

Veterans



Iwo Jima Memorial, Washington D.C.

Throughout Elma's history men and women have served in the armed services of the United States. Elma's citizens have served in the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

On May 13, 1846, Congress declared war on Mexico. A treaty was signed February 2, 1848.

The Civil War lasted from April 12, 1861, to April 9, 1865. President Abraham Lincoln issued a call for troops to enforce this nation's laws.

The Spanish-American War lasted only briefly from April to August of 1898.

On May 18, 1917, President Wilson issued a proclamation which made the Selective Draft Act Law. All men between the ages of 21 and 32 were obliged to register by the following June 5. There were 1,166 men in Howard County who came within these ages and who registered. Most boys who were drafted to military service were sent to Camp Dodge at Des Moines.

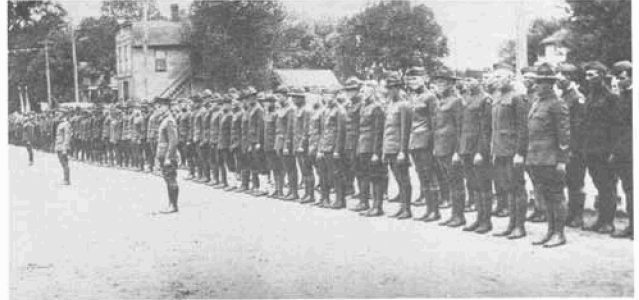
Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, brought the United States into WW II. The United States Selective Training and Service Act became law on September 16, 1940. The war ended on August 14, 1945, when Japan surrendered.

United States involvement in Korea began on June 25, 1950. The war ended on July 27, 1953.

In 1965 combat units from the United States began to take part in the war between North and South Vietnam. The last American troops left Vietnam March 29, 1973; many of these had been POW's. In April of 1975 South Vietnam surrendered.

"Soldier's Day 1919"

A reception was held August 20, 1919, to honor the men who fought in WW I. A large celebration and parade was held with D. J. O'Donnell, who was mayor at the time, acting as chairman. Many of the women had served with the Red Cross. The banquet for the soldiers and their ladyfriends was served in the Woodmen Hall at 6:00.



Elma's area servicemen—Soldier's Day, 1919.



Elma's men and women involved in war effort—1919.



Soldier's Day crowd



Elma's future young women—Soldier's Day.



