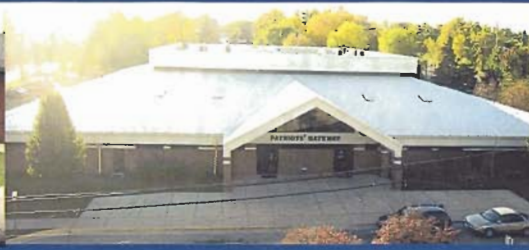


November 1, 2011



Administrative 701 7th Street



Community Center 615 S. 5th Street



Golf Training Facility



# The Patriots Campus Newsletter

## Youth Worker Of The Year Award-Flodin Award

Patriots Gateway staff members and supporters are one of a kind. With dedication, commitment, and a strong passion for supporting youth, they have surpassed expectations.

Two staff members were given awards at the annual dinner for their work at Patriots.

**Alexandria (Alley) Curry:** 19, has worked at Patriots Gateway as a Recreational Aide since

2008. She initially began working for the Summer Program but is now working for the After-School Program. During the 2011 Summer Program, Alley was twice awarded Staff Member of the Week.

**Carlie Bates:** 24, has worked at Patriots Gateway since 2004. She initially began working as a recreational aid in the Summer Program. Since 2009 she has been a Youth

Organizer and Youth Program Coordinator. Carlie was awarded the Flodin Award for her work at Patriots Gateway.

**You Are Appreciated Pat Gomez:** has been Director of La Voz Latina, one of Patriots Gateway Community Partners, for over 20 years. To thank her for all she has done for Patriots and for the community, Patriots sponsored an Appreciation Luncheon in her honor. The City of Rockford,

Rockford Police Department, Booker Washington Center, Winnebago County Health Department, and Systems Business Consulting were among the list of notable attendees. Pat Gomez was a great director and she will truly be missed.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

## Patriot Of The Year



Amy Enna (left) and Alexandria Curry (right)  
Youth Award



Chuck Jefferson (left) and Scott Johnson (right)  
Patriot Award



Carl Bates (left), Pat Gomez (middle) and Michael Booker (right)  
Appreciation Award



Amy Enna (left) and Carlie Bates (right)  
Flodin Award



# Patriots Is Building A World Class Athletic Program



Michael Booker  
Chairman of Board

Patriot Gateway Community Center has been a very special place to me for several years. From the first time I stepped through the front doors of this beautiful facility with my twelve year old son I knew that I had found a Rockford gem. I was honored shortly thereafter to be asked to serve Patriots Gateway as a member of the Board of Directors and even more so this spring when I stepped in as Chairman of the Board. My son also continued his PGCC journey for many years as a program participant and later as a camp counselor. I have often boasted about the positive influence the Center had in developing him as a fine young man.

In addition to serving Patriots Gateway, I have also had the honor and privilege to serve the Rockford community in a professional capacity for the last twenty eight years. During this time I have learned that Rockford is truly a special place filled with many special people. It is these special people that

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**STAFF**  
*Editor:*  
Carlie Bates

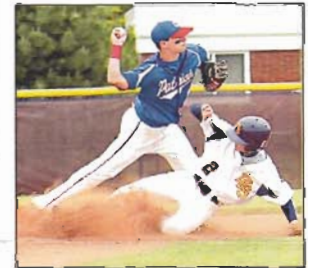
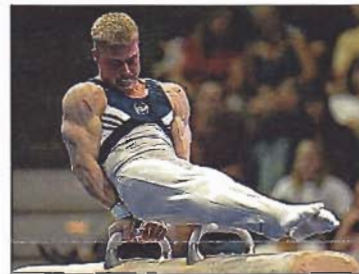
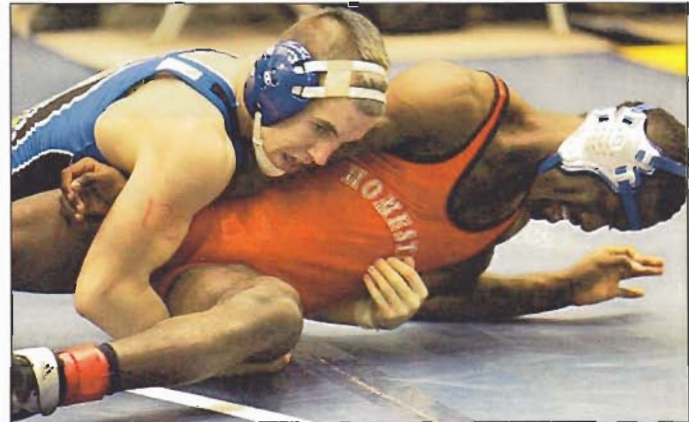
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recognize the challenges facing the City of Rockford and then, rather than dwelling on the problems, dedicate themselves to solutions. Our Board of Directors give countless hours to the benefit of families in Mid-Town Rockford.

