



The Cost of Peace

By I. Scott Tackett – *The Watchman*

There are two kinds of silence that follow war. One is the silence of the fallen - the kind that hovers over graves and folded flags. The other is the silence that walks beside those who return - the quiet that follows them through grocery aisles, across church pews, and into the sleepless hours before dawn. Veterans live between both kinds. They have seen what most of us only imagine in nightmares, and they carry it with the restraint of saints. Not because they are unscarred, but because they understand that some truths are too costly to speak cheaply.

On Veterans Day, our nation pauses. We hang flags, play anthems, and post photographs of uniforms long folded away. But if that is all we do, we have not honored them - we’ve only remembered them. And remembrance without repentance is theater. The only way to truly honor those who fought is to live as if their sacrifices meant something.

Scripture says, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man

lay down his life for his friends.” That isn’t poetic decoration; it’s the raw definition of love itself - and it was spoken by the One who proved it with His own blood. Every soldier who has stood between evil and the innocent has, knowingly or not, walked in the shadow of that same cross.

But not every war is righteous, and not every cause clean. Veterans are not holy because of the wars they fought, but because of the willingness that led them there - the willingness to sacrifice for something beyond themselves. They remind us that freedom, real freedom, is not a natural state. It is a maintained covenant. Someone always pays for it.

And in this generation, as comfort grows fat and attention spans thin, we risk forgetting the cost of that covenant. We treat peace like a right instead of a gift. But veterans know better. They’ve seen how fragile it is. They’ve watched boys become bodies, and prayers turn into smoke. They know that the peace we enjoy is only one heartbeat away from being lost again.

So this Veterans Day, let our gratitude take a different form. Let it sound less like applause and more like obedience - obedience to live justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before our God. The truest way to honor those who bore the sword in our defense is to wield righteousness with the same resolve. Christ Himself is called “the Captain of our Salvation.” He leads not through conquest but through the self-giving love that conquers death itself. Every veteran who has faced fear, endured loss, and returned home bearing the weight of both duty and memory is a living parable of that divine courage.

We honor them not merely for what they did, but for what they continue to bear so the rest of us may sleep in peace. May the Lord heal their unseen wounds, steady their trembling hands, and remind them that their worth was never in the uniform but in the image of God they carried beneath it. And may the rest of us learn to walk with a fraction of their discipline - watchful, steadfast, ready to stand when others falter. Because the peace we inherit must one day be defended again - and those who remember the cost are the only ones fit to keep it.

This Veterans Day, as the bells ring across Bracken County and the flags lift in the November wind, may we do more than remember. May we live worthy of what they gave.

Fundraising Permit Packages for Special Hunting Privileges and Stay at a KY State Parks Resort



Hunters have an exciting new way to support wildlife conservation efforts in Kentucky, and it could reward them with special opportunities to hunt elk or harvest a bonus deer, black bear and wild turkey. From now through May 30, 2026, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is selling entries for a limited number of special agency fundraising permit packages. Two of the available packages include exclusive elk hunting privileges not offered through the standard Kentucky Elk Hunt Drawing. Each package also includes a complimentary two-night lodge stay at any Kentucky state resort park, courtesy of Kentucky State Parks (subject to availability).

Winners will be selected in a random electronic drawing and announced online at fw.ky.gov no later than June 10, 2026.

The permit packages are as follows:

- Elk Hunt Sweepstakes Permit: One elk of either sex
- Premium Combination Big Game Permit: One elk of either sex plus a bonus deer, bear and spring turkey permit
- Standard Combination Big Game Permit: A bonus deer, bear and spring turkey permit

Kentucky residents and nonresidents can enter for a chance to win an Elk Hunt Sweepstakes Permit or a Premium Combination Big Game Permit. Only one of each will be awarded. In addition, one Standard Combination Big Game Permit will go to a Kentucky resident and one to a nonresident.

Entries can only be purchased online through the department’s website. On the homepage, click on the “Buy Licenses” button to access the department’s online licensing and permit agency.

Entry fees are as follows:

Elk Hunt Sweepstakes and Premium Combination Big Game permits - Residents: \$5 for one application; \$10 for a bundle of three; \$25 for a bundle of 10. Nonresidents: \$10 for one application; \$20 for a bundle of three; \$50 for a bundle of 10

Standard Combination Big Game Permit - Residents: \$3 for one application; \$8 for a bundle

of three; \$20 for a bundle of 10. Nonresidents: \$6 for one application; \$16 for a bundle of three; \$40 for a bundle of 10

The drawing packages will be for use during the fall 2026 (elk, deer, bear) and spring 2027 (wild turkey) Kentucky hunting seasons. The two drawing permits that include elk hunting privileges can be used in an elk hunting unit, with any legal equipment, during any elk season and they will be transferrable to an immediate family member under certain conditions.

The other big game privileges conferred to winners will be “bonus” permits, meaning they will afford the holder to harvest an additional deer (either sex), bear and turkey beyond the statewide bag limits that each of the standard, stand-alone permits include, and for recipients their winning drawing entry price will include at no added cost the corresponding special permit.

