

WWI vet fought another war over disability benefits

Gus Lawrence Edelen's parents moved from Marion County to Taylor County around 1860 while his father was just a baby. James Edelen married Martha Belle Curry Edelen, and the couple settled in Mannsville where they farmed and raised their children. Their son, Gus, was born in 1894.

Although World War I officially began in July of 1914, the United States remained neutral until Germany's submarine warfare resulted in the sinking of the Lusitania which caused 1,195 deaths. On April 6, 1917, Congress approved President Woodrow Wilson's declaration of war and the U.S. officially joined the Allied powers of Britain, France and Russia.

Like other Taylor County men, Gus Edelen was drafted. He registered for military service in Taylor County on June 5, 1917, and reported to Camp Zachary Taylor near Louisville. A Sept. 2, 1917, Courier Journal article listed Gus Edelen as one of 34 Taylor County men who had been certified for service. He officially entered the Army on Sept. 5, 1917.

After completing infantry training with the rank of private, he was assigned to Company "B" Sixth Infantry. In April 1918, he departed Hoboken, New Jersey, sailing aboard the

USS Mount Vernon, headed for France.

A Dec. 31, 1918, Courier Journal article listed names of recent Kentuckians who were casualties of the war. Among the men listed as "wounded severely" was Gus L. Edelen of Spurlington. Once able to endure the trip, Edelen departed France on Feb. 16, 1919, on the USS Maui, an American commercial passenger ship acquired by the Navy to transport troops.

Back in the states, Edelen received medical care at a military hospital on Governor's Island in New York. According to his discharge papers, he received a Surgeon's Certificate of Disability on Aug. 11, 1919, and his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army at Camp Zachary Taylor on Aug. 25, 1919.

But that was far from the end of the story.

In February of 1928, Edelen wrote to the Courier Journal hoping that the press and the American people could help him receive the military benefits he deserved and had been promised. The following is the slightly edited letter that the newspaper printed.

"I am a native of Taylor County, Kentucky, and was inducted into the United States Army in Campbellsville in September 1917 and served until honorably discharged in August 1919 by reason of disability.



Gus Lawrence Edelen was disabled during service in World War I but had to fight for promised disability benefits after returning home to Taylor County.

"I was in the battles of Loc-Noir and St. Die Sectors, the attack of St. Mihiel and that of the Meuse-Argonne, and was wounded by shrapnel near the Meuse River on Nov. 6, 1918. By reason of this wound, my right leg was amputated above the knee in a U.S. hospital prior to my discharge from the Army, and I was left in an extremely nervous condition, diagnosed at various times by the United States Veteran Bureau as neurasthenia, severe traumatic and anxiety neurosis, which rendered me at that time permanently and totally disabled, and has continued to do so.

"On my return to the U.S., I applied for vocational training, but was denied on the grounds that it 'was not feasible.' Though I applied for and did receive a certificate for \$5,000 by the Bureau of War, this amount was not paid until after I had brought suit for it in the District Court of the United States in Louisville (in February of 1926). The insurance was finally paid, but when I applied for the full compensation of \$100 per month which the law provides for permanent total disability – this I have never been able to secure nor to obtain any satisfactory reason why.

"The State Service Officer of the American Legion of Kentucky became interested in my case, and knowing the justice of my claim, made an effort to have this compensation paid to me, but without success. In short, I have proceeded in every way known to secure the compensation which I badly need and is justly due me under the law which plainly states that a soldier who is permanently totally disabled while in the discharge of his duty is entitled to \$100 per month. I have been proven in a federal court that this is my condition, yet I cannot collect it. Can anyone tell me why, or what further steps I can take to secure it?"

Three days later, another short article, written by "A Legionnaire" of Camp-

bellsville was likewise printed in the Courier Journal. The unidentified writer spoke of other disabled Taylor County veterans who were not drawing compensation ... pleading for the help of American Legion officials and the Veterans Bureau to work on their behalf to assure that all disabled World War veterans would soon get enough money to live on and live decently.

While \$100 a month doesn't sound like much, inflation it would make that amount between \$1,800 and \$1,900 a month today.

In the midst of Edelen's fight to receive the benefits he was due – which according to the Edelen family, he eventually received – Gus married Flossie Cox on Dec. 31, 1927. The couple settled on a farm that Gus owned in Mannsville. They raised eight children and lived in the same home on the same farm for the rest of their lives.

