

Point receives Operation Iraqi Freedom flag donation

By **LESLIE TRULUCK**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – Lieutenant Colonel Glen K. Lawson, U.S. Air Force and Cape May Point Beach Patrol Alumnus donated a flag flown during Operation Iraqi Freedom to be hung in Borough Hall. The flag was presented to the Board of Commissioners at the meeting August 10 by Lifeguard Captain Peter Pietras on behalf of Lieutenant Colonel Lawson. The flag was flown over Ar-Ramadi, Baghdad, on mission number 4225 in a Lockheed Martin Block 30 Plus F-16C Viper under the call sign “Lunar” on April 5, 2006 for 3.7 hours.

Lawson recently returned to the USA and visited Captain Pietras and presented the flag to the Cape May Point Beach

Patrol.

“Because of the nature of this individual, and the state of the war today, we felt it would be more properly displayed in Borough Hall,” Pietras said.

“Lawson said he wanted us to have it and we feel honored to accept it,” Pietras said.

Colonel Lawson was a member of the Cape May Point beach patrol from 1980-1987 and competed in many lifeguard competitions serving Captains Bob Lincoln, John Hoffman, Chris Garrison, and his cousin Pete Romano in his last year. Nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Romano of Princeton Avenue, he summered in Cape May Point and often resided with them during his time on beach patrol. Lieutenant Colonel Lawson later went to college at The University of Florida with his

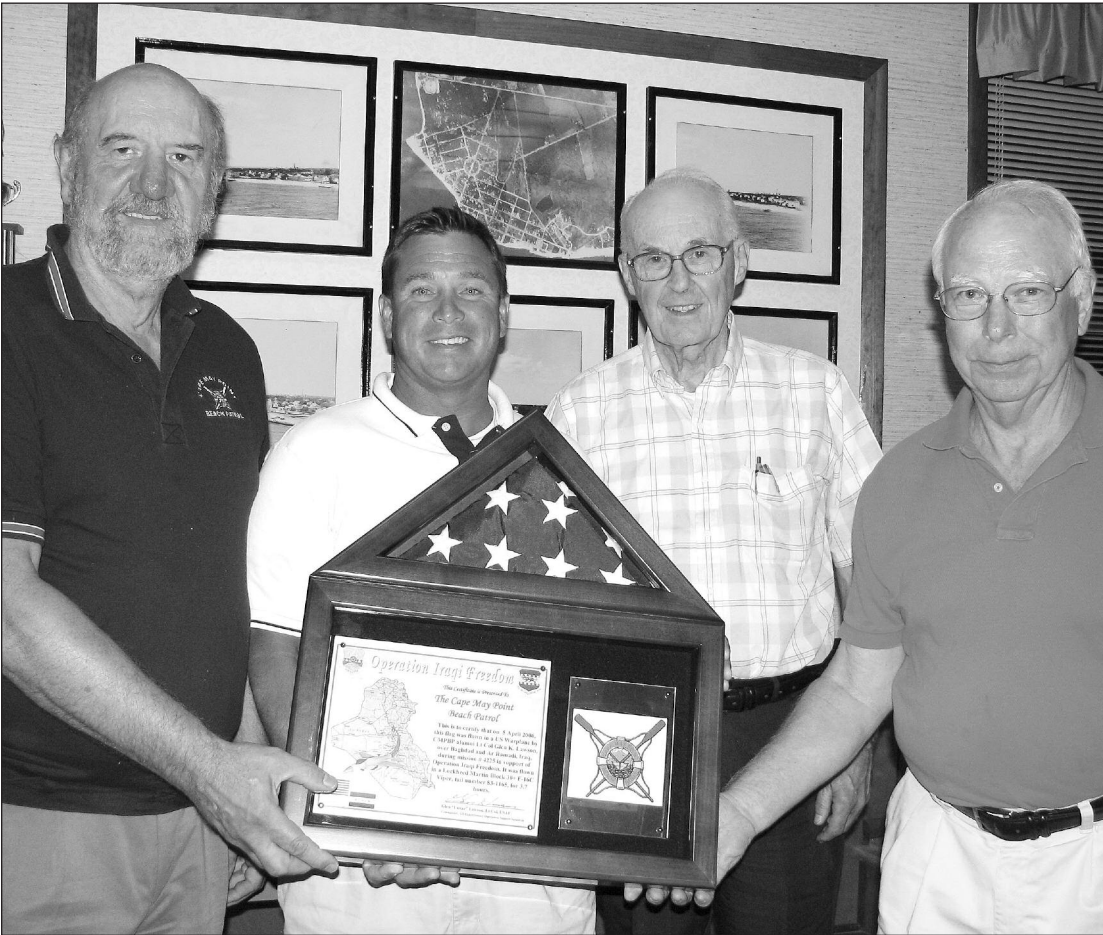
cousin Pete.

“They were like brothers,” Tony Romano said including that he believes Glen’s father is a descendant of Oliver Ellsworth, who assisted in writing the United States Constitution. Romano said Lawson had an interest in planes since childhood.

“I used to joke with him that he was costing me money flying all over the place,” he said.

