



**GRUNDY COUNTY  
KOREAN AND VIETNAM  
VETERANS' MEMORIAL**

**GRUNDY COUNTY  
KOREAN / VIETNAM VETERANS  
COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRMAN**  
Edward Aldrich  
(815) 942-6123

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**  
Donna Meyer  
(815) 634-8823

**CO-CHAIRMAN**  
Dr. John Roth  
(815) 942-0683

**TREASURER**  
Joe Schmitz  
(815) 942-1123



KOREAN VETERANS

MILTON R. GRIEFF

LEO C. TODD

CHARLES J. NEWPORT

P.O.W./M.I.A.

ARTHUR T. HANNON KOREA

GORDON S. PERISHO VIETNAM

VIETNAM VETERANS

DALE A. CRULL

CHARLES W. BECKER

DAVID A. DE COSTE

MICHAEL B. FINN

DAVID K. JACOBSSGAARD

JESSE L. JOHNSON

CECIL L. RUSSELL

ROBERT L WRIGHT

BENJAMIN V. DOMAN

KURT INT-HOUT

STEVE L. IN\_BODEN

RICHARD A. MARSHALL

EDWARD F. CLENNON

## Korea-Vietnam Memorial project well underway

The next Grundy County Korea-Vietnam meeting will be held on November 28, at 7 p.m. at the American Legion in Morris. Many citizens as well as veterans attended Wednesday night's meeting.

Several Grundy County Board members were present and they were very enthusiastic about the Korea-Vietnam Memorial, which was given total approval in October by the board.

State Rep. Jerry Weller (R-Morris) is also behind the project and has helped immensely. He will be attending the next meeting. He has been offering input on fund raising.

The public is urged to attend all meetings. It is not required to have served either in Korea or Vietnam.

The committee hopes to bring in anyone caring about veterans. From the response at Wednesday's meeting, the project is off to a strong start.

Dan Riccolo and Joe Corsello presented the design and a replica of the memorial has been built by Phil Claypool, a committee member. The replica will be on display in Saturday's Veterans Day Parade.

Any questions concerning the memorial may be answered by Don Komnick (942-1939) at the VFW following the Veterans Day Ceremony or any committee member who can be reached at 942-9510, 942-8530 or 467-6904 in the evening.

Donations are accepted at the Grundy County National Bank.



MEMBERS OF LOCAL 176, International Brotherhood of Electricians, donated \$250 to the Grundy County/Korea-Vietnam Memorial. In addition union members will do all the electrical work and provide needed manpower. Ed Aldrich, (right) presented the check to Don Komnic, chairman of the project committee and Kathy McCumsey of the Grundy County National Bank.



THE KOREA-VIETNAM MEMORIAL COMMITTEE has been restructured. They will be seeking help in the effort to erect the memorial on the Grundy County Courthouse lawn.

## New memorial committee pushes on

The Korea-Vietnam Memorial Committee has been restructured and over the next few months will be seeking volunteers to assist in completion of the project.

Rick Roseland, of the public relations committee, reported that the goal is to see the dream of a Korean/Vietnam Memorial become a reality.

The involvement of people throughout the county is necessary to form a strong and united effort, he said.

Volunteers are now being sought to assist with fundraisers, donation drives, and other programs needed to complete the project.

Roseland said that organizations,

municipalities and individuals are being sought to become a part of "this historic endeavor."

Any individuals or groups interested in assisting should call Roseland at 634-2763 or Donna Meyer, public relations chairman, at 634-8823.

Roseland said that while the committee appreciates the efforts of those who have supported the memorial effort so far, an appeal is being made to all the citizens of the county to become part of the realization of the dream of a Korea/Vietnam Memorial.

Roseland is chairman of the

memorial committee, while Dr. John Roth Jr. and Kurt Halterman are co-chairmen. Joe Schmitz is the treasurer and the secretary is Janet Rogers.

Other subcommittees and their members include: Recruitment, Robert Davy, Roger Flint and Donna Meyer; public relations, Meyer, Roseland and Nancy Palmer; planning, Jerry Belt, Larry Daggett, Keith Benson, Robert Burt and Dan Riccolo; finance, Jim Carr, Jim Pantaleone, Davy and Roger Christensen; building, Ed Aldrich, Riccolo and Roger Flint, and the name committee, Meyer, Anita Davy and Nancy Palmer.

## Unions donate funds to Grundy Korean/Vietnam vets memorial



The Will-Grundy Counties Building Trades unions not only donated a sizeable contribution to the Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee, but also offered their assistance with the many projects needed for its completion.

Pictured presenting the donation on behalf of the contributing unions are, Lynn Fieldman, business manager, IBEW Local 176 (left), and Michael Quigley, president of the Will-Grundy Building Trades Council, and also a business rep. for Operating Engineers Local 150 (right). Accepting for the Memorial Committee are Donna Meyer, Public Relations chairman, and Mayor Richard Roseland, memorial chairman.





