Written by CAROL POMEDAY
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Memorial Day ceremony to include presentation to brother of Holy Cross native killed in Korean War

On Oct. 14, 1952, 22-year-old Army Sgt. Melvin Wester of Holy Cross was killed during the Battle of Triangle Hill in Korea, but his body was never recovered. Not even his dog tags were returned to his family.

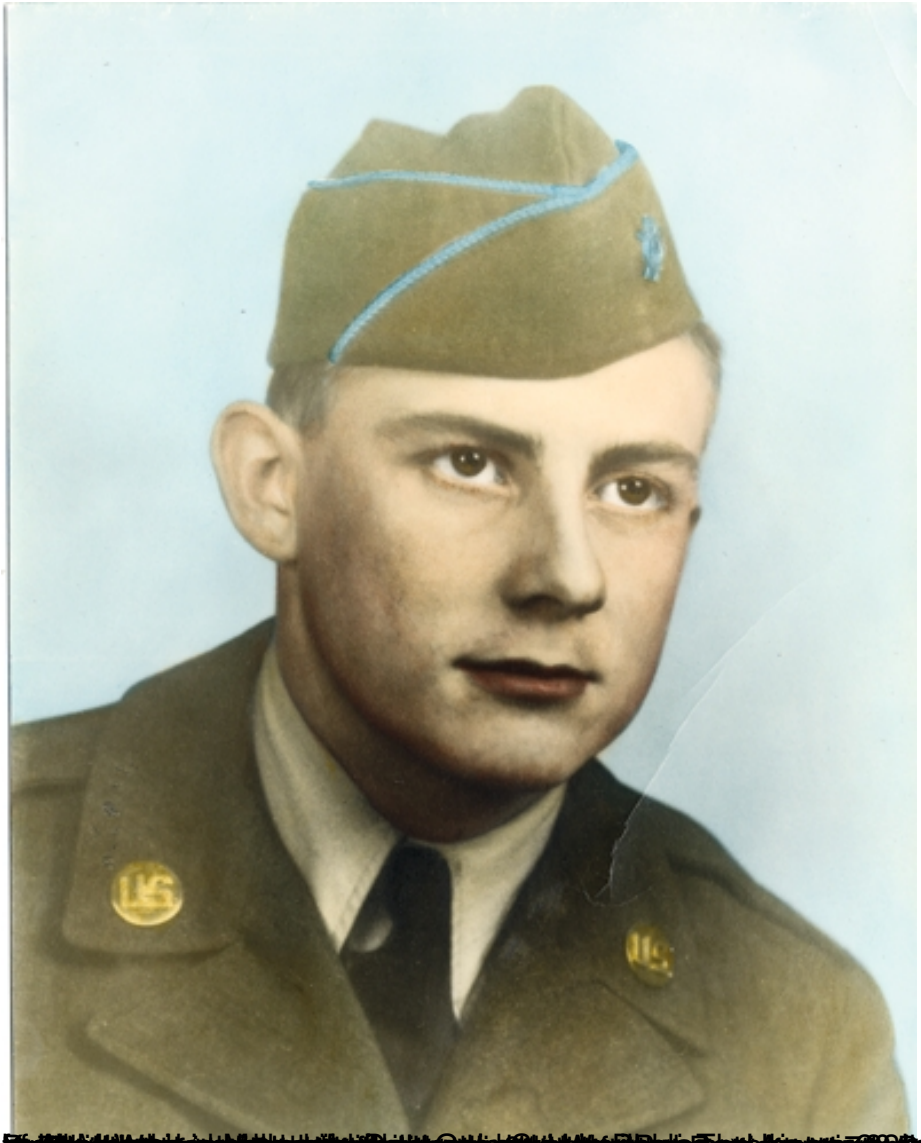
Unlike other fallen soldiers who have had Legion posts named in their memory or memorials erected, Wester's ultimate sacrifice has been obscure until now.

At its Memorial Day ceremony Monday, May 28, Belgium American Legion Post 412 will provide Wester the honor he deserves, said Chris Kissinger, post commander and a veteran of the war in Iraq.

More than 300 Ameircan soldiers were killed the same day as Wester in what became a month-long failed effort to rout the Chinese Army, Kissinger said.

Not only was Wester's body not recovered for burial, but his family — father Melichar, who was known as Milly, brother Harvey and sister Mary Jane — did not receive the honors usually accorded families who lost loved ones in wars. Wester's mother Mary had died 10 years earlier.

In 1986, 34 years later, Harvey, by then the lone survivor of his family, was presented with the American flag in a ceremony at Veterans Park in Fredonia. The Fredonia American Legion Post intervened on his behalf to obtain the honor.



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