



Basil Moon named grand marshal of Martin's Veterans Day parade

By LINDA THURSTON
Press Editor

"Join the Navy – don't let the Army grab you."

That's the most important advice one veteran has to offer.

It was the day after the Fourth of July when Basil Moon joined the Navy. It was two days and six years later when he mustered out.

The years were 1940-1946.

The Martin man turned 100 this week, and he is being honored as the grand marshal of the Weakley County Veterans Day parade on the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I in 1918.

Moon grew up in Sharon during the Great Depression.

"We didn't have anything," he said. Many meals consisted of baking potatoes in the fireplace. He lived with his grandparents, he said, because every time his mother took them there he begged to be allowed to stay. Eventually she gave in.

He walked four miles to Terrell School each day of the school year, regardless of the weather.

"My first job paid 10 cents a day," he says with a twinkle in his eye. That job was building the fire in the stove at the school, which meant he had to



100 year old Navy veteran, Basil Moon is this year's grand marshal

be there early, sometimes walking in the dark. That first job lasted about a year before he started looking for better work. He took his first real job at 10 or 11 years old, as he recalls.

As the Depression (1929-39) began to ease, he and a friend decided to join

the Navy and see the world. They were in for a huge surprise.

After finishing his training as a ship's cook in Hawaii, Moon was transferred to New York to serve as cook on a transport ship that had just been built.

"I hadn't been there very long when I find out the Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor," he recalls. "Luck again."

The date was Dec. 7, 1941, and Dec. 8, the United States declared war on Japan.

For the rest of his tour in the Navy, Moon served in the South Pacific, including Australia, New Zealand, and Guadalcanal, and often in combat.

When asked how he became a ship's cook, Moon laughs. "I'm a big eater."

His favorite meals to cook were roast turkey and beans. "Every Saturday in the year you had to feed beans," he said. "When the captain says to cook beans, you cook beans."

When Moon came back to Sharon in 1946, he found another surprise waiting. All the local girls near his age had married.

"I come back six years later and it was too late," he chuckles.

But luck again – three years later he met Colleen and they've been together for 70 years. In all those years she has cooked him three meals a day and taken care of him.

If you come to the Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, be sure to shake Basil Moon's hand. He'll be glad to tell you how lucky he's been.

Remember... Thank... Support...
Our Troops

Promoting Our Country...
Promoting Our Military...
Promoting Our Freedom...

A reminder from
the City of Greenfield

Thank you Veterans!

THANK YOU
to all past, present, and future members of the military for your selfless service to our country!

Jerry Ward
AUTOPLEX

524 E. Reelfoot Ave • Union City, TN • 731-599-1199

Veterans Day

THE CITY OF MARTIN HONORS & SALUTES ALL OF OUR VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY

MAYOR
RANDY BRUNDIGE
ALDERMEN
DANNY NANNEY, SCOTT ROBBINS,
DAVID BELOTE, MARVIN FLATT
TERRY HANKINS, RANDY EDWARDS

Martin
TENNESSEE
Building Connections

What Makes A Perfect Home?
Natural Gas

1. It heats water quickly... no waiting for hot water
2. It's economical... about 1/2 the energy cost
3. It is a clean burning fuel... our nation's cleanest

Call Us Today To Find Out More

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!
IT'S FREE & IT'S THE LAW

Tennessee One-Call System, Inc.
Dial 811

Martin
TENNESSEE
Building Connections

City of Martin Natural Gas & Public Works
731-587-4910

VETERANS DAY

MTD
For A Growing World.™

Proud To Be An American Company & Proud Of Our Employees Who Served And Are Actively Serving Our Country