A statewide hunting license available “over the counter” from the department will be required for the recipients at standard pricing. An informational video on the special agency fundraising permits is available at youtu.be/LnMQm-pLjx3Q.

submitted

Bracken County Fiscal Court

A regular meeting of the Bracken County Fiscal Court was held Wednesday, October 8, 2025, for the purpose of transacting any business properly presented by the established agenda. Presiding: Tina K. Teegarden, Judge Executive. Present: David Kelsch, Danny Holleran, Debbie Mayfield, John Scott, Craig Miller, Sandy Ruf, Kevin Jarrells, Heather Brumley.

Let the record reflect that the Court Members received a copy of any Transfers and Vendor Claims and a copy of the Financial Statement.

Upon motion of Debbie Mayfield, second by Sandy Ruf, that the court approve the minutes of the September 24, 2025, meeting.

Road Department Update - Road Supervisor Stacey Florer gave an update. They had 3 days of the tire amnesty at the state barn. They have been cleaning up around the shop. There were a few trees that had to be cleaned up from that last storm. They have still been bushhogging but the 3 side mowers are done for the year.

Animal Shelter Expansion Update - Tabled.

Judicial Center Contract Employee Maintenance - County Attorney Moore and Judge Teegarden met with 4 individuals from AOC. They are getting some questions answered for them and will hopefully get back to them by the end of the week.

Ordinance 15-05 Re: Encroachment Permit - The court was given an updated ordinance for the encroachment permits for county roads.

Discussion held. First reading died for lack of motion. Magistrate Miller requested they invite those with concerns to the next meeting and the first reading can be done at that meeting as well.

Discussion of County Owned Lots That Have Been Donated Over The Years - There is 1 lot in particular that the court has a copy of, it is at the end of Kabler Mill Rd. PVA Florer addressed the court. He stated the first page is the tract of land

in question, the owner owns lot 19, 20 and 21 but up to the lot in question. There is also a copy of the deed that tells how Bracken County came to own that lot. Judge Teegarden stated the gentleman that owns it has been in the office several times over the last year asking her what they do with the county lots and if he would be able to buy it. Judge Teegarden stated it is not as easy as just buying it. It would possibly have to be up for surplus. She has to go through and make sure there is updated statute on it and give County Attorney Moore time to look at the deed and see what she comes up on it. She just wanted to give out the information to the magistrates to look at as well.

Animal Shelter Report - Erin and Heather gave a report. They gave out an annual report with all the numbers.

BCAIN Report - Shannon Smith, presi-

dent of Bracken County Animals In Need, a non-profit here in the community, came to update the court. BCAIN started in November of 2021, and they are a 5013c. They are 100% volunteer based, and all the money is fundraised. Their mission is that no animal endures the pain of a life of abandonment and neglect. They are here to give these animals a voice and to be their advocate. They meet every other month, they have about 13 members. They have 3 keys areas. One is to support their local animal shelter to help fill the gaps, help take care of the stray cat population, and to assist with other animals out in the community.

Bid Award For Mowing, Weed eating, Landscaping - Judicial Center and Snow Removal - All County Buildings - Judge Teegarden stated if she needs to get answers on some of these bids just let her know and she will make the calls.

This is tabled to come back with some clarification on the 22nd.

Transfers/Vendor Claims - Following approved: Dispatch 911 Fund Transfer; General Fund Vendor Claims; Road Fund Vendor Claims; Jail Fund Vendor Claims; Senior Citizens Fund Vendor Claims; Dispatch 911 Fund Vendor Claims; Dispatch Fund-Change Order for office room renovation.

Other Business:

*Judge Teegarden wanted to remind everyone that they will be talking about surveillance at the animal shelter at the next meeting.

*The joint sidewalk project that is in the feasibility study phase right now is moving forward, they are waiting on final design with a cost estimate.

*Magistrate Brumley asked if there was any update on the senior citizens center. Judge Teegarden stated they are working through losing some of the funding

for the hot meals. They said it would take 5 days of meals to 3 meals. It’s a funding issue and now that there’s a shutdown and its federal, they are just kind of waiting to see. Judge Teegarden stated she will update the court as she finds things out.

Adjourn - Motion to adjourn made by Kevin Jarrells, second by Danny Holleran. Vote unanimous.



“YOUNG & OLD ALIKE”

Read The
Bracken County News

606-756-2500 • HowardHannaKY.com



HOWARD HANNA
REAL ESTATE SERVICES

SCAN HERE FOR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!



GREEN. GOLD. SOLD!

REALTORS® SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY










Home ACCIDENTS happen

Insure you're safeguarded against accidents, such as fire and theft, with a comprehensive coverage plan that protects your home and personal property. Get a free, no-obligation policy review and rate quote from us today.

LOCALLY OWNED
SIA Schumacher
INSURANCE AGENCY

Brooksville • 606-735-3555 AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • FARM
Maysville • 606-759-5663 LIFE • HEALTH
Mt. Olivet • 606-724-5321 www.schumacherinsurance.agency

Make your bedroom a



ASHLEY VANITY SETS
2 styles to choose from

SALE \$499⁹⁹
REG. PRICE \$599⁹⁹

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL \$449⁹⁹

Bradford's HOME MART

HIGHWAY 8 AUGUSTA
606-756-2450

FINANCING BY  **OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**
Mon.-Sat. 8-6; Sun. 12-4

CHECK US OUT AT Bradfordshm.doitbest.com