

Ripkowski Historic Memorial

The Liberty County Historic Landmark marker honoring the Ripkowskis is entitled

"The Stash and Mattie Ripkowski Family"

The text states,

"As first generation Americans, Stash and Mattie Ripkowski were extremely hard working, religious people who raised their sixteen children to be passionately patriotic and rise to challenges at hand. The family moved to Dayton in 1932 and began sharecropping a 200 acre farm. The farm life required the efforts of all of the children, both in the fields and running the household.

When the United States entered WWII, the nine older brothers: Bernie, Felix, alex, August, Leon, Bill, Raymond, Herman and Franklin, left home one by one to answer their country's call to serve in the military. They all saw war action, several being severely injured, but all miraculously survived the war and returned to Dayton.

In their brothers' absence, Catherine, Virginia, Pearline, Anna Lee, and the younger boys rolled up their sleeves and struggled to help their parents work the farm. Later two more brothers, John and Mike, served int the Korean War along with Franklin who was recalled to serve again. Stanley, the youngest followed in his brothers' footsteps by enlisting during peacetime. No other family in American history has sent that many sons to serve in the armed forces. This extraordinary family is an inspiration to all patriotic Americans."