

The Virden Recorder

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Volume 138 Virden, IL 62690 Wednesday, April 2, 2003 Two sections—22 pages No. 14



Spotlight

Will, the three-year-old son of Drew and Andrea Christopher, shows his patriotic spirit along with Dad during the Thayer rally for the Troops last Thursday. The event, organized by the Thayer Methodist Church and the Village of Thayer, drew a large crowd.

(Staff photo by Phyllis Maynerich)

04-02-03

Terry June speaks to large crowd at Thayer Rally for U.S. Troops

Good evening. I would like to start off by thanking everyone for coming out tonight. I feel that it is very important to demonstrate to our soldiers how grateful we are for their service to our country. The greatest country on earth!

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Terry June. I am a Virden native and currently reside in Virden with my wife Rebecca and our 2 sons, Luke and William. I work at E T Tire and most importantly I am a member of the Thayer United Methodist Church.

I am very honored to be able to speak to you tonight and am proud to tell you that I served in the Army Ordnance Corps for 5 years. I received my commission from the Illinois State University Army ROTC program and completed my Officer

its people were worth risking it all for. That's what military people do, they sacrifice what is in their best interest for what is in the best interest of other Americans. And they don't do it for fame or fortune. They do it because they want to protect the rights and freedoms that this country was founded on for future generations. They do it because they love this country and what it stands for. They do it for you, me and every American... and that is why they are our heroes and that is why we need to show our support for the men and women of our armed services during this time of uncertainty.

I have spoken to you about my military experiences so that you would trust me when I tell you that we have the smartest, best equipped and most dedicated military. And

Basic Course at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. Rebecca and I then spent the next three years serving in Germany. We were then stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Rebecca and I truly enjoyed our military service. I say "our" because a career in the military is more than a job, it is a way of life. Each unit I was assigned to made us feel like we were members of a big family. Rebecca loved it, as she knows a lot about big families. We always looked forward to attending the various military functions that were held and Rebecca was always uplifted after attending a support group meeting. We both were grateful anytime we received something from home.

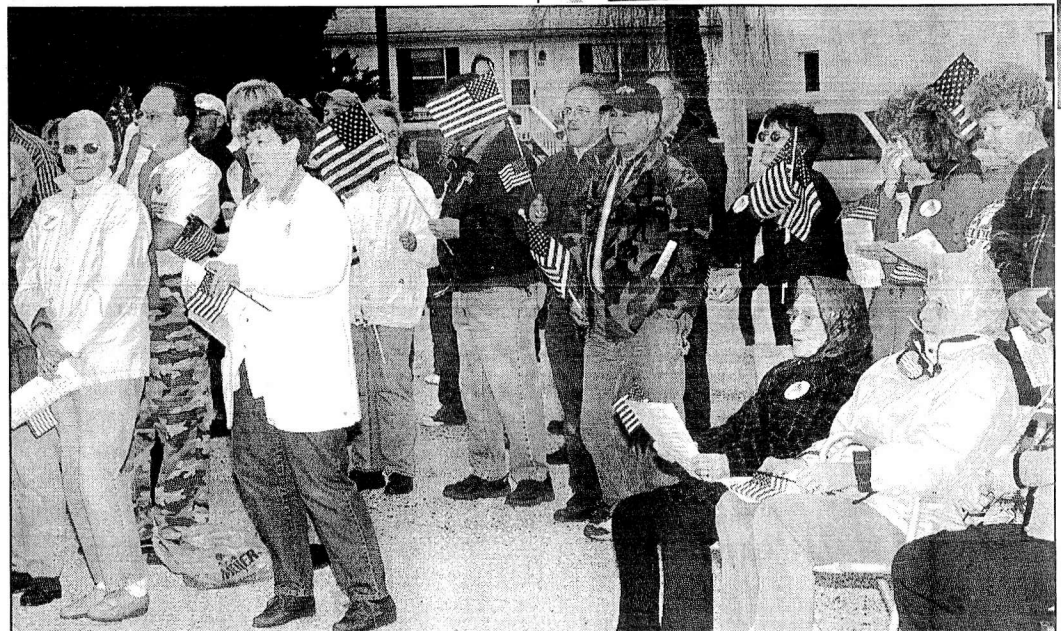
I was never deployed or involved in a war effort but that possibility always existed. Many of you here tonight have been involved in a war and most of us know someone who has been involved in a war. And I'm sure if you asked them about their experiences they would tell you that even though they were a little afraid at times and never quite certain what the outcome, this country and

the soldiers and their leaders will complete any assigned mission without question. But as great as they are they still need to know that the citizens of the United States support them. That is why it is so important to hold support rallies like this one. Just like our fellowship in Christ strengthens our relationship with God our demonstrated support for our military strengthens our unity as a country.

When I was asked to speak tonight I approached our Pastor Robert Sabo and President of the Board Bobbi Trojack and asked them what I should say. They both told me to speak from my heart and that is what I done.

But before I leave you tonight I want to ask each of you to get involved with the troop support movement. Write a letter to a service member or his/her family. Donate items for care packages that are being sent to our troops by different organizations and above all pray for our soldiers and their families. **GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS.**

I will close with Psalm 23.



Thayer Rally for the Troops

A large crowd of area residents gathered last Thursday evening on the parking lot of the Thayer Methodist Church for a special Rally for the U.S. Troops. The rally, organized by the Thayer Methodist Church and the Village of Thayer, was held to support the men and women currently serving in the Military forces during the war with Iraq. (Pictured above right) Virden resident Geraldine "Gerry" Rosato led the rally in the Pledge of Allegiance.