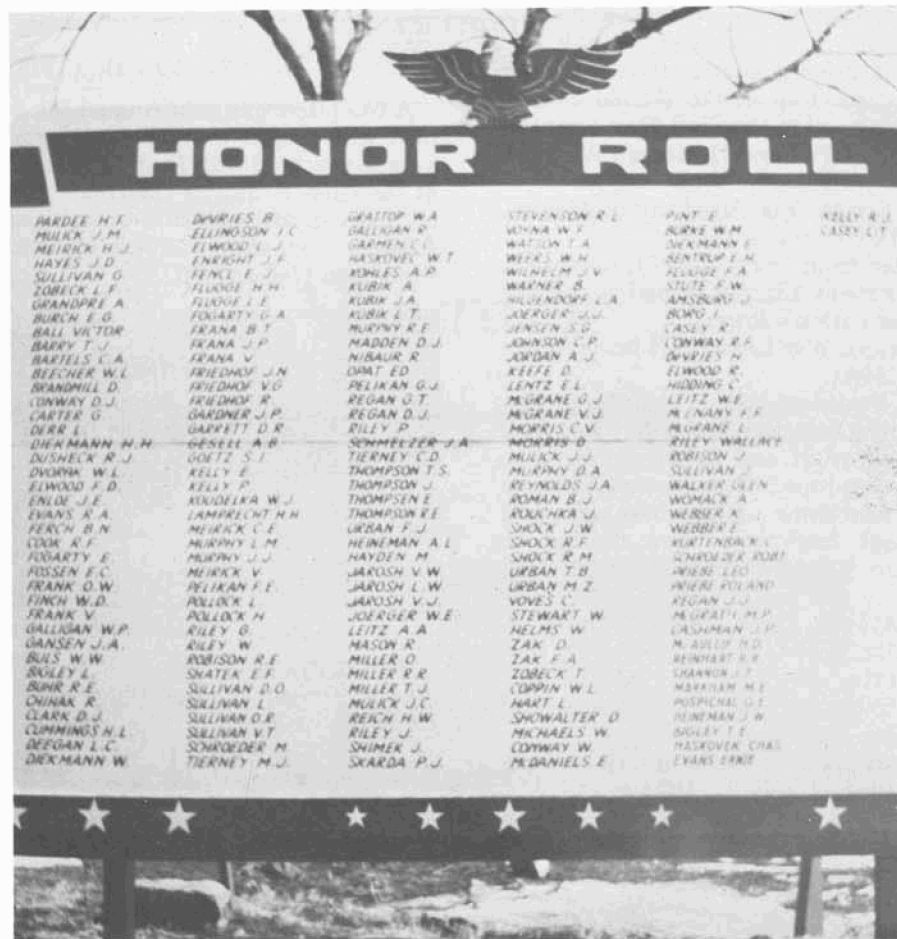
Private First Class
George W. Bayer



Harry O'Neil



John Albert Roethler



This Honor Roll stood where the Memorial Hall now stands. It listed the men who were called into the service during World War II. The theater front and store windows in Elma had pictures of servicemen on display. The Elma New Era ran a column entitled "Serviceman of the Week."

A Prayer For My Son

Dear God it seems but yesterday
 He knelt beside my knee
 And said his childish evening prayers
 In confidence to Thee
 Years sped on happy golden wings
 Today with silent tread
 They carried him away from me
 To sleep among the dead
 Grant him eternal rest dear Lord
 In confidence repay
 and give me strength to carry on
 For this I humbly pray
 From Frances to Victoria Heineman



The graveside service for John Heineman.



Elma's memorial to those who have made the supreme sacrifice for their country was erected in 1984.

We humbly honor, remember, and pay tribute to these men who gave their lives so their country can remain a place of freedom and so their fellow man can have a peaceful existence.

CIVIL WAR

John Crane

Gave his life for his country in 1861.

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

John Mabry

Gave his life for his country in 1898.

WORLD WAR I

Frank A. Havlik

Co. M 352 Inf. 88th Div.

Born December 31, 1894. Gave his life in service to his country in France on November 30, 1918.

William J. Lauck

Co. E 5th Inf. RPL Regt.

Born July 20, 1894, the son of August and Catherine Lauck. Gave his life in service to his country November 1, 1918, in France.

John J. Frahm

Bat. A 58 Field Artillery

Born February 17, 1896, the son of Mr. and Mrs. August Frahm, gave his life in service to his country October 5, 1918, as a member of the American expeditionary force in France.

Leo V. Doyle

Private

Born November 1896, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Doyle, gave his life in service to his country on August 16, 1918, at Fort Bayard in New Mexico.

Edward G. Fogarty, Private

Co. G 132 Reg. U.S. Inf.

Born April 19, 1887, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Fogarty. Gave his life in service to his country on October 9, 1918, as a stretcher bearer in France.

Frank Roethler

Born March 30, 1896, the son of John and Margaret Geifer Roethler. Gave his life in service to his country in 1918 at the Argon Forest in France.

Otto H. Brummond, Private

382 Inf. Regt.

Born March 2, 1894, the son of Albert and Augusta Buss Brummond. Gave his life in service to his country October 19, 1918, in France.

Ralph J. Miller

Born in 1896, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph J. Miller, gave his life in service to his country in 1918.

Roy C. Power

Born February 16, 1896. Killed in action September 29, 1918.



LeRoy Powers



John Frahm



Edward Fogarty



Frank Havlik



William Lauck

WORLD WAR II

John Duane Hayes Aviation Radio Man 3C Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Hayes. Gave his life in service to his country October 6, 1942, on a bombing mission over Guadalcanal.

John Mark Mulick P M 2C

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mulick. Gave his life in service to his country December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor.

Carl John Thiele Private

Born April 3, 1925, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Thiele. Gave his life in service to his country November 20, 1944, on the front lines at Forest Wanen, Germany.

