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Effort by Lowndes County realtor plants 5,000 American flags for 4th

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COLUMBUS, Miss. (AP) - A Columbus realtor has donated about 5,000 American flags to local residents for the Fourth of July holiday.

Don West, manager of the Coldwell Banker office in Columbus, said his branch planted the flags Thursday in Columbus, Caledonia and New Hope.

Jim Hart, 74, was one of the first to receive a flag on his block. Hart, a retired Navy man, said he hadn't seen anything like Coldwell Banker's distribution drive aside from his work with the Civitans.

"I think it's a genuine attempt to remind us that we are Americans," he said.

West's company has been providing this Fourth of July service to the community for about a decade now, he said, as a reminder of the connection between being "proud to be an American and dream of owning a home, too."

Coldwell Banker realty branches throughout the nation participated in a flag drive Thursday, planting thousands of copies of the Stars and Stripes in yards in cities across the country.

Assisting West and his agents in their patriotic duties in Lowndes County were the members of the 13-year-old division of the Columbus All-Star baseball team.

The team got paid a modest sum from the realty agency, which team member Craig Crowley said will help finance its trips to summer playoffs, such as a road trip to Vicksburg next week.

Rush

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