

## NEW-HARMONY, (IND.) May 2024

**A FINAL SALUTE FOR  
MEMORIAL DAY - 2024***By: Dan Barton*

As a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) I get their magazine every month. I must be getting it for 30 or more years, I can't even remember when I became a member. In the May issue, Memorial Day Issue, there was a story in the Final Salute section that caught my eye. The story was about 27 U.S. troops who died overseas in 2023, during peace time. They are considered deaths by non-hostile action, but most of them happened when the Special Ops service members were in training for future special missions.

Sometimes these training operations can be almost as dangerous as war deployment, because that's what they are preparing for. Anyway, I thought it would be a good idea to identify all 27 troops and pay homage to their bravery and acknowledge their sacrifices to our country. Most Americans don't realize that lives are lost many times in just training missions. Here goes:

**Died in Australia:****Marine Corps**

Cpl. Spencer R. Collart, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Sqdn. 363, Marine Rotational Force

Capt. Eleanor LeBeau, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Sqdn. 363, Marine Rotational Force

Maj. Tobin Lewis, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Sqdn. 363. Marine Rotational Force

**Germany:****Air Force**

Tech. Sgt. Lionel Rhone Jr., 569th U.S. Forces Police Sqdn

Senior Airman Christopher Rocha, 86th Security Forces

**Army**

Dexavion Sanders, 367th Maintenance Co., Mississippi National Guard  
Staff Sgt. Trevon Walker, 2nd Cav Regt.

**Japan:****Air Force**

Capt. Terrell K. Brayman, 21st Special Operations Sqdn.

Staff Sgt. Jake M. Galliher, 43rd Intelligence Sqdn.

Maj. Jeffrey T. Hoernemann, 21st. Special Operations Sqdn.

Senior Airman Brian K. Johnson, 21st Special Operations Sqdn.

Tech. Sgt. Zachary E. Lavoy, 1st Special Operations Sqdn.

Maj. Eric V. Spendlove, 1st Special Operations Sqdn.

Staff Sgt. Jake M. Turnage, 21st. Special Operations Sqdn.

Maj. Luke A. Unrath, 21st Special Operations Sqdn.

**Navy**

Operations Specialist 3rd Class Romario Clennon, USS Ralph Johnson

**Kuwait:****Air Force**

Maj. Stephen Khou, 32nd Weapons Sqdn.

**Army**

Spc. Jayson Reed Haven, B Co., 1st Bn., 118th Inf. Regt., 218th Maneuver Enhancement Bde.

**Mediterranean Sea:****Army**

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Shane M. Barnes, 1st Bn., 160th Special Operations Aviation Regt. (Airborne)

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Stephen Dwyer, 1st Bn., 160th Special Operations Aviation Regt. (Airborne)

Staff Sgt. Tanner W. Grone, 1st Bn., 160th Special Operations Aviation Regt. (Airborne)

Sgt. Andrew P. Southard, 1st Bn., 160th Special Operations Aviation Regt. (Airborne)

Sgt. Cade M. Wolfe, 1st Bn., 160th Special Operations Aviation Regt. (Airborne)

**North Sea:****Navy**

Chief Gunner's Mate Caprice L. Prior, USS Rampage (DDG-61)

**Qatar:****Army**

Staff Sgt. Felix Berrios, 25th Signal Bn., 160th Signal Bde., Army Network Enterprise Technology Command

**Republic of The Congo:****Marine Corps**

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Maurice Dural, U.S. Embassy in Brazzaville

**Thailand:****Army**

Maj. Andrew Cotter, 17th Field Arty Bde., I Corps.

**LEST WE FORGET - EVERY YEAR  
WHETHER IN PEACE OR IN WAR  
OUR YOUNG SERVICE MEMBERS  
SOMETIMES GIVE THEIR LAST  
FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION FOR  
OUR COUNTRY - THEIR LIVES.**

**NEW HARMONY TOWN COUNCIL  
RISKY INVESTMENT STORIES -  
WHAT GOES HERE?**

*By: Dan Barton***May 2024**

Recently I had a member of the New Harmony Town Council decry my real life stories of crime in Posey County and New Harmony, saying that it made

him uncomfortable and many people in New Harmony had stopped reading The New Harmony Gazette because of them. They want pretty stories. OK, I told him, you don't have to read the Gazette, there are other newspapers in town that do the kind of color stories you and your friends are looking for; but the Gazette is only going to do the stories that have the greatest impact on our community, whether it's just New Harmony or related stories in overall Posey County. Crime is number one. Politics is usually number two. But now, New Harmony's misplaced investment strategy is on top of the heap.