Gerald Thomas Regan 2nd Lt. U.S. Army, 116 Inf. 29th Div.

Born April 2, 1920, son of John and Josephine Irvin Regan, husband of Mary Regan, and father of Daniel Gerald Regan. Gave his life in service to his country July 19, 1944, on the front lines at St. Lo. France, Normandy.

Lt. Russell E. Murphy, A A C
Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Murphy. Gave his life in service to his country March 16, 1944, on a training mission at Moody Field, Georgia.

Harry F. Pardee
Lt. A A C
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pardee. Gave his life in service to his country March 12, 1943, when his plane was bombed in Tunisia.

George A. Sullivan
Shipfitter 3C Navy
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sullivan. Gave his life for his country November 13, 1942, in action in the Solomon Islands.

John William Heineman
AON 2C U.S. Navy
Son of Leo and Victoria Heineman. Gave his life in service to his country May 10, 1946, while on maneuvers at Whiting Field, Milton, Georgia.

Herbert Jerome Meirick AAM
Son of Helen Meirick. Gave his life in service to his country October 26, 1942.

Jerome Nicholas Freidhof Pfc.
Born September 1, 1919, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Freidhof. Gave his life in service to his country December 25, 1944, in action in Belgium.

Raymond R. Reinhart Radioman 3rd Class, Navy Patrol bombing squadron 118

Born January 22, 1926, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Reinhart. Gave his life in service to his country August 9, 1945. Lost at sea on a bombing run in the Asiatic area.

Lester Francis Zobeck
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Zobeck. Gave his life in service to his country December 7, 1941, aboard the USS West Virginia, Pearl Harbor.

Earl George Burch
Baker 3C
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Burch. Gave his life in service to his country on December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor.



AR3C Duane Hayes



PM 2C John Mulick



Pvt. Carl Thiele



Lt. Gerald Regan



Lt. Russell Murphy



Lt. Harry Pardee



Shipfitter 3C
George Sullivan



ACN 2C John Heineman



Leon Murphy



AAM Herbert Meirick



Radioman 3C
Ray Reinhart



Lester Zobeck



Baker 3C Earl Burch



Pfc. Jerome Freidhof

KOREAN WAR

Leon F. Murphy
Aviation Cadet

Born September 26, 1932, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Murphy. Gave his life in service to his country December 17, 1953, at Brian Air Force Base, Texas, while on a training mission.

VIETNAM WAR

George A. Fogarty
Sgt. 4th Div. 1st. Inf.

Born April 30, 1946, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Fogarty. Gave his life in service to his country November 12, 1966, in combat along the Cambodian border.

Richard Allen Havlik
Pfc. 327 Inf. 101 ABN Div.

Born January 19, 1949, son of Francis and Gertrude Havlik. Gave his life in service to his country July 19, 1969, in Vietnam.

Dennis Patrick Friedhoff
Pfc. B Co. 2nd Bn. 16th Inf. 1st Div.

Born March 6, 1948, son of James and Anicetus Friedhoff. Gave his life in service to his country August 27, 1968, on patrol in Vietnam.



Sgt. George Fogarty



Pfc. Richard Havlik



Pfc. Dennis Friedhoff

Prisoner of War



Prisoner of War
S/Sgt. John Gardner

In August of 1944, Mrs. Mamie Gardner of rural Elma was contacted by a ham-radio operator from California. He told her that he had heard the name of her son, Staff Sergeant John P. Gardner, listed on the Armed Forces Radio as missing in action. Several days later she received official notification of John's status as a German prisoner of war.

John P. Gardner had enlisted in the Army on February 21, 1942, at the age of 25. He was accepted by the Aviation Cadet program after basic training. He remained with the Army Air Force and graduated as a Radio Operator Mechanic Gunner MOS 757. He trained with a ten member bomber crew on a B-24 Liberator Bomber and was then stationed at Foggia, Italy, an American air base. From there the crew flew bomber missions over Munich, Germany. While on their eighteenth mission over Munich, on June 13, 1944, they were shot down, causing a mid-air collision of three planes. Of the thirty crew members only three were able to parachute down to be captured by German civilians and become prisoners of war. John was one of these.

