

Residents remember veterans

Wood Co. resident remembers fallen uncle

By ADAM WISE
DAILY TRIBUNE STAFF

Betty Lassa remembers when she was about 12 years old and her uncle, 1st Lt. Howard Landry, a member of the Air Force, was home on furlough.

"He came to visit my mom, and he was showing her a picture in his wallet of his girlfriend," said Lassa of Sigel. "I was wanting to see the picture, and he thought I wasn't important enough to show."
When she finally man-

If you would like to contribute a story about a fallen Wood County veteran or help research a veteran's biography, contact Jack Kahoun at 423-3846.

How to help

aged to take a gander at the photo, Landry snatched the wallet back from her hands.

It was the last time she ever saw her uncle. Landry went back overseas where he was later labeled missing in action in the Korean War. Lassa, and her husband, Wallace, believe he died in a plane

crash. More than 50 years later, Betty felt compelled to share her uncle's story as a legacy for the Wood County Veterans Memorial. Others also have completed biographies of local veterans that will become part of the Wood County Memorial, which honors veter-

ans from Wood County who died service-related deaths. Jack Kahoun wrote about his brother, Bob, who died in World War II, and there is also a memorial about 1st. Sgt. John D. Trudell, father to Marion Dietzler, Wisconsin Rapids, and Iola-native Howard Trudell. The author of the Trudell biography is unknown.

"It seemed as if he had been forgotten, since he was missing in action all these years," Betty said of Landry.

Betty wanted to pay tribute to the sacrifice he made.

"He got killed in action; he gave his life, and he has nobody to remember him by," she said. "I thought this was a good opportunity to get his name out there."

This fall, even more legacies will be contributed to the memorial as local schools are expected to incorporate research projects into their curriculum to remember fallen veterans.



CONTRIBUTOR
Howard Landry, a 1st Lt. in the Air Force during the Korean War, is uncle to Betty Lassa.