

JCOIF dedicates fundraiser to others

It will give the proceeds to other local organizations that help veterans

By **RORYE O'CONNOR**

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MT. VERNON — The Jefferson County Operation Iraqi Freedom committee has enough funding for its upcoming year, so it has decided to dedicate its pork

chop fundraiser to three other entities.

JCOIF committee member Joyce Poorman, who is also on the board for the Jefferson County Hall of Honor, said she learned that it, the veterans memorial at

Veterans Park in Mt. Vernon and the veterans memorial in Woodlawn were all in need of funding.

“The Jefferson County Operation Iraqi Freedom, we have enough funds to cover this year, with the

number we have,” she said. “We didn’t want to take away from other organizations needing monies by having our fundraiser.”

Poorman said she hopes supporters of JCOIF will also choose to support the

three veterans organizations though they do not support soldiers in active war zones.

“They’ve also sacrificed,” she said. “We will have the pork chop fundraiser and guide it between those three areas.”

She said the annual pork chop fundraiser usually raises about \$8,000, which usually goes toward \$800 gift cards for PX stores for soldiers in active war zones

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during Christmastime.

All orders are pre-sales, and 10 or more orders can be delivered. The fundraiser is scheduled for Oct. 5.

Poorman said the JCOIF is thankful to the community to supporting its soldiers.

"It's because the community has supported the troops so well that we have the additional money," she said. "We are so grateful that we are able to send our soldiers the cards. That's great that they've been so supportive."

JCOIF committee member David Keen said the committees for the local veterans monuments would like funding to keep the monuments well-kept.

"The veterans monument at Veterans Park is a separate entity though it was built there, and we would like to weed eat and do some things to keep that up in great shape," he said, adding new fencing and

brick are one of the monument committee's goals.

He said the committee in charge of the upkeep of the Woodlawn veterans monument has similar upkeep goals.

There are several people involved in the fundraiser for the Hall of Honor and the veterans monuments, including Carol Burke and Ernie Collins, who Keen said he asked to come on board as committee chairs, and Gary and Doris Stover, who will serve as treasurers for the fundraiser.

Chris Collins, manager at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, said all the credit for the idea goes to Poorman.

"It's wonderful to partner with that group, it's such wonderful work they do," he said. "We don't have a very good avenue to raise funds, so it's great to go into partnership with them and a fundraiser that's well established. We are proud they're letting us be on the team."

Poorman said concerning JCOIF, the organization is now taking names for the PX card program. 7/25/12