John's first interrogation was at Frankfurt; five days of solitary confinement, then exhaustive questioning, then on to Stalag Luft IV. While there John credits the Red Cross with sustaining them. One ration of food had to be shared by six prisoners.

On January 31, 1945, at 2:00 a.m., with temperatures of 40 degrees below zero, the prisoners were ordered to march out because the Russians were advancing on the location. Taken to a depot, they were

ordered into box cars so crowded that there was standing room only. They spent eight days in the box cars, moving at night only, without food or water. Many didn't survive. The remainder were taken to Nuremberg. John says they were the sickest bunch of men he had ever seen. They were interned at a camp a half mile from Nuremberg, which was being bombed heavily by the British. "Conditions there were horrible!"

It was spring when the prisoners were moved again and they were glad to be out in the open air, with little harrassment except from the S.S. The march took them to Mooseburg 7, where there were 70,000 prisoners held in a camp intended for 5,000.

On April 29, 1945, a U.S. Army engineering outfit moved two tanks into the compound, freeing the prisoners. John comments that although he did not know it at the time, Vince Freidhof of Lourdes was on one of the tanks.

After about ten days the men were taken by truck to an airfield and flown to Rheims, France. Upon landing, John was immediately taken to a hospital with scarlet fever, where he remained for three weeks. During this time, his family at Elma was notified of his release and condition. Thanks to the Red Cross, an occasional letter had been received from John during his ten-and-a-half-month status as a prisoner of war. However, these were greatly censored and the many letters sent to John, including one package of warm clothing, were never received by him.

After release from the hospital, following "two good days in Paris," Staff Sergeant John P. Gardner boarded the ship "The Lucky Strike" at LeHavre, France, for a nine-day crossing to Boston. He went by train to Minneapolis, then to home—Elma, Iowa—for seventy-two days of "temporary duty." He was discharged with the rank of Tech Sergeant on October 23, 1945, at San Antonio, Texas. Decorations he received were for European, African and Middle Eastern duty with four bronze stars. He also received the Purple Heart and the Air Medal with one bronze cluster.

John is now a retired farmer and lives with his wife, Vivian, on a farm northeast of Elma. He is a member of the N.E. Chapter of Ex-POWS, which is part of a national group.

The "American Legion Post 597" was Formed in the Year 1922

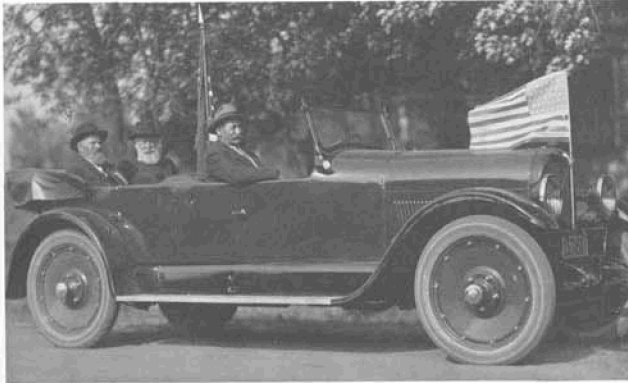
A number of ex-servicemen met on January 23, 1922, in the basement of the Opera House and organized a local post of the American Legion. It was to be called the John Frahm Post in honor of John Frahm, the first local boy to be killed in action in World War I.

Officers elected were: J. A. Cashman, Post Commander; Burton Casey, Vice-President; P. E. Conway, Post Adjutant; Vincent Kennedy, Secretary; Gaylord Robinson, Treasurer.

The charter was granted the second day of February, 1922.

The charter was signed by the following members: John Adrian Cashman, Gaylord G. Robison, Gerald D. Conway, Earl F. Kelly, Vincent L. Kennedy, John M. Schmid, Burton James Casey, Elmer M. Clear, John Casper Weber, Eugene I. Keefe, John Schroeder, Paul E. Conway, James Robert Kane, Joseph E. O'Donnell, Wilfred M. Clair, Lyle Evan Hyberger, and Carl Weber.

