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Despite a little rain here and there, more than a thousand residents came out last week to celebrate the birth of the United States in Norwood.

PHOTOS BY JEFF SULLIVAN AND DAN BUSLER

Norwood hits July 4 homerun despite some rain

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Despite rain during parts of the parade, the annual Norwood Fourth of July Celebration still drew thousands of residents from Norwood and

beyond to celebrate the season and enjoy what the Town has to offer.

If lines were any indication, the fact that both Furlong's Ice Cream and Candies and Daddy's Dairy had lines around the corner at various times of

the day showed there was a lot of interest in the season and, presumably, sweet and salty confections.

The celebration kicked off with the Old Parish Preservation Volunteers reading of Frederick Douglass' 'What, to

the Slave, is the Fourth of July?', with the Children's Character Parade after that, which led right into the Carillon Concert, put on by Norwood Town Carillon Lee Leach and Wellesley College's Margaret Angelini.

Angelini put together her own arrangements for several of the performances, including a few Beatles songs like 'Here Comes the Sun' and 'When I'm 64.'

Leach said there was a lot

4th of July

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Norwood hero remembered in France

Ariane Komyati
Staff Reporter

Air Force Col. George Lee, a Norwood native and WWII war hero nicknamed "Iron Man", has a legacy that transcends borders. His remarkable story of bravery and service is remembered not only in his hometown, but also in a small village in northeastern France, more than 3,500 miles away across the Atlantic.

About 250 miles east of Paris sits a quiet village called "Vezelise". Cobble-

stone streets and centuries-old stone buildings are surrounded by a lush countryside with rolling hills where crops grow and cows graze. While the quaint village may be a picture of peace today, it has many WWI and WWII stories to tell. On a quiet road, a large white barn, which has been transformed into a museum, sits behind a fence with a painted sign that reads, "Espace de Mémoire Lorraine, 1939-1945". Inside, the memories and sto-

Col. George Lee
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The museum in Vezelise, France, showcasing artifacts from both World Wars, including the contribution of Norwood native George Lee.

PHOTO BY ARIANE KOMYATI

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Will IRA Withdrawals Affect My Medicare Premiums?

Dear Rusty: I am a member of AMAC and learn so much from the Ask Rusty column. I hope you can give me some information about a question that has come up in my family. My husband is retired and has reached full retirement age. He is considering withdrawing money from an IRA to pay off our mortgage. We are wondering what, if any, penalties may be incurred on Social Security, Medicare, and income tax. Thank you for your help in this matter.



Russell Gloor
AMAC Certified Social
Security Advisor

Signed:
Concerned Taxpayer

Dear Concerned: Thank you for contacting the AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisory Service. Regarding your question on the impact of withdrawing IRA funds, there is no impact to your husband's gross Social Security benefit. The amount withdrawn, of course, is considered ordinary income for federal income tax purposes, and will need to be included as such on your federal income tax return and will therefore affect your federal income tax liability when you file the return.

Depending on the amount withdrawn, there could be an impact to the Medicare premium due to the Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) provision. Assuming you file jointly, you will pay a higher Medicare Part B premium if your modified adjusted gross income is above certain thresholds (i.e., more than \$103,000 for an individual and \$206,000 for a married couple). Please note that Medicare's procedures will not note this income change for two years, so if you make the withdrawal in 2024 it will

not trigger the increases until your 2026 Medicare premiums. A change to your Medicare premium might also result in a change to your net Social Security payment at that time (since Medicare is automatically deducted from your Social Security payment).

Also depending on the amount withdrawn, you may have to pay an additional amount on top of your Medicare Part D premium. The Part D adjustment amount is calculated based on a percentage of the Part D national base beneficiary premium, not on a percentage of the plan premium.

The Social Security Administration mails letters to beneficiaries who currently pay a Part B Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) and, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), are in a Part D plan. The letter explains the additional Part D amount, and how exactly Social Security will collect it. You can contact SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or your local SSA agency if you have any further questions about your Part D IRMAA premium.

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The museum features an excess of artifacts from both World Wars in an old, unassuming converted barn in eastern France.