Gus Edelen died at the age of 81 in 1975. Flossie, lived to be 96, and died in 2005. Gus, his wife and all eight children are buried at St. Francis de Sales Cemetery in Spurlington.

EARLY DAYS

TEN YEARS AGO August 2015

A Campbellsville woman died after her vehicle left the road and hit a tree. Jane Beams, 47, dead Aug. 14 at the scene of the one-car wreck.

Jamie and Tommy Wright of Elk Horn, announced the birth of their son, Dawson Blayz, on Saturday Aug. 8, 2015, at Taylor Regional Hospital. He was born at 9:01 a.m., weighed 9 pounds and was 21 inches long.

Caleb Lee, a 2015 Taylor County School graduate, was named this year's recipient of the Forcht Bank Higher Education Scholarship. Only seniors who participate in Taylor County Bank's Cardinal Financial Center are eligible for the scholarship. Lee said he planned to attend Western Kentucky University.

A group of nine Campbellsville Middle School students attend Tim Horton camp this summer at Camp Kentachten on Green River Lake. At the 10-day camp, the students participated in archery, ropes course, canoeing and more. They were Katie England, Logan Phillips, Bryson Karr, Daivian Thorton, Damon Johnson, Elijah Sears-Goin, Nicholas Combs and Margaret Johnson.

TWENTY YEARS AGO August 2005

The Taylor County Historical Society met for a picnic at Early's Chapel United Methodist Church, which was organized in 1856.

Campbellsville University was planning its annual Pastors and Church Leaders Conference for September.

A Durham High School reunion has been planned for Sept. 3-4 at the corner of Baptist Street, Durham Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Lindsay Cissell was named Miss Pre-Teen Hart County recently. She also won Miss Congeniality. She is the 12-year-old daughter of Tim and Sandra Cissell.

Jacob J. Cotton joined the U.S. Army under the delayed entry program.

THIRTY YEARS AGO August 1995

Heather Renee Terry of Campbellsville is the winner of the 1995-96 Harry C. Barfield Scholarship and Internship Award from the Television Association of the Bluegrass.

Crystal Lynn Murray was selected as the 1996 Taylor County Junior Miss.

A Bike Safety Rodeo was conducted Aug. 6 at the Fire


Training Center on Old Greensburg Road.

FORTY YEARS AGO August 1985

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Davis

and son, Benjy, of Beechwood Drive, visited their former Virginia neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Don Myrotte, in

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LEGAL NOTICE

Campbellsville Independent School System

Annual Notice To Parents Rights Under FERPA For Elementary and Secondary Institutions

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and "eligible students" (students over 18 years of age or students who are attending a post-secondary institution) certain rights with respect to the student's education needs. They are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within forty-five (45) days of the day the District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school Principal/designee a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Principal will make the arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the record(s) may be inspected.

(1) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. Parents or eligible students may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of privacy or other rights. They should write the school's Principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of privacy or other rights.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise him/her of the right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(2) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. Exceptions that permit disclosure without consent include:

a. Disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A "school official" is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility to the District.

b. Upon request, disclosure of education records without parent/eligible student notice or consent to officials of another school district or post-secondary institution in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled or to other entities authorized by law so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.

c. Disclosure information to those whose knowledge of such information is necessary to respond to an actual, impending, or imminent articulable and significant health/safety threat.


(3) The right to notify the District in writing to withhold information the Board has designated as directory information as listed in the annual directory information notice the District provides to parents/eligible students. To exercise this right, parents/eligible students shall notify the District by the deadline designated by the District.

(4) The right to prohibit the disclosure of personally identifiable information concerning the student to recruiting representatives of the U.S. Armed Forces and its service academies, the Kentucky Air National Guard, and the Kentucky Army National Guard. Unless the parent or secondary school student requests in writing that the District not release information, the student's name, address, and telephone number (if listed) shall be released to Armed Forces recruiters upon their request.