The Post was named after John J. Frahm of Elma, Iowa, killed in action in World War I. John was the oldest son of August Frahm and wife, Anna Marie Krumm. He was born February 17, 1896, near Elma, Iowa. He was inducted into the armed forces in



Memorial Day with the "Three Old Soldiers"—Mr. Walters, Mr. Springer, and Mr. Haaf. Mr. Walters and Mr. Haaf were veterans of the Civil War and Mr. Springer was a veteran of the Mexican War.



The Memorial Hall decorated for one of the many wedding receptions held each year.

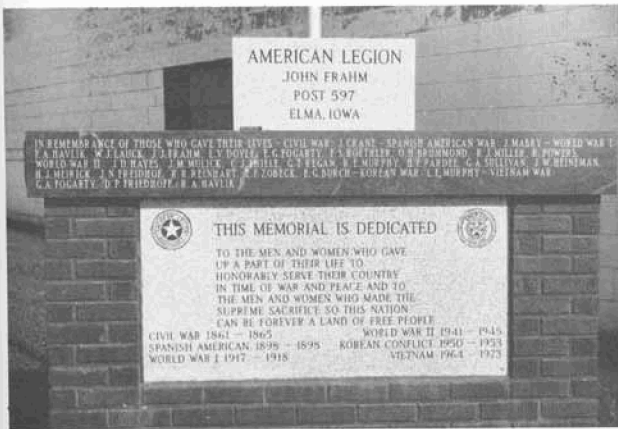


Veterans—John Roethler, Harry O'Neil and Rueben Tuckek.



The Legion Room at the Memorial Hall.

The Memorial Hall



September, 1917, and left for Camp Dodge on September 19, 1917. In November of that year he was transferred to Camp Pike, where in December he became sick with the measles and was in the hospital for three weeks. On March 26 he became ill with pneumonia and was hospitalized for six weeks.

He was at Camp Pike for six months and on June 11, 1918, left for Camp Merritt, N.J., from where he went overseas as a private in the infantry.



Specially built cases in the Legion Room housing equipment and memorabilia.

He was killed in action on September 30, 1918, aged 22 years, 7 months, 14 days.

In 1922, the membership of the John J. Frahm American Legion was 57.

The American Legion Auxiliary received their charter at Des Moines, Iowa, the 10th day of May 1947.

Since the Civil War there have been a total of 28 people from the Elma community who have made the

supreme sacrifice, directly or indirectly, in the service of their country. They are:

Civil War—John Crane, Spanish American War—John Mabry, World War I—Frank A. Havlik, William J. Lauck, John J. Frahm, Leo V. Doyle, Edward G. Fogarty, Frank S. Roethler, Otto H. Brummond, Ralph J. Miller, Roy Powers; World War II—J. Duane Hayes, John M. Mulick, Carl J. Thiele, Russell E. Murphy, Harry F. Pardee, George A. Sullivan, John W. Heineman, Jerome N. Friedhof, Herbert J. Meirick, Raymond R. Reinhart, Lester F. Zobeck, Earl G. Burch, and G. T. Regan; Korean Conflict—Leon F. Murphy; Vietnam War—George A. Fogarty, Dennis P. Freidhoff, Richard A. Havlik.

The Elma community has exemplified patriotism in the defense of our country. I'm sure no other community can equal our per capita sacrifice.

The American Legion Post 597 plays a very important part in the community life in Elma. It was instrumental in building our memorial hall in 1950. The dedication was held June 17, 1950. The contractor for the building was Otto Lentz of Alta Vista, Iowa.

The building committee was: Charley Jones, Dinsmore Brandmill, Dr. S. Anderson, George Shannon, and William Landholt.

Cost of the building was \$19,557.50. Other functions of the American Legion are: planning the memorial and military services for four cemeteries, Howard and Calvary in Elma, St. Cecilia, and Lourdes. We take care of all military funerals, as requested. Each year we sponsor the Boy Scouts and a bowling team to the state American Legion Bowling Tournament. We furnish the American flag which is flown on a lighted pole 24 hours a day. We try to contribute to the Crestwood Band each year.

