



# MANNING RETIRES

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# The Herald Bulletin

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## Former first lady Nancy Reagan dies at 94

Her mission always 'to back Ronnie'

By Christopher Weber  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nancy Reagan, the helpmate, backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey from actor to president — and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease — has died. She was 94.

The former first lady died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio told The Associated Press.

Her best-known project as first lady was the "Just Say No" campaign to help kids and teens stay off drugs.

When she swept into the White House in 1981, the former Hollywood actress partial to designer gowns and pricey china was widely dismissed as a pre-feminist throwback, concerned only with fashion, decorating and entertaining. By the time she moved out eight years later, Mrs. Reagan was fending off accusations that she

See **FIRST LADY** / A4



Nancy Reagan in 2009

## Nancy Reagan's legacy is the bar for other U.S. first ladies

By Christopher Stephens  
The Herald Bulletin

ANDERSON — Former first lady Nancy Reagan's death on Sunday has sent ripples across the political world because she set a standard for what it meant to be a politician, even though she wasn't elected, some local Republican leaders said.

"I just thought she was a fantastic person," said Meredith

Church, 93, who was a leader in the Republican Party in Anderson for decades. "I thought she was a really fine lady."

Church never had a chance to meet Reagan in person, but from following her career as first lady and beyond he said he was impressed with the way she conducted herself.

He mentioned an archived

See **LEGACY** / A4

### SPREADING AWARENESS



Photos by David Humphrey | for The Herald Bulletin

Lapel Police Chief Dan Barnes, a former Marine, tells participants the route prior to Sunday's walk through town.

## Rucksack March offers community and resources for PTSD sufferers

By Christopher Stephens  
The Herald Bulletin

LAPEL — Lindsay Washmuth still has the video on her phone of the last day her husband was alive.

It was Feb. 9, 2016, and Kris Washmuth is dancing with one of their daughters to music from "Fred: The Movie" in the living room of their Lapel home.

"My husband was never suicidal. He was the happiest and funniest guy you've ever met," Lindsay said.

But sometimes Kris just wasn't himself. Lindsay said he would often wake up in the mornings or at night and talk. Only after about 15 minutes would his wife realize he had been asleep the entire time.

A subtle sign that Kris' two tours in Iraq had followed him home.

"They just wake up one day and they don't have an enemy to fight anymore," Lindsay said. "So they fight themselves. And they are taught how to win; and they do."

Lindsay, who is also a veteran, woke up Feb. 10 to find her husband had found a way to end his own internal battle, by taking his own life.

The most dangerous battlefield: Home

On that morning Kris was one of the 22 veterans who suf-



**T.J. Pinkerton** of Lapel was one of several walkers dressed in camouflage gear and carrying backpacks. Pinkerton, a Marine Corps veteran, says the marches help to bring together people who know the tragedies PTSD can bring.

fer from post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, and end their lives each day, a widely cited statistic that comes from the Department of Veteran Affairs 2012 suicide data..

During the roughly 14 years of combat in Iraq and Afghani-

### To participate

**What:** 22 Rucksack March  
**When:** Noon every Sunday  
**Where:** Lapel Police Station, 720 Ford St.  
**Info:** Chief Michael Barnes, (765) 534-4600

**VIDEO ONLINE »**  
[heraldbulletin.com](http://heraldbulletin.com)

stan approximately 6,000 U.S. troops have been killed. If the 22-per-day statistic keeps up, roughly 112,000 veterans will die by suicide because of PTSD in the 14 years after those wars.

One of the main reasons veterans who are dealing with PTSD don't seek help, Lindsay said, is because they don't want to appear weak. They go through military training and work in an environment where feelings just aren't shared.

Offering a helping hand

Michael Barnes, a former Marine and Lapel's current police chief, is trying to change that.

Barnes has rallied police and firefighters to create a 22 Rucksack March each Sunday through town where officers, emergency response personnel, veterans and community

See **PTSD** / A2

## Elementary spring break camp offers challenges

Robotics and computer classes part of week's program

By Ken de la Bastide  
The Herald Bulletin

ANDERSON — Spring break is often a time when many area families head to warmer locales for a week. However, for those staying in town this year, local elementary school students will have the opportunity to build a robotic system.

The Move Beyond: Operation Explore spring break camp will take place from March 21 through March 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Anderson Elementary School.

Registration is limited to 125 children with priority being given to income qualified working families and families actively seeking employment. The camp is open to students in kindergarten to the fifth grade.

Enrollment ends Friday. Applications are available at WorkOne Anderson, 222 E. 10th St., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The camp is sponsored by the JobSource Central Indiana Community Action Program, Anderson Township Trustee's Office, Anderson Community School Corp., Madison County 4-H and Anderson University.

Vincent Smith, deputy executive director of JobSource, said the camp will challenge students to think beyond their current situation and imagine possibilities for themselves and their future.

"The purpose is to expose children to a variety of opportunities they might not otherwise encounter," he said.

Activities will include music, tutoring, 4-H projects, robotics and engineering.

Those attending the spring break camp will build a robotic system, be involved in the disassembling and building computer parts, coding and designing and building a bridge.

Smith said kids will have grade specific science projects, a music production, learn a non-traditional

See **CAMP** / A2

### Spring break camp

**What:** Move Beyond: Operation Explore  
**When:** March 21-March 25  
**Where:** Anderson Elementary School, 2035 S. Raible Ave.  
**Enrollment:** Through Friday at JobSource, 222 E. 10th St., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



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