(5) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520

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JUST READ THIS AD.
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LEGAL NOTICE

PRESS RELEASE

Campbellsville Independent School District will be participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program, CISD will offer healthy meals every school day at NO COST to the students due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2025-2026. Students will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a household application. For more information, you may call Tawana Eastridge at **270-465-4162** or e-mail at **Tawana.Eastridge@cville.ky schools.us**

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Online Form (AD-3027) found online at How to file a Complaint, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:


(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

School and Community Nutrition Revised: 02/2023



LEGAL NOTICE

Child Find for Children with Disabilities in Need of Special Education or 504 Services

Child Find

The Taylor County School District keeps educational records in a secure location in each school and Board Office. The Taylor County School District obtains written consent from a parent or eligible student (age 18 or who is attending a postsecondary institution), before disclosing personally identifiable information to an entity or individual not authorized to receive it under FERPA.

For students who have been determined eligible for Special Education, educational records will be destroyed at the request of the parents when they are no longer needed to provide educational programs or services. The Taylor County School District may destroy the educational records of a child without parent request (3) three years after they are no longer needed to provide educational programs or services. Parents are advised that data contained in the records may later be needed for Social Security benefits or other purposes. The Taylor County School District may retain, for an indefinite period of time, a record of the student's name, address, telephone number, grades, attendance records, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed.

Children eligible for Special Education include those children with disabilities who have autism, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, emotional-behavior disability, hearing impairment, mental disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury or visual impairment and who because of such an impairment need Special Education services.

Children eligible for 504 services include those children in a public elementary and secondary education program who have a current physical or mental impairment that currently substantially limits some major life activity which causes the student's ability to access the school environment or school activities to be substantially limited.

Children eligible for the State-Funded Preschool program include three- and four- year old children identified with disabilities and four-year-old children who are at-risk, as defined by federal poverty levels up to 150%. Preschool children eligible for special education must have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) instead of a 504 plan to receive State-Funded Preschool program services.

The Taylor County School District has an ongoing "Child Find" system, which is designed to locate, identify and evaluate any child residing in a home, facility, or residence within its geographical boundaries, age three (3) to twenty-one (21) years, who may have a disability and be in need of Special Education or 504 services. This includes children who are not in school; those who are in public, private, or home school; those who are highly mobile such as children who are migrant or homeless; and those who are advancing from grade to grade, who may need but are not receiving Special Education or 504 services.

The district's "Child Find" system includes children with disabilities attending private or home schools within the school district boundaries who may need special education services.

The Taylor County School District will make sure any child enrolled in its district who qualifies for Special Education or 504 services, regardless of how severe the disability, is provided appropriate Special Education or 504 services at no cost to the parents of the child.

Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees and concerned citizens are urged to help the Taylor County School District find any child who may have a disability and need Special Education or 504 services. The District needs to know the name and age, or date of birth of the child; the name, address, and phone number(s) of the parents or guardian; the possible disability; and other information to determine if Special Education or 504 services are needed.

Letters and phone calls are some of the ways the Taylor County School District collects the information needed. The information the school District collects will be used to contact the parents of the child and find out if the child needs to be evaluated or referred for Special Education or 504 services.

If you know of a child who lives within the boundaries of the Taylor County School District, who may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving Special Education or 504 services please call Taylor County Schools or send the information to:

Director of Special Education/504 Coordinator
Taylor County Schools
1209 East Broadway
Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718
Phone: 270-465-5371

If you know of a child who attends a private or home school within the boundaries of the Taylor County School District, who may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving Special Education services, please call Taylor County Schools or send the information to:

Director of Special Education
Taylor County Schools
1209 East Broadway
Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718
Phone: 270-465-5371

"Child Find" activities will continue throughout the school year. As part of these efforts the Taylor County School District will use screening information, student records, and basic assessment information it collects on all children in the District to help locate those children who have a disability and need Special Education or 504 Services. Any information the District collects through "Child Find" is maintained confidentially.

Written Policies and Procedures have been developed which describe the District's requirements regarding the confidentiality of personally identifiable information and "Child Find" activities. There are copies in the Principal's office of each school, and in the Board of Education office. Copies of these Policies and Procedures may be obtained by contacting:

Director of Pupil Personnel
Taylor County Schools
1209 East Broadway
Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718
Phone: 270-465-5371

The District office is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00am to 4:00pm

The Taylor County School District provides a public notice in the native language or other mode of communication of the various populations in the geographical boundaries of the District to the extent feasible.

If you know of someone who may need this notice translated to another language, given orally, or delivered in some other manner or mode of communication, please contact the Director of Pupil Personnel, the Director of Special Education or Section 504 Coordinator at the address or phone number listed above for the Taylor County Schools.