In the last issue of The New Harmony Gazette the lead off story was entitled "New Harmony Town Investment Strategy!" I guess it should have read "New Harmony Town Mis-Investment Strategy!" At least in my own view that's how I should have titled it.

The April 2024 Lead Story was about the New Harmony Town Council funneling 100% of the Town's money into one bank - United Fidelity Bank. In the world of wise investment the term "Diversification" is the holy grail of investment strategy. It can prevent a lot of pain down the road if it so happens that an investment vehicle used by an institutional investor suddenly goes upside down, whether it's a bank or some other financial institution or arrangement. From what I've learned recently this is not a strategy our Town Council ascribed to in the past, and may not be ascribing to presently.

I let current New Harmony Town Council President Jeff Smotherman, who took office on January 1st, have his say in the April 2024 edition. I can't, in this May edition, get into everything that he said or even what I agreed with or didn't agree with, you'll have to refer to the April edition, and the upcoming June edition in 30 days. But somewhere down the road I hope to get the opportunity to hit all of the investment issues. Right now I just want to focus on the differences in how one council interpreted the powers and responsibilities of the Town Council

as opposed to how another Council President is interpreting those powers. Oh, and how I interpret them! At least in accordance with Indiana State Statutes! This is introduction article number one.

Jeff Smotherman had indicated in the April edition to the public that, "U.S. Department of the Treasury and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is the group that filed the Order of Consent with United Fidelity." I must admit, this was news to me! The first anyone had ever apprised me of the situation. Thanks Jeff. No other Town Council member, present or past ever revealed that such an investigation was taking place with the Feds and United Fidelity. One Council Member even said to me upon my asking for the reason "why no other council member had released this information to the public previous to Jeff's statement?" that, "It was because we didn't want to cause a panic!" What? Didn't want to cause a panic? What about the public's right to know, I asked him. Well, he didn't believe the public had a right to know about this situation. "Why should they?" he asked. This is what I'm dealing with ladies and gentlemen!

Let's move on ahead in this ongoing saga for a few minutes.

In my conversation with Jeff Smotherman, I was drawn by several blanket statements he made to the Gazette that didn't quite sit right with me. In my view the most important remarks he made will be a part of this series in the New Harmony Gazette. We'll see where this matter goes in future Gazettes, while I try to lay down some basic facts in this article.

What really concerned me overall was his statement, "Our Clerk Treasurer has full authority to make investments on her own under state statutes..." This surprised me. First, I didn't know that Jeff Smotherman was an expert or a student of Indiana State Statutes and I decided that I shouldn't just take him at his word about this. I will, down the road, get into the problem I've had with his statement, but first, the following has

to reviewed by you the reader!

I emailed New Harmony Town Council President Smotherman as follows, on March 27th, I said:

"In the January (2024) Town meeting minutes there was a discussion about how to invest two Certificates of Deposit that were maturing in February. They were paying 4.38%. Councilwoman Arneberg mentioned working with a financial advisor on this. Was that ever done?"

"Further, there was discussion about money market accounts that would not lock the town into a rate for a set period. Was that ever investigated and who on the council made this suggestion?"

"Councilman Williams was in favor of diversifying and moving some of the funds to another institution. What happened to this idea?"

Jeff talks about how the balance of the Town money, during his brief period of administration thus far, ended up being invested in United Fidelity Bank. He said, "...after investigating our options to maximize our return on investment, they were reinvested at United Fidelity. At the time of the meeting you mentioned, rates were advertised at 5.48%, but by the time of maturity they were at 5.25% APR...This is what we locked in at for 10 months.

"The money market option being looked at was through a group called Trust Indiana, (Publisher's note: As of about June 2023, Posey County had around 42% of its cash on deposit at Trust Indiana and around 29% of its cash in United Fidelity, as opposed to New Harmony today having 100% of its cash deposited at United Fidelity.) and they (Trust Indiana) do offer an option that doesn't penalize for early withdraw, which allows anytime access to funds, but no lock in rates for a term. At the time of maturity, rates were slowly falling which is part of the choosing to lock in at United Fidelity for the 10 months. Also many meetings held with bank officers,

Posey County Treasurer, Finance/ Investment advisers and other banks in the area, this seemed to be the best option for the current maturing CDs.”

