

Ansonia mom shares her feelings of pride in soldier son

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - Any parent can relate to feeling proud when a child achieves a major goal early in life.

Our friend Irene Krom-Kirby of Ansonia is one of those parents.

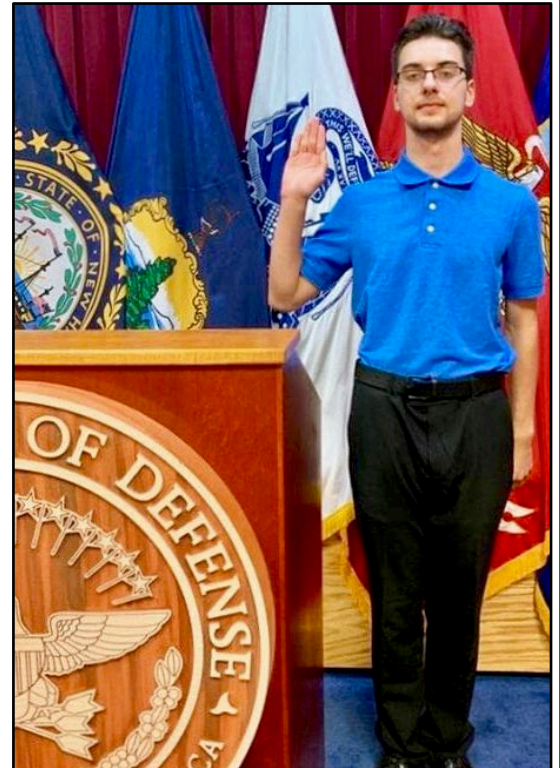
In an email to *The Valley Voice* she shared the pride she and her husband John Kirby feel that their son Nicholas, 18, recently joined the U.S. Army. He is a 2020 graduate of Ansonia High School.

Krom-Kirby wrote, "One of Nicholas' solid traits is having determination. He learned to play the violin right-handed - which is very difficult for a left-handed person."

She said she wasn't surprised when he "followed through with his dream of becoming a U.S. Army soldier." He is training to be a combat medic.

"During boot camp we were given glimpses [through letters and photos] of what their days were like," Krom-Kirby wrote. "It amazed me to watch the changes in him. Through the photos I actually got to see he was becoming a man and he was no longer my little boy."

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The COVID-19 pandemic forced cancellation of in-person attendance at the September graduation ceremony, but it was recorded live which allowed parents to witness the event.



"As I watched my son put on his beret for the first time I cried," Krom-Kirby wrote. "I had never felt so much pride.

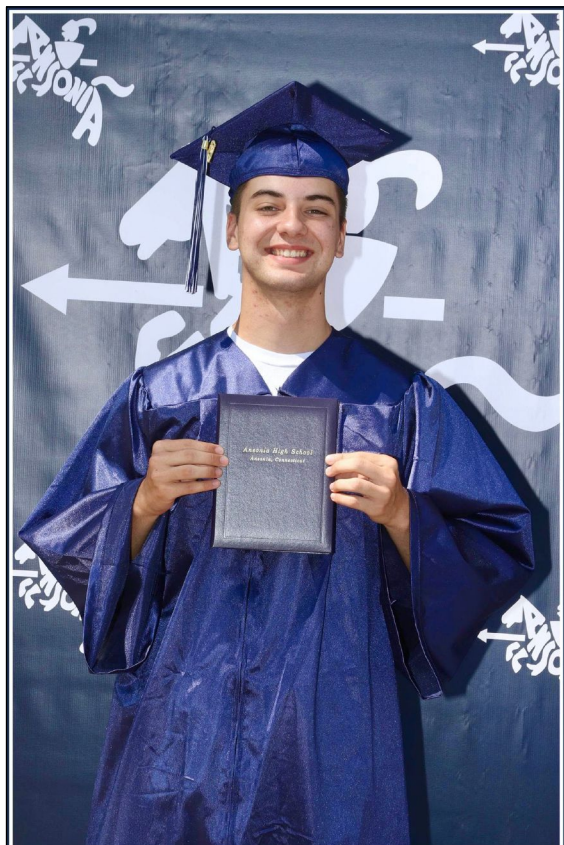
I knew from his letters the struggles he faced during the different phases of boot camp.

"As I stand outside today watching the leaves fall it is hard to believe Nicholas hasn't set foot on this porch since late June.

"The pride I have for him and what he has accomplished thus far is immeasurable. Nicholas now stands up for his country.

