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'Thank the Lord for veterans'

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SOUTHGATE - William Horsfall was just 15 when he saved the life of a fellow soldier.

The Newport resident, a drummer for the Union Army in the Civil War, pulled a wounded officer to safety during the Siege of Corinth, Miss., in May 1862. He is one of the youngest soldiers to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Horsfall died in 1922 and is one of thousands of U.S. military veterans, from the Revolutionary War to the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, buried in Southgate's Evergreen Cemetery.

"This is hallowed ground," Campbell County Commissioner Dave Otto of Fort Thomas said Thursday night during one of the region's earliest Memorial Day services.

For the third year in a row the Campbell County Democratic Executive Committee and Northern Kentucky Democratic Veterans at the Point held a Memorial Day service in the cemetery's Soldier's Lot.

Bagpipes played, "America the Beautiful" was sung, poems were read and prayers were recited during a ceremony that attracted about 60 people.

"We are here to honor those who gave their lives so we can live free as Americans," said state Rep. Dennis Keene, a Wilder Democrat and one of several local officials who participated in the event.

Others included Campbell County Commonwealth's Attorney Michelle Snodgrass, Newport Mayor Jerry Peluso, Newport City Commissioners John Hayden and Tom Guidugli and Dayton Mayor Ken Rankle.

Also in attendance was former 4th District Congressman Ken Lucas, a Boone County Democrat who in February was appointed Kentucky Commissioner of Veterans Affairs by Gov. Steve Beshear.

"On Memorial Day at 3 p.m., that's the official time, take one minute out of your day to thank the Lord for the veterans who helped make this country free," said Lucas, an Air Force veteran.

As part of the ceremony Lucas presented four Northern Kentucky veterans with a Korean War Service Medal. The medals are given by South Korea to American servicemen and women in appreciation of their participation in the Korean War.

Receiving the medallion and a certificate of recognition from the state of Kentucky were:

Ferdinand "Fuzzy" Bartels, Navy.

Orville Bryant, Navy.

Thomas Vossmeier, Marine Corps.

The late Boz Whalen Jr., Air Force. Whalen's son Paul Whalen, a Fort Thomas lawyer and one of the event organizers, accepted for his father.

"This is outstanding that after all these years, they still remember and they still wanted to recognize us," Bartels said. "Makes me proud of what we did; makes me proud to be an American."
