

Hazel Easterling has a passion for poppies!



HAZEL EASTERLING shows in his home's why she V. Not for every pretty and other veterans. Disabled veterans make these projects and Easterling says there is more pretty. Her yearly and other projects will be on display in Hattiesburg on Tuesday. (JON FAYETTE / Hattiesburg American)

The poppies **Hazel Easterling**, 78, of Petal MS works with are made by disabled veterans out of plastic She pins them onto women's clothing accessories. It is her way to show support to veterans and also remember he husband, Bruce, who fought in

World War II.

“My husband received two Purple Hearts during the war, and you have to be pretty special to get that,” she says.

Hazel is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Hattiesburg Ladies Auxiliary and the Petal American Legion, and she joined for a specific reason. “I joined all in hopes that I would have some way to honor the past, present and future veterans of our country.”

Hazel says she has one fond memory regarding veterans she will not ever forget. “In my lifetime, I will hold dear to my heart all the memories of being honored to lay a wreath on the grave of the unknown soldier in Washington, D.C.”

She says she has spent many hours entertaining veterans in the past by playing guitar or even providing a cold Royal Crown Cola and a Moonpie to those in the hospital. “And to watch many, many days and nights what the war had done to our strong, brave men, I never learned to hold my tears,” she said.

The accessories she has decorated with poppies have represented VFW Post 3036 on the district, state and national level in competition.

Of all the things I've lost, it's my mind
I miss the most!

Edith Easterling James Petal Education Foundation Tribute Program Petal High School Petal MS

Edith James recently celebrated her 90th birthday in Hattiesburg MS. More than 200 friends and family members attended the party given in her honor.

*Many of you remember it was **Edith** who undertook the project to clean up and restore **Henry Easterling's** grave site. **Henry** is the son of **Rev. Henry**. **Edith** used donations, plus her own money, to purchase a headstone that was placed on his grave. Those of us at our Annual Reunion in Hattiesburg this year were able to visit the Cemetery and view his gravesite and see, first-hand, all the efforts put into this restoration. You can see pictures of the area on our website, www.easterling.org.*

*Her family set up a scholarship endowment fund in her honor thru the **Petal Education Foundation** where she taught 37 years. Scholarships will be awarded to students who are less fortunate and unable to provide their own future educational needs.*

*In lieu of any gifts, this scholarship fund. is available to all who would like to honor **Edith** for her dedication and devotion in preserving our family history thru **EFGS**.*

You will find an insert in this newsletter for your use..

All contributions made to this fund are tax deductible.

If we weren't meant to keep starting
over, would God have granted us
Monday?