“He was a local hero as lifeguard at Cape May Point and now a national hero,” Pietras said. Glenn Lawson now resides in Virginia.

“It’s nice that a local boy, who went all the way to Iraq, still thinks back on the good years,” Mayor Malcolm Fraser said.



Leslie Truluck/Cape May Star and Wave
Cape May Point Commissioner Joseph Nietubicz, lifeguard captain Peter Pietras, Point Mayor Malcolm Fraser and Commissioner Carl Schupp stand proudly with a flag flown in combat and donated to Borough Hall.

Access

Continued from page A1

from Shadeland Avenue is less than a half-mile north at Hollywood and Beach Avenues.

“I don’t think anyone understood it was an illegal pathway at Tahoe, Hollywood, and Shadeland,” Don Ochs said.

Public Works Superintendent Gary Douglass said there was no issue until the plots were sold and the township owns a right of way on Shadeland Avenue from Bay Drive to the beach.

Jackson said the 25-foot-wide strip on the south side of Shadeland that runs back to the beach is used for the drainage pipe and the township has an easement to the property at Shadeland that allows for repairs to the drainpipe, but it is not specifically intended for beach access. “It seems very unfair that it should become private property now,” Wesley Ochs said, “The street drain needs to be repaired anyway so I don’t see why they should

have any problem creating access.”

Douglass said once the township became aware of complaints concerning private property the signs directing access elsewhere were placed.

“We are trying to define areas because we want to open up as much beach access to the public as we can, but it is difficult when private properties are involved,” Jackson said.

Shops

Continued from page A1

HPC

Continued from page A1

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see more options for the railing and roof systems before final authorization but movement was made for conceptual approval.

“I would like to see a more original and appropriate design and not something that mimics a Victorian style,” HPC member Pip Campbell said.

Campbell was the sole negative vote with Robert Steenrod abstaining. Steenrod said he abstained based on the recommendation from the HPC Board

Attorney Robert Fineburg to avoid the appearance of conflict because his wife council member Linda Steenrod votes in support of providing a \$100,000 city loan to the Beach Theatre Foundation.

Maryanne Gaffney involuntarily refused to vote because weeks ago when voting on a partial demolition permit Frank Investments’ Attorney Stephen Nehmad objected to her participation to prevent the possible appearance of impropriety because her husband Jerry Gaffney serves as Vice President of the Beach Theatre Foundation.

Gaffney’s refusal caused the committee to use Steenrod as an alternative vote to reach the 5-1 approval. There is no time-frame yet as to when the renovations may occur.

because we’ve had the horse in our family for so long,” she said, “It’s irreplaceable: we couldn’t get another.”

“In 22 years of owning the store it is one of the strangest things that has happened to us,” she said.

The Scandinavian wrought iron horse is a red/orange rust color at about eight to 10 inches long by six to eight inches tall with an estimated weight of 15 to 20 pounds. Poulsen guesses it could be worth money because of its history, but it has sentimental rather than monetary value for the rightful owners.

“We would occasionally tie a different color ribbon

around the neck,” Poulsen said the horse was last seen wearing a blue ribbon.

“We try to make the store an asset of the town and a nice place to visit,” Poulsen said.

The store sign displays a large twenty-inch painted wooden horse with the original red/orange colors of the Dala horses.

The Dala Horse is a famous symbol of Sweden that began over a hundred years ago when farmers carved horses from leftover wood for their children to use for toys. Swedes then began to paint the horses and it became a tradition. Swede Things sells

the wooden painted versions.

“This one was a special item that was not for sale and it means a lot to us. I’m appalled and it is very depressing,” Poulsen said.

The store recently posted a sign reading, “Please return, no questions asked.”

There is no certainty as to whether the incidents are related other than sharing in mourning for their lost items of sentiment.

Anyone with information about either of these items is encouraged to contact Cheeks at 609-884-8484, Swede Things in America at 609-884-5811 or the local police at 884-9500.

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR FOR
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August 9th
Shade Tree Commission @ 2PM
August 13th
Tourism Commission @ 5PM
Historic Preservation Commission @ 7:00PM
August 14th
Planning Board @ 7:00PM
August 15th
Revitalization Committee @ 9:00PM
Environmental Commission @ 3:00PM
August 21st
City Council Regular Meeting @ 7:00PM
August 23rd
Zoning Board Meeting @ 7:00PM
August 27th
Historic Preservation Commission @ 7:00PM
August 28th
Planning Board @ 7:00PM

All meetings are open to the Public & are held in the City Hall Auditorium at 643 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ

Cape May Star&Wave

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Entered at Post Office in Cape May, NJ 08204 as a periodical

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES: By mail in Cape May County: \$22; East of Mississippi, \$25; West of Mississippi: \$29, Mail subscriptions paid in advance. Newsstand price .50 per copy.

PUBLICATIONS SCHEDULE: Weekly, every Thursday.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Cape May Star and Wave, 600 Park Blvd. #28, West Cape May, NJ 08204.

ASSISTANCE: For information on starting mail home delivery of the Cape May Star and Wave, call (609) 884-3466 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.