Our Memorial Day services and our military funerals are second to none. This is made possible by those who have served in the armed services, not just legion members. We make other donations for just causes each year. We chaperon all dances held in the Memorial Hall.

Most of the people that belong to the American Legion have served their country in time of war, and those that have served in peace time are proud people.

Everyone is important. You cannot put an army together in fifteen minutes if you have to go to war. Everybody is important to our national security.

It is an accomplishment that not everybody can fulfill, but it is nice to say "I've been there."

We paid tribute to our service men and women for the sacrifices they made for their fellow countrymen by the memorial we constructed in their honor at the Memorial Hall in 1984.

Donations from the community and the American Legion made this possible. It is one of the finest in the state.

Over all, the members of the American Legion and past members of the armed forces have done a superb job for the community of Elma.

John J. Frahm Legion Post 597
Commander—Kenneth L. Stevenson
Elma, Iowa

The American Legion Auxiliary John Frahm Post 597

The American Legion Auxiliary was formed as a support group to the American Legion. The Elma chapter received their charter in 1947 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Its primary concern is to encourage patriotism and service to our country.

We support our veterans by sending gifts and needed supplies to the various veterans' programs.

Each year a scholarship is given to a veteran's child in the area.

There is also a junior auxiliary to encourage young people to become active in good citizenship.

At each meeting the Preamble to the Constitution is recited to remind us of our duties as members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Current officers of the Elma unit are: President—Mrs. Arlene Oelberg, Vice President—Katherine Beaumaster, Secretary/Treasurer—Mrs. Clara Enright.

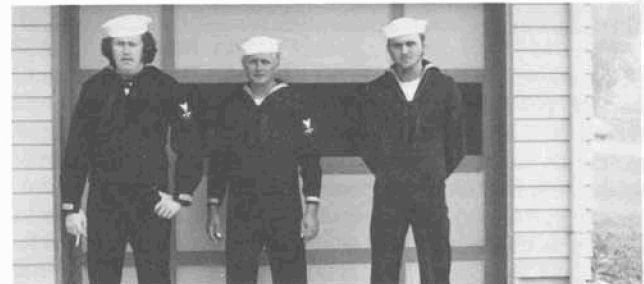
Red Cross During WW I

Elma was the only town outside the county seat in Howard County and in fact the only small town in the state that had a Red Cross Chapter, other small towns working under the county seat town and larger city chapters.

Red Cross During WW II

During World War II, knitting for the Red Cross was under the direction of Mrs. Al Oliver and Mrs. Ed Krogman. The ladies knitted eleven mufflers, eight caps, seven pairs of gloves, six sweaters—V-neck, sleeveless, and turtle-neck long sleeve—and four helmets.

Ladies involved in the knitting included Anna Half, Leana Half, Mrs. Louis Diekmann, Lois Diekmann, Lucille Corrick, Cora McCarthy, Elsie Barry, Mrs. Eva Gardner, Mrs. Leona Robison, Leone Schroeder, Mrs. Mahoney, Lydia Jinderlee and Agnes Budke.



"A Navy family—Dennis, Kenny and Gary Stevenson."



American Legion float—Everett Showalter, Keith Roethler, Kenny Stevenson.



Legion members preparing for Memorial Day services at Lourdes in 1977.



In the Bicentennial Year of 1976, Mayor Harold Showalter was presented a Bicentennial Flag by Congressman Charles Grassley.



Legion members in 1982—Russ Murphy, John Lentz, Gary Stevenson, Mike Brophy, Vern Voves, Harold Thiele, Dan Palmersheim, LaVern McGrane, Wayne Pecinovsky, Bill Enloe, Dan McGrane, Steve Murphy, Jim Boggess, Mike Bigley, Greg Gardner, Howard Poitevin, Pat Fogarty, Russ O'Donnell, Mike Heying, Delbert Burris, Tom Smith, Keith Roethler, Merrill Havlik.