The Patriots Gateway Community Center is blessed with a talented, dedicated and professional staff. Our employees are our greatest asset. I would also like to recognize our President and CEO, Jim Flodin, who has dedicated himself to a life of serving children. Jim is recognized nationwide as leader in this field.

As we move forward into 2012, we face many challenges. Budget reductions and the "New World Economy" increases the complexity of these issues. While the task is



daunting, Patriots Gateway Community Center will continue moving forward. The Board and Staff are dedicated to finding creative, innovative ways to continue offering first class services in a first class community center. The children deserve nothing less.

In closing, I would like to express my excitement about future opportunities currently being discussed at PGCC. The vision and dreams of the past, that formed to create a beautiful community center, still exist today. It is my dream that Patriots Gateway Community Center will continue to impact the lives of many Rockford children just as it did for my son.

Michael Booker  
Chairman of the Board



# Pride Achievement Teamwork Respect Integrity Optimism Trust Support

Board Chairman-Michael Booker



What better way to learn about these Core Values than through Sports fun? With the Patriots Gateway Athletic Program, Rockford kids put Core Values into practice while also showcasing their athletic talents!

Patriots Executive Director, Jim Flodin, and Chairman of Patriots Board, Michael Booker, are eager to incorporate core values into a World Class Athletic Program. along with Patriots currently featured sports basketball, golf, and boxing. Flodin and Booker are exploring opportunities in wrestling and possibly sponsoring baseball and softball teams at Roy Gale.

President/CEO-Jim Flodin



In an effort to give Rockford kids more positive options, Patriots Gateway strives to bring more athletic opportunities to the community. We are proud of our athletes and the great success they have brought to our Athletic Program. Athletic Director, Reggie Biffle, has done a wonderful job organizing the basketball team, the Patriots Ambassadors. This summer, the Patriots Ambassadors took 2nd place at the gym Rats Basketball Associations National Tournament in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Boxing Director-Jimmy Goodman



Boxing Program Director, Jimmy Goodman, Jr. is training relentless fighters. Eleven year old Joey DeLeon won the Jr. Golden Gloves National Championship this year. When asked in an interview by Channel 13 News WREX about what's contributed to his recent success, Joey stated, "Just training real hard, get in good sparring, and I have a good coach who encourages me."

Executive Director, Jim Flodin stated in the same interview, "We're trying to produce good citizens with character and integrity-not just boxers."

Athletic Director-Reggie Biffle



More important than winning, is maintaining a winning attitude, which is what Patriots Gateway instills in its athletes. Our goal is to get Rockford kids to recognize their talents, feel confident in their abilities, and maintain a positive attitude. We are happy to have such wonderful kids represent our Athletic Program and we foresee many more achievements!

Registration is open through November for 4th and 5th grade coed basketball teams. Call Reggie Biffle at Patriots for more information, 815.967.0413.

Support the Patriots Ambassadors at a pancake Fundraiser-December 10, 2011- 8:00am-10:00am





# Look What is Happening at Patriots Community Center...



Photo (1): house getting prepared for demolition.