So, what’s the problem, Dan? - Well the problem is that Jeff and his council members were only apparently looking at rates and not “safety” at all. Diversify or be Damned! The year 2023 turned out to be one of the most dramatic years for bank collapses in decades. Silicon Valley Bank went down to the tune of \$209 billion and most deposits were not covered, Signature Bank failed with 110 billion in total assets, and others followed them throughout 2023 - March, May, July and November.. Undoubtedly, Jeff and his cadre of council members may not have known of these collapses or the situation that United Fidelity was in, but who ever does? The only way a town can hedge against such a collapse or potential collapse is to “always” practice diversified investing. It should be rule number one!

Will United Fidelity go down? Who can really say? I’d like to think that they won’t, since we have all of the town money in United Fidelity, but they could. Federal intervention or review is a very serious matter, and is set up to prevent depositors from losing anything at all - but who can really guarantee this - Jeff Smotherman? I don’t think so!

Hiding these facts from the public, like the former Blaylock administration did, is not the answer. We are a free nation and I commend Jeff Smotherman for releasing the data on United Fidelity the way he did. But things need to be talked about in the open so that what happened in 2023/2024 doesn’t repeat itself somewhere in the future, again.

Next month The New Harmony Gazette will attempt to round out this discussion with more facts.

Stay tuned!

## THE TRAGIC DEATH OF LAKEN RILEY SHOULD NOT BE IN VAIN

By: *Richard Moss MD*



At the recent State of the Union Address by President Joe Biden, President Biden was challenged by Congressman Margorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) from Georgia to ‘say her name.’ She meant, of course the name of Laken Hope Riley, the 22-year-old nursing student allegedly murdered in broad daylight by Jose Antonio Ibarra, an illegal alien from Venezuela. Laken was at the University of Georgia campus in Athens, Georgia, and was jogging when she encountered Ibarra, who crushed her skull with a large rock. The police report indicates that her head and face were “disfigured.”

Ibarra should have never been in the country. He was initially encountered by US Border Patrol in El Paso, Texas, when he was released because of the Biden Administration’s open border policies. Ibarra, like millions of others over the last three years, entered the country unlawfully, and, under Biden’s “catch and release” policies, wandered the nation freely, including in Texas, New York, and ultimately Athens, Georgia.

Ibarra was arrested by the NYPD in September of 2023 for acting “in a manner to injure a child,” a felony, and a motor vehicle infraction. Did the NYPD detain him and contact the DHS for committing a felony as an illegal alien to be deported? No, New York City, like many “blue” jurisdictions operates under “sanctuary city” policies, in defiance of federal immigration law. They released him. New York, under Soros-funded DA and reprobate, Alvin Bragg, does not arrest many individuals, criminal or otherwise, in “no bail” New York, unless named Donald J. Trump. The radical Democratic Mayor of New York, Eric Adams, in a rare moment of candor and common sense, upon hearing of the death of Laken Riley, had an epiphany and reflected aloud before

an unbelieving press that perhaps he should rethink his city’s sanctuary policies; perhaps he should have contacted the DHS since such lawful and moral conduct would have prevented the slaughter of the innocent 22-year-old Laken Riley. Yes, Mayor, the blood drips from many hands.

It should be noted that the concept of “sanctuary city” or “state” is lawless. It represents the nullification of federal law no different than the behavior of southern states before the civil war. Such jurisdictions, therefore, should be seen as part of a “neo-confederacy” engaged in actual insurrection (not the phony “insurrection” of J6) and dealt with as such by the federal government. That will have to wait for Donald Trump to assume the Presidency, but firm action should be taken including defunding the insurrectionists, sanctioning them, and unleashing upon them the Department of Justice and FBI, among other such resolute measures.

During Biden’s SOTU he mispronounced Riley’s name as “Lincoln Riley,” further infuriating Republicans and her family. But this had little effect on Democrats. What did exercise them was his reference to the murderer as an “illegal.” Yes, friends, Democrats have far more sympathy for “illegals” than US citizens, even an American with the misfortune of having been slaughtered by one.