Elma Memorial Day



American Legion in 1966—Tom Smith, Dinsmore Brandmill, Harold Kaatz, Dr. Oelberg, Norb Gansen, Keith Roethler, Jim Gansen, Kenny Stevenson, Ed Diekmann, Jim Stapleton, Everett Showalter, Harold Thiele.



Memorial Day services at St. Cecilia in 1982—Russ Murphy, Delbert Burris, Keith Roethler, Pat Fogarty, Mike Heying.

Robert Streich—killed while home on leave from service in 1967.



The Legion marching on Busti Avenue in 1982.



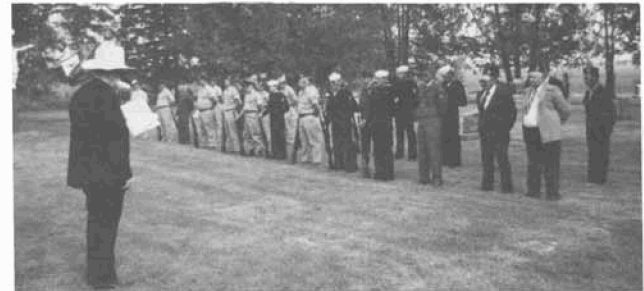
Memorial Day, Lourdes, Iowa, 1983.



Memorial Day, 1985. Saint Cecilia.



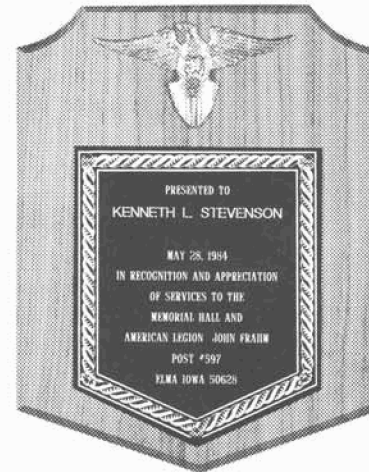
Memorial Day, 1984. Program in Memorial Hall. Methodist Church choir. Seated on stage left to right: Keith Roethler, M.C., Orlo Natvig, speaker, Rev. Yunghans and Monsignor Reicks.



Memorial Day at St. Cecilia Church, 1985.



Memorial Day, 1984. Delbert Burris presenting Kenneth Stevenson with plaque. (Left to right): Kenneth Stevenson, Delbert Burris, Keith Roethler.



Memorial Day, 1985. Lourdes Color Bearers (Left to right): Don Havlik, Todd Smith, Larry Friedhoff, Jeff Nibaur, Roger Heying, and Mike Heying.



Memorial Day, 1977. (Left to right): Mike Heying, Mike Bigley, John Lentz, Francis Nibaur, Russell Murphy.

Memorial Day, 1984. (Left to right—Back row): LaVern McGrane, John Lentz, Patricia Hooks, Ronald Tierney, Mike Brophy, Adolph Sir, Jr., Dennis Stevenson, Jerry Smith, Bob Flaherty, Verne Voves, John Kelly, Dan Palmersheim. (Front row): Kenny Fangman, Pat Fogarty, Mike Bigley, Bill Enloe, Merril Havlik, Wayne Pecinovsky, Gary Stevenson, Greg Gardner, Mike Heying, Bill Gansen, Russell Murphy.





(Left to right—Front row): Virginia Saip, Bill Gansen, Dan Palmer-sheim, Russell Murphy, Dan McGrane, Ron Tierney. (Back row): Dennis Stevenson, Reuben Tuchek, Bill Enloe, Gary Stevenson, Mike Bigley, Curtis W. Rainy, M.D., 1978.



Memorial Day, Lourdes, Iowa, 1977.



Prayer service for naval personnel lost at sea. Memorial Day, 1977.



Doctor C. E. Oelberg, Scoutmaster of Boy Scouts of America Troop 64, 1977, Elma, Iowa.



Memorial Day, 1977.



Crestwood High School marching band. Elma Memorial Day.



Crestwood High School marching band. Elma Memorial Day.



Memorial Day, 1982 (Left to right): Russell Murphy, Delbert Burris, Keith Roethler, Pat Fogarty, Mike Heying.