

The public deserves honest and forthright budget appraisals and action.

■ OPINION B3

**INSIDE SECTION**

B2 Faces  
B2 Births  
B3 Opinion

# 'He's recording history before that history is gone'

## Veteran tells stories of soldiers' service, sacrifice

By Leah Freeze  
leah@newtribune.com

Who is Jeremy Amick, the man behind 60-something articles about veterans that have appeared almost weekly in the News Tribune?

A veteran himself, Amick served in the Army National Guard after graduating from Russellville High School in 1994.

He retired 11 years later, but was quickly offered a position in the equal employment opportunity office for the National Guard.

## PORTRAIT

**"Once you're in the military, it's kind of always in your blood."**

Jeremy Amick

"Once you're in the military, it's kind of always in your blood," Amick said.

Within six months, Amick accepted a newly created position as transition assistance adviser, briefing service men and women about the resources available to them after deployment.

"We worked with the Small Business Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Conservation, the U.S. Department of Labor — anybody that provided benefits to servicemen," Amick said.

In January 2008, he transitioned into his current role as the assistant director of the U.S. Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service for the state of Missouri.

He oversees a federal grant that ensures there is a veteran employment representative in local career centers, and investigates employment issues related to military service to ensure veterans preference laws are followed.

But what really drives Amick is his involvement with the Silver Star Families of America.

The organization recognizes injured and ill



From left, Gov. Jay Nixon stands with Perry Coy and Jeremy Amick as Coy receives a Silver Star Service banner Dec. 7. Amick nominated Coy for the French Legion of Honor when

Submitte

# Portrait:

Continued from p. 1

veterans and their families for the sacrifices they have made during service.

With Gov. Nixon, Amick presented Perry Coy, Jefferson City, with a Silver Star Service banner and certificate on the same day he received France's highest military honor, the French Legion of Honor, on Dec. 7, 2010.

Coy is one of three servicemen awarded the Legion of Honor because of Amick's nomination. Gilbert Pritzel, Holts Summit, was presented the award in September 2010.

After seeing the television mini-series Band of Brothers, Amick grew fascinated by World War II.

He began researching the war and learned about the French Legion of Honor.

Amick worked with the French consulates in Chicago and Washington, D.C., as well as the French government to ensure these men were honored for their service during the French liberation in World War II.

Writing articles for the News Tribune and other area newspapers is one more way Amick recognizes the service of military men and women.

"He's recording history before that history is gone," said Diana Newton, co-founder of the Silver Star Families of America.

"He has presented quite a few of the banners and certificates personally. We're so proud that he is able to lend his talents

to the Silver Star Families. You don't find a lot of people like that," Newton said.

Also because of his involvement in the Silver Star Families, Amick is able to pursue changing legislation for veterans involved in the criminal justice system.

He is working with legislators to establish a Veterans Court.

Amick describes it as an alternative treatment model for veterans who, because of their deployment, now struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, substance abuse and domestic violence that have gotten them into trouble with the law.

"We broke these individuals, and we have the responsibility to make them whole again," Amick said.

"Several other states have these kinds of models and structures in place," he added, hoping Missouri will follow suit.

An interesting mix of hobbies consumes Amick's free time.

With a master's degree in business administration under his belt, Amick is pursuing another master's in criminal justice and writing a fourth book of poetry.

He already has published three books of poetry and prose, available on Amazon, at Borders and at Barnes and Noble.

For his role in organizing entrepreneurship events for veterans, Amick earned the Small Business Administration's regional champion award.

He will go on to participate in the national competition, which recognizes entrepreneurs for their dedication to small business outside of their typical business duties.