"I guess you can say I am in awe of him."

We at The Valley Voice wish Nicholas all the best in his Army career.



ANSONIA HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 2020



Light the Valley CT to host Shine for Survivors at Quarry Walk in Oxford

JOIN THE TEAM OF
LIGHT THE VALLEY CT
IN HONORING THOSE
AFFECTED BY
Breast Cancer

Shine for
SURVIVORS

October 24, 2020 6-9pm

EVENT HOSTED AT

QUARRY WALK
300 Oxford Road Oxford, CT 06478
QW Walking Trail
& Center Rock Green

From the [Light the Valley CT](#) Facebook page:

"October is breast cancer awareness month. This group's goal is to promote awareness and honor or memorialize those affected by breast cancer while fundraising to better patient services at our breast center.

A \$5 minimum donation per bag or six for \$25."In the month of October luminary kits will be sold at retailers throughout the CT Valley region, purchase one to display on your property.

"All proceeds benefit the patients at the Hewitt Center for Breast Wellness at Griffin Hospital."



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VOTE

Dan ★ DeBarba

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ENDORSED REPUBLICAN AND INDEPENDENT PARTY CANDIDATE



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd

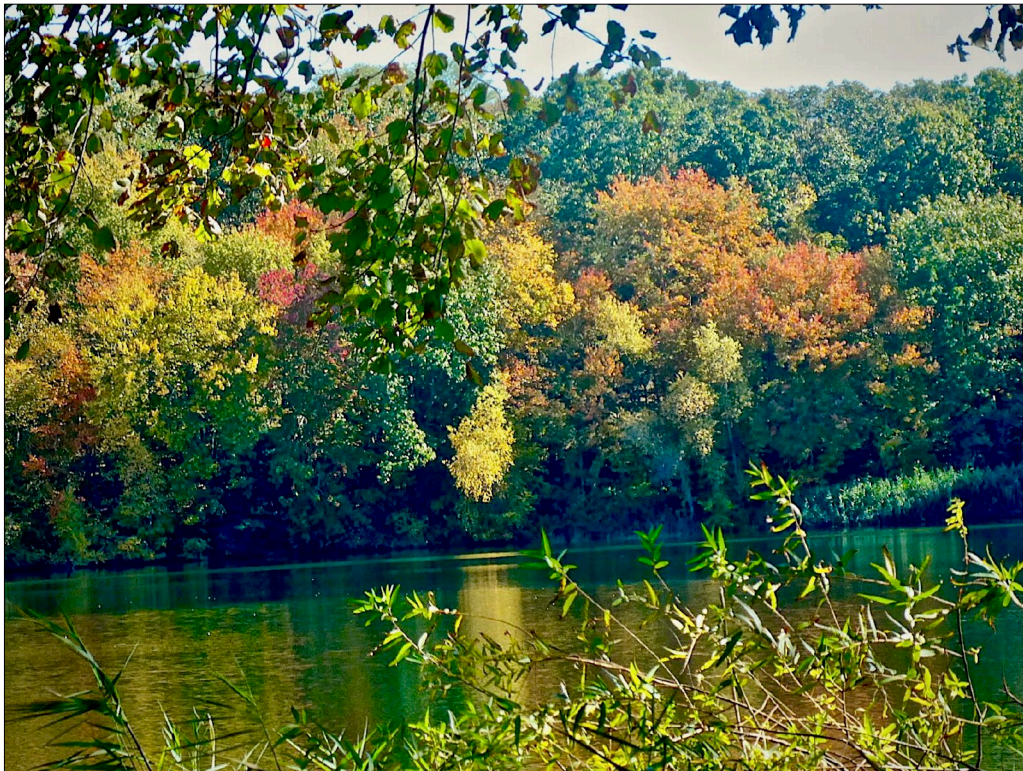
With your support, I'll bring my three decades of healthcare leadership, balancing multi-million dollar budgets and bringing people together to meet serious challenges and solve real problems. Together we can and will do better.

**Endorsed by
Themis Klarides**

Dan has the experience to lead and the passion to serve.

www.DeBarbaForStateRep.com

Paid for by DeBarba for State Rep. Treasurer, Judy Szewczyk. Approved by Dan DeBarba.



We await the autumnal foliage splendor in the Valley. As it takes its time to arrive tantalizing hints of Fall appear at Osbornedale State Park in Derby.

- Photo by
Patricia Villers



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