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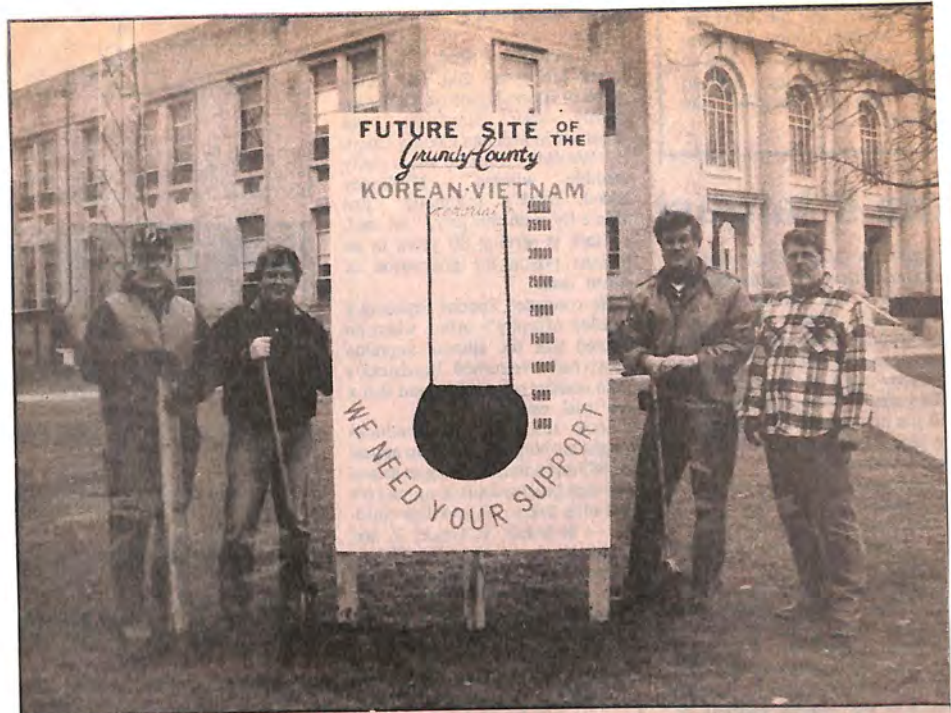
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**Veterans can register for memorial honor roll**

The Grundy County Korean-Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee will be registering veterans for the memorial honor roll during the Corn Festival. To be listed on the local memorial, a veteran must have been on active duty between June 25, 1950, through May 7, 1975, serving either in the states or in any foreign country. A veteran must submit a copy of their DD-214. A booth will be set up starting this Wednesday at 6 p.m. on the courthouse lawn and will remain through Saturday.



**Memorial sign to chart fundraising effort**

The Korean/Vietnam Memorial Committee recently placed a sign on the proposed site of the memorial on the east side of the Grundy County courthouse. Members working on the sign were (from left) Ed Aldridge, Robert "Puffy" Burt, Roger Flint and Keith Benson. The memorial will honor those who gave their lives for freedom during the wars in Korea and Vietnam. The sign will chart the progress of the fundraising drive. Donations may be sent to: Korean/Vietnam Memorial, Box 413, Morris, IL 60450.





### Tag day to raise funds for memorial

The Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Memorial Committee will hold a tag day Saturday, May 4, to raise funds for the construction of the memorial on the Grundy County courthouse lawn.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon throughout Grundy County.

Veterans of these wars will be stationed in 13 Morris locations, as well as in high traffic areas of Coal City, Diamond, Gardner, South Wilmington, Braceville, Godley, Mazon, Verona, Kinsman and Minooka.

All those donating will receive a window decal of the memorial to display in their homes or cars.

In addition to the outside memorial, honoring those who died, an honor roll will be constructed inside the courthouse listing the names of all Grundy residents that served.

If you would like to donate, send donations to: Exchange Bank, P.O. Box 298, Gardner, IL 60424.

## Memorial Tag Day Saturday

The Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Memorial Committee has set Saturday, May 4, as its Tag Day to help the fundraising efforts in constructing a Memorial on the Grundy County Court House lawn. The granite memorial will act as a lasting memory honoring all those killed in action, missing in action or prisoners of war during the Korean and Viet Nam Wars.

The tag day will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 4, throughout Grundy County.

Veterans of these wars will be stationed in 13 locations in Morris plus strategic high traffic areas in Coal City, Diamond, Gardner, South Wilmington, Braceville, Godley, Mazon, Verona, Kinsman and Minooka.

All those donating to the memorial on May 4 will receive a window decal of the Memorial to display in their homes or on their cars.

In addition to the Granite memorial on the Court House lawn, a permanent honor roll will be built inside the Court House listing the names of all our brave men and women who served in these two wars.

If you would like to donate and will be unavailable on Tag Day, please send your donations to Exchange Bank, P.O. Box 298, Gardner, Illinois 60424.

## Ground Broken For Korean-Vietnam Memorial



A Ground Breaking Ceremony for the proposed Grundy County Korean-Vietnam Memorial was held on Saturday, April 27 on the lawn of the Grundy County Courthouse in Morris. Sharing honors at the ceremony were Korean Veteran Jim Cryder (left) and Vietnam Veteran Earl "Shorty" Fatlan (right). Both gentlemen are Purple Heart recipients.

