

# Wausau Daily Herald

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## NEWS

# New mural salutes David Clark Everest

*Oral History Project effort sheds light on district namesake's accomplishments*

**Michelle Rothmeyer** For the Everest Herald

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On the morning of Dec. 15, a David Clark Everest Memorial Mural was proudly unveiled at the D.C. Everest Senior High. This momentous event was the result of many months of intense research and collaborative design by D.C.E. teachers, students, alumni and community members.

It all began when Paul Aleckson, D.C.E. social studies curriculum coordinator, spoke with Melvin Laird about the Oral History Project's latest effort, "Hometown Stories" — a hard-cover publication featuring D.C.E. student interviews with business leaders, artists, authors, athletes and musicians of note from the central Wisconsin region.

Laird, a former U.S. congressman and Defense secretary, told Aleckson that David Clark Everest had served as his mentor and convinced him to run for a government position. That conversation served as the impetus for the memorial mural.

"The majority of our students and people in our community are unaware of the impact Everest had on our region," Aleckson said. "At the age of 27, he was hired to manage the Marathon Paper Mills Co. He basically built the plant from the ground up in 1909. We thought it was time to commemorate Mr. Everest, and what better space to do so than within the district that is named in his honor."

The mural was completed thanks to generous donations from Melvin Laird and Domtar (which is the same plant that originally hired Everest), as well as the technical expertise of Becker Communications and Jon Goertz Design LLC.

Everest sophomores Allie Cotton and Jordan Sazama and junior Molly Maahs conducted the research for the mural.

"I'd never been to the Marathon County Historical Society, and it was great to dig in the catacombs, and then to have the opportunity to work with Becker Communications and Mr.

Goertz on the design, setup and layout of the piece,” Sazama said.

“I had heard about Mr. Everest over the years but never understood the impact he had on our community or why our district had been named after him,” Cotton said. It has been great to be part of a project that will share his story with students, parents, families and community members who visit our school.”

The students were assisted by OHP advisers Travis Greil and Nancy Gajewski, who are also DCE social studies teachers.

The three-piece mural is a graphic timeline of Everest’s life. The first panel covers his younger years; the second panel is a timeline illustrating his role in developing the Wausau business community; and the third panel celebrates the accomplishments that led to his moniker as “Mr. Wisconsin.”

DCE Superintendent Kristine Gilmore noted at the event that the process that brought about the commemorative mural was a great representation of the Evergreen tradition. “Just as Mr. Everest gave back to his community as a philanthropist and entrepreneur, our students, staff, alumni and community members have demonstrated the same by working together to complete this project.”



D.C. Everest Superintendent Kristine Gilmore, sophomore Allie Cotton, sophomore Jordan Sazama, Oral History Project advisor Travis Greil and Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator Paul Aleckson gathered for the Dec. 15 unveiling of the David Clark Everest Memorial Mural at D.C. Everest Senior High. *Michelle Rothmeyer/For The Everest Herald*



Andrew Becker of Becker Communcinations, who is a D.C. Everest alumnus, and Jon Goertz of Goertz Design assisted with the layout and production of the three-panel mural. *Michelle Rothmeyer/For The Everest Herald*