

For Immediate Release:

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Taylorville, Illinois: As a community bank, Peoples Bank & Trust recognizes the value of volunteerism in our communities. To recognize, commend and promote the volunteerism, Peoples Bank & Trust has established a program to recognize outstanding community members for their volunteer efforts of improvement to our community.

Jeff Wilson has been chosen as our current Volunteer of the Quarter for his volunteer service with the American Legion Salvage Dawgs.

3 years ago a few veterans were at the American Legion talking and having a few drinks. As part of the conversation they commonly expressed the desire to help the less fortunate veterans of Christian County. They thought about how in WW2 the United States did a metal drive and thought, "We could do this for our community." And so began Salvage Dawgs.

Salvage Dawgs collects anything metal, such as washing machines, dryers, cars and trucks, farm equipment and the list goes on and on. The funds raised are used to help our veterans with various needs. They set up a confidential meeting with the veteran at the American Legion. The veteran must supply proof of an honorable discharge and Salvage Dawgs then determine if there is a true need. They can help the veteran with utility costs, groceries, clothing, and construction costs for a disabled veteran, rent, phone bills etc.

Jeff wanted to tell two stories on the impact this organization has had on the local veteran community. They had a veteran call and ask for a meeting. Jeff met the veteran at the American Legion. The veteran asked for money to buy personal hygiene items so he could clean himself up to be presentable to look for work. Salvage Dawgs gave him the money needed to buy these items and he ended up getting a job and is able to provide for himself.

The second story was a veteran that was in need of money to help pay for a veterinary bill for his service dog. The veteran had PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and the service dog helped him through daily life. His dog needed surgery, but the veteran could not pay the bill. Salvage Dawgs was able to step in and pay the bill and the veteran got his dog back. The veteran called Jeff and wanted to thank him for what he had done and also wanted Jeff to personally meet the dog. When Jeff went to meet the veteran, his dog was wearing a red bandana around his neck. Jeff said he's met a lot of people throughout his life, but never been invited to meet a dog.

Jeff would like to thank all the "crusty war dogs" that help with all the hard work picking up the donated salvage items. He would also like to thank the American Legion Post 73 and Mid-State Salvage and all the wonderful people in Taylorville and surrounding areas that support their effort. Since starting this organization 3 years ago Salvage Dawgs has collected 92 tons of scrap metal. As an added bonus, this helps clean up Taylorville... everyone wins!

Salvage Dawgs will be holding a major metal drive on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the corner of Webster and Market Street. Hours are: Friday 9 am to 4 pm and Saturday 7 am to 4 pm. The event is weather permitting. Please bring metal to the dumpster at that location or Salvage Dawgs can arrange to pick it up.

In honor of Jeff's volunteer services to the community, Peoples Bank has made a donation to the Salvage Dawgs and Jeff's name will be placed on a plaque to be displayed at the bank.

Peoples Bank & Trust is an independent Community Bank with ten offices located in Pana, Taylorville, Altamont, Tower Hill, Charleston, Springfield, Morrisonville, Palmyra, Waverly and White Hall. Peoples is a full service bank offering outstanding customer service to consumers, small business, and farmers in Central Illinois. People First Bancshares, Inc., with corporate offices in Pana, Illinois, is the holding company for Peoples Bank & Trust.