

VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH:

DON PEARCE

Lonnie Brennan

VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

METHUEN - An e-mail alert is sent out, and Methuen resident Don Pearce, former Air Force member, answers the call: another mission for the Patriot Guard Riders, who have been requested by the family of a local fallen soldier, to provide escort duty.

Don and his family cut a solid, committed, respectful path for our nation's military. Flanked by his father before him, Sgt Warren R Pearce Sr. (1942-1945 Normandy to Germany), and his son Donald Eric Pearce Jr., who recently completed his third tour in Iraq, Don stands with a deep family, personal, and

national pride for military service. Today, he answers the call to service as he terms: "one of many, we try to help by showing our respect."

Don Pearce is a local ride captain for the Massachusetts Patriot Guard Riders; part of a national group born out of the desire to provide comfort, support, protection, and respect for soldiers and their families. The group has been very active these past few months, with funeral services from the Merrimack Valley to the Cape. Don lives in Methuen, and clears his schedule whenever a call to serve is requested. I asked Don about the group, who serves, and why he serves. He

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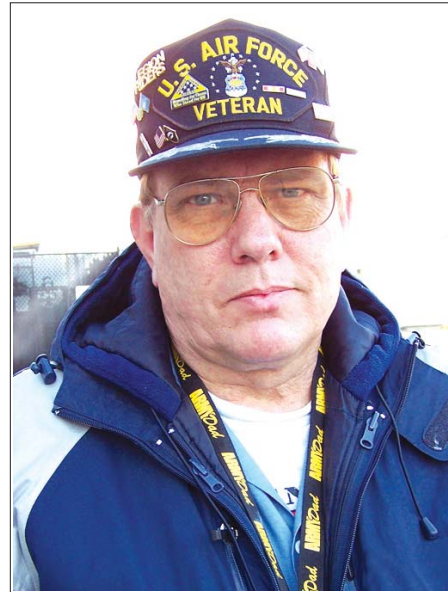


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Methuen Veteran Don Pearce

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