Photo (2): Side of home preparing for demolition.

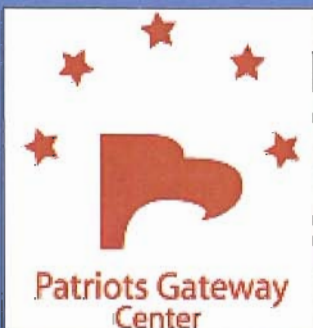


Photo: (4) House Gone!!! New View For Patriots Gateway



Photo (3): the heavy equipment is moving in to remove the house from its frame.

Before and after photo's all in less then a day. Proving a point that all things change and for Patriots it is the neighborhood and the buildings around it.



*Please do not forget about us for your end of the year Giving.... Jim Flodin*





# Jim Flodin's Thoughts

President/CEO

## “HOPE TO CHANGE”

I don't know how many times I've thought about the 'changes' I've 'hoped' to make at Patriots, but for whatever reason it's just not the right time for many things.

But, what is the right time?

Well, let's take our message in a different direction, and look at the big picture. According to the Wall Street Journal Rockford is the ninth most dangerous city in America as far as crime is concerned.

What can we do? We, collectively, gripe and moan about kids, parenting, crime, etc., and it's just the same old, same old complaint and it looks like its getting worse.

OK, here's an appeal and a challenge... Help us with your ideas about how to make our city a safer place. We will listen to what you have to say and promise that anyone who comes up with a good idea will be published in the next Newsletter.

Fact: It's not going to get any better until we get the help we need to make it better.

Now, I don't want to 'stick my finger in anyone's eye' about not donating to Patriots, and any other agency, but we as a society need to stop throwing money at or giving constant handouts, to a new program of 'freebies' without a proven return.

We, meaning Rockford, are becoming a 'welfare' city and growth is being based on how much we hand out. It has to stop, we have enough to take care of. We can no longer make Patriots work the way it needs to work without financial

assistance. We cannot continue to 'pat our politicians on the head' without the help we have been promised.

We are dealing with 'no hope,' and we need to 'change' it. Patriots is doing its part to curb crime in Rockford. We initiate new programs on an on going basis to that end.

The County and City must support prevention Programs.

*Jim*



## 2011-2012 After-School Program

In an effort to give the children in our community more recreational options, Patriots Gateway 2011-2012 After-School Program has integrated new activities into its schedule:

- ▶ A trip to Curran's Orchard in Rockford,
  - ▶ Black History Month,
  - ▶ Rockford Public Literary,
  - ▶ Rockford First Tee

Athletic Director, Reggie Biffle, has worked hard to organize coed basketball leagues. (Registration now open). The Boy Scouts are scheduled for Monday afternoons. The After-School-Program staff is committed to providing the children with a safe, fun, and educational environment where children feel supported, encouraged, enjoyed, and appreciated.



A trip to Curran's Orchard in Rockford



# Patriot of The Year Award



Joyce Sallis & Rep.  
Chuck Jefferson

## *IL Representative Chuck Jefferson, 67th District*

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IL Representative Chuck Jefferson is dedicated to helping Rockford become a beautiful and safe community. He has supported Patriots Gateway in very generous ways. He has secured grants in the amount of \$100,000 for the renovation of CICS Patriots, the charter school housed at Patriots Gateway, and \$50,000 for the renovation of the kitchen and dining room, as well as sponsoring the grant for our new Climbing Wall. Representative Jefferson annually brings millions of dollars to the Rockford Community. He has shared his leadership skills with several civic boards including United Way and New Zion Day Care. He is currently member of Rockford's Sportsman's Golf Association, American Legion, Welcome Star Lodge, and Providence Baptist Church. Representative Jefferson's community involvement and contributions are proof of his commitment to bettering the Rockford Community. We have shown our appreciation for all of Representative Jefferson's work on our behalf by presenting him with the Patriot of the Year Award at the Annual Dinner. Patriots Gateway is proud to have this monumental man as a supporter and friend.