For decades Democrats and the Left have declared war on the term “illegal alien,” preferring instead the more palliative “undocumented immigrant.” But “illegal alien” is the legally precise and correct term. Unlawful entry into the country is a crime. The term is not intended to disparage. It accurately describes an individual who resides in the country in defiance of immigration laws. “Undocumented” suggests that one merely lacks the proper document for being here ( a problem of the government) and ignores the crime of unlawful entry and presence in the land.

What is to be done? Build the wall, reinstate “remain in Mexico” and

“expedited removal,” and end “catch and release,” all of which were successful policies from the Trump presidency and recklessly rescinded by the Biden administration.

We must also revamp our “refugee/asylum” polices to better reflect reality. Virtually none of those claiming refugee status even remotely merit such a designation. They are not persecuted minorities or refugees escaping war or famine. Perhaps, one can say, they are escaping poverty or seeking a better life and hence are more aptly described as “economic migrants.” But such a broad definition of a “refugee” would open our doors to countless billions around the world who could readily make the same claim.

There is also the principle of “first safe nation.” If one is truly escaping persecution or war or famine then one must reside in the first “safe” nation not pick and choose the one with, say, the most generous welfare benefits.

(Red) States and the federal government can defund or sanction municipalities that ignore immigration law. They can implement “E-verify” and employer sanctions against businesses that hire illegals in defiance of our laws. Similarly, unleash the Department of Justice to challenge the myriad NGOs (Catholic Charities, Adventists, Baptist Services, Lutheran World Relief, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Services, and hundreds more) who are rewarded handsomely for taking advantage of the country,

promoting illegal immigration, and burdening taxpayers and our stressed public programs.

Deploy the national guard on our border. Place tariffs on all goods coming in from Mexico unless it cooperates in sealing the border. Cut off all benefits for illegals and dependents, including healthcare (other than emergencies), education, and access to our public programs.

Tax remittances. End the fraud known as birthright citizenship and family reunification. No in-state tuition or driver’s licenses.

And then, finally, mass deportation with emphasis on those who arrived during President Biden’s reign, others who are incarcerated, known criminals (beyond the original crime of entering the country illegally), and all who partake in our overly generous public programs (Medicaid, food stamps, AFDC, rent and heating subsidies, and so on).

In this way, the tragic and preventable murder of Laken Riley at the hands of a know criminal and illegal alien, and so many other victims like her, will not have been in vain.

Richard Moss, M.D., a surgeon practicing in Jasper, IN, is a candidate for Congress in Indiana’s 8th district. He has written “A Surgeon’s Odyssey” and “Matilda’s Triumph,” available on amazon.com. Contact him at richardmossmd.com or Richard Moss, M.D. on Facebook, Twitter, TruthSocial, GAB, PopTalk, and Instagram. Check out his website at richardmoss4congress.com..

traveling) Anyway...the weather was unusually chilly, perfect chowder weather, so we cooked it up one crisp evening.

It was hearty, it was spicy, it was scrumptious!

All that was missing, was the cheddar biscuits.

### Ingredients

3 stalks of celery  
1 medium onion  
3 tbs. butter  
2 medium potatoes  
2 c. Chicken broth  
1 qt. 1/2 & 1/2  
2 cans of cream corn  
1 5oz box of Ragin Cajun Seafood Mix (\$9 a box on Amazon)  
2 5oz cans clams - juice included  
2 5oz cans of lump crab - juice included (Maybe some shrimp, white fish, lobster- make it as sea foodie as you like)

### Directions

In a heavy soup pot add:  
Dice small celery an onion & Sauté in butter w/ s&p until translucent.  
Peel & dice small the potato, add to the pot  
Add chicken broth, cook covered 10 minutes  
Remove cover.  
Add the cream, cream corn, seafood w/ juices, and box of seasoning  
Cook until warmed through and slightly thickened  
Maybe add a dash more salt, but that’s up to you.  
Prepare a box of Red Lobster cheddar biscuits and you’ll be ready to go!

**Enjoy!**




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THE  
**NEW-HARMONY GAZETTE.**

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NEW HARMONY GAZETTE  
MAY RECIPE  
*By: Denise Rapp*

**RAJIN CAJUN SEAFOOD BISQUE**  
Serves 12 (Could be cut in half)

Upon my recent trip to Florida, I picked up this interesting box of Ragin Cajun seafood mix from a local market. (I like trying different things whilst Im

