuals honored with memorial bricks were read by Museum President Tom Hayes, Gray sang "God Bless America."

Museum secretary Frances Wright then recognized all veterans in the audience, which was well over 125 persons, and presented them with a pin and handmade thank-you cards, which were made by students at North East Carolina Prep School.

Rev. Clyde Headley of Trinity Baptist Church, himself a veteran and museum volunteer, then thanked the families of all the veterans for their support and delivered the closing prayer before the ceremony closed with the playing of "Taps."

Persons honored with bricks included:

## U.S. Army

Victor M. Cordero  
Samuel Harden  
Brandon Harrell  
Charles E. Johnson  
Tyrone D. Hopkins  
E. W. (Bill) Rogister  
Steven Thibodeau

## U.S. Navy

William Weinstein

## U. S. Air Force

Carlton Adkins  
George O. Moore  
James V. Newton

## U.S. Marines

Henry M. Harrell  
M. Ray Harrell



World War II veteran Irvin "Buck" Price, 98, exchanges a hug with Pilot Club Veterans Day chair Marcia Cherry. (Photo by John H. Walker)

Also at noon, Edgecombe Community College (ECC) held its annual observance. U.S. Army veteran and ECC trustee Kenny Parker shared his experience and the significance of recognizing all veterans, as the keynote speaker.