PHOTO BY ARIANE KOMYATI

Col. George Lee *continued from page 1*

ries of those who bravely fought against the German occupation, including Col. George Lee, are kept alive.

The Espace de Mémoire offers a captivating display of World War II memorabilia within its compact yet meticulously organized space. Vintage French and American flags, both over 80 years old, hang side by side from the ceiling beams. The collection includes mangled airplane parts, U.S. transmission materials, medical supplies, and authentic WWII French and American uniforms. Visitors can view model military airplanes and trucks, town signs riddled with bullet holes, helmets, medals, and bibles carried by servicemen. This space serves as a poignant reminder of history, preserving the memories and stories.

Many important WWII battles took place close to Vezelise, including the Battle of Nancy, the Siege of Toul, and the Lorraine Campaign. The Tantonville Airfield, which is located three miles from Vezelise, was a WWII US Army Air Forces military airfield.

One of the display cases tells the story of the six Republic P-47 Thunderbolt fighter pilots whose combat missions totaled 1,000. A black and white photo shows the fighter pilots, including Col. Lee, holding up a sign that says "1,000". The photo was taken in March 1945 in Tantonville, where the 86th Fighter Group was stationed. "The six pilots are with the 'Invader' Group of the 1st Tactical Air Force," says the caption under the photo. "Major William B. Colgan, 195 missions; Lt. Col.

George (Iron Man) Lee of Norwood, Mass., 245 missions; Capt. Walter Taylor, 119 missions; Capt. Jesse R. Gore III, 126 missions; Capt. Bushnell Welch, 189 missions; Maj. John Dolny, 126 missions. Add 'em up. Total: 1000 combat missions." Blue Air Force patches from the 86th Fighter Group are displayed next to the photo.

Lee was born in Norwood in 1919. He was known as a soft-spoken paper boy as a child and then worked as a butcher prior to the war. He attended Norwood Public Schools and graduated in 1937. Four years later, Lee left Norwood to begin training as an aviation cadet.

Col. George Lee held the record in the European and Mediterranean Theaters, completing an impressive 258 combat missions from bases across Africa, Sicily, Italy, Corsica, France, and Germany. Lee, who commanded the 86th Fighter Group, inspired his pilots to nickname themselves "Lee's Lieutenants." In 1945, a billboard featuring the words "Lee's Lieutenants" alongside a fighter jet was displayed in front of the Officer's Club in Tantonville. While stationed in Tantonville, the 86th Fighter Group attacked enemy transportation in Germany in April and May of 1945. At just 25 years old, George was promoted to the rank of Full Colonel, which made him one of the youngest Colonels in Air Force history.

Tragically, in 1954, Lee lost his life when his plane crashed in Missouri during a storm while on a routine flight from Grandview Air Force Base. From Norwood

to France, his legacy lives on. The Nahatan Street Bridge was dedicated in Lee's honor in 1988.

"His story is one of remarkable persistence, devotion, and dedication to his country," said Director of Norwood Veterans Services Ted Mulvehill. "He was a natural flier. He is one of the most decorated servicemen Norwood has produced. A true American hero."

Mulvehill recalled that in 2005, Norwood Television manager Jack Tolman discovered some old film reels at the high school.

"They were labeled 'USAAF.' Jack asked me what they were, noting that they had George Lee's name on them. I had a very strong suspicion that it was camera footage from Col. Lee's airplane during WWII. We reviewed them, and it was camera footage from his machine guns," explained Mulvehill. "We turned it into a 30-minute documentary on the life of George Lee." The documentary aired 2008 and proceeds from its sales, as well as a generous donation from George's nephew, Alan Lee, led to the rededication of the Nahatan Street Bridge in 2009. The bridge featured larger, updated signage. A plaque on the bridge reads, "This bridge is dedicated in Memory of Col. George T. Lee U.S. Air Force WWII 1919- 1954".

Learn more about Col. Lee's legacy and military accomplishments from the Norwood Historical Society at bit.ly/4cfEz7b.

For more information about the Espace de Mémoire Lorraine, visit espacedememoire.fr.