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Shelby Township residents and Vietnam War veterans Mike "Doc" Hardy, who served in the U.S. Air Force, left, and Ken Carson, who served in the U.S. Army, right, attend the 2013 Shelby Township Memorial Day service at the veterans memorial on the township's municipal grounds.

File photo by Donna Agusti

Memorial Day service set to honor lives lost

MAY 29 CEREMONY DEDICATED TO ED YOUNG

BY SARAH WOJCIK

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SHELBY TOWNSHIP — While Veterans Day is a time to celebrate, Memorial Day is a more somber occasion to pay tribute to the heroes who died in the line of duty.

Shelby Township's annual Memorial Day

service is set to take place at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 29, at the veterans memorial located on the municipal grounds, 52700 Van Dyke Ave., south of 24 Mile Road.

Phil Randazzo, the township's veteran events coordinator, said he chose to dedicate this year's Memorial Day service to Ed Young, who

See MEMORIAL on page 13A

Memorial

from page 3A

passed away April 28 at the age of 85.

Young was a U.S. Air Force veteran, a U.S. Army Tank-Automotive and Armory Command retiree and a Shelby Township resident.

Young was also a member of the township's Veterans Committee, volunteered at Selfridge Military Air Museum and Air Park, and received the Shelby Township Best Place to Live award on Aug. 4, 2015, for his instrumental role in implementing emergency ham radio communications in the Shelby Township Fire Department.

"He did a lot of civil work over here and he was a friend of mine," Randazzo said.

The Memorial Day service will feature the placing of a wreath, the national anthem, the posting of colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, an invocation, patriotic songs, a benediction, a 21-gun salute and taps.

Randazzo was selected recently to be one of more than 200 Vietnam veterans to share their stories in a book commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, "A Time to Honor: Stories of Service, Duty and Sacrifice."

Randazzo's excerpt, titled "Loss of Reality," details his experience as a reconnaissance scout during an attack by the North Vietnamese Army on Jan. 30, 1968, a day before the Tet Offensive.

Sharlene Hawkes, president of Remember My Service Productions, said the project's objective was to cast light on a subject that was, for many, a repressed experi-

ence because of the negative public stigma of the Vietnam War.

"We wanted to reinforce that over 9 million served the call of their country without any desire to follow any particular policy," Hawkes said. "The book is a way to show the breadth and depth of the Vietnam War."

Included stories are not only

from combat veterans, but also mail clerks, nurses, prisoners of war and truck drivers, she said.

The goal, Hawkes said, is for the book to be free for Vietnam War veterans in every state. The first state to launch the program was Utah. Eight other states are in the "early adopter" stage, and she said she hopes that a majority of

the states will be engaged by 2017.

To view the e-book version, visit www.vietnam50gift.com/ebook-download.

For more information about the Shelby Township Memorial Day service, call the Supervisor's Office at (586) 731-5154.

Call Staff Writer Sarah Wojcik at (586) 498-1029.



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ALL CASH RAFFLE

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- Only 5,500 tickets will be sold
- Winning ticket will be drawn on June 4, 2016