The Grundy County Korean-Vietnam Memorial will be erected within the months to come. It will honor those who have lost their lives in the name of Freedom in Korea and Vietnam. It will be dedicated to the 3,000 Grundy County Veterans who served in the two wars.

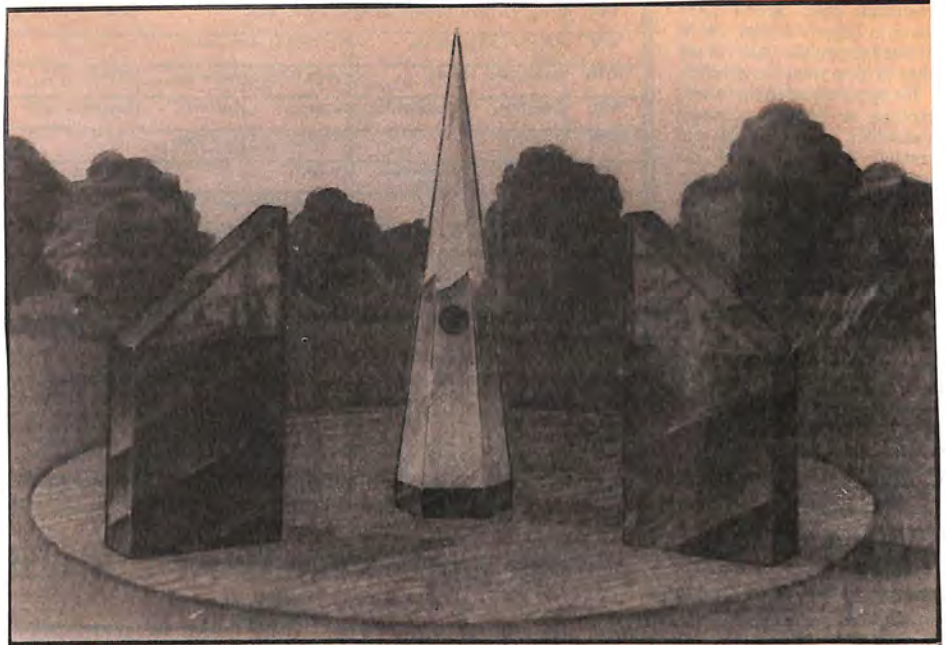
The Memorial will consist of three pieces of black granite and a center stainless steel spire. The granite will contain etching and maps depicting Korea and Vietnam. P.O.W./M.I.A. logos will grace a portion of the granite. The center spire will carry the emblems of each of the nation's five military branches. Financial goal to support the Memorial is \$40,000. To date, \$22,000 has been received in material and monetary donations.

An Honor Roll showing the names of veterans (stateside or overseas) who lived in Grundy County during the wars, or who now make their home in Grundy County, will stand within the Morris Courthouse Lobby. Names of those individuals who served from June 25, 1950 to May 7, 1975 may have their names included in the Honor Roll. For full details and location to submit copies of DD214 forms, call Donna Meyer at 634-8823. Deadline for this registration is May 31, 1991.

### Vietnam Memorial Tag Day

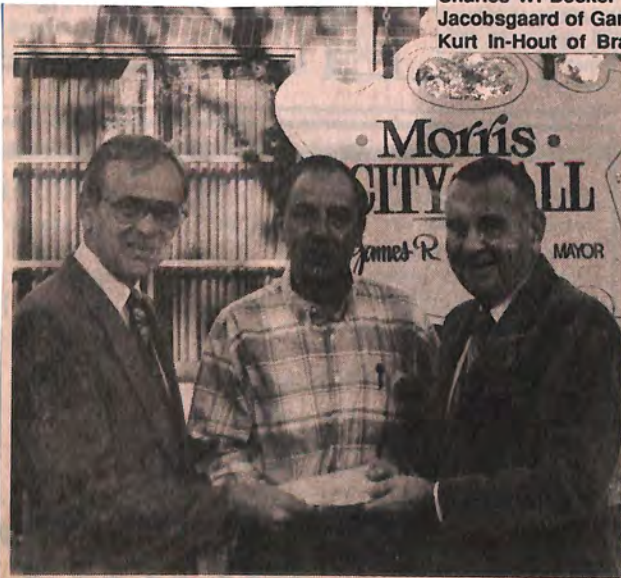


Gene Stiles and Dan Swyndro were collecting for the Korean/Vietnam Memorial Tag Day held on Saturday, May 5. The purpose of this Tag Day is to raise funds for the Memorial, which will be located on the Grundy County Courthouse Lawn.



## Memorial groundbreaking set for April 27

Ground will be broken at the site of the Grundy County Korean-Vietnam Memorial at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 27. The memorial will be constructed on the east side of the Grundy County Courthouse, Washington Street, Morris. The monument will honor those who gave their lives for their country in the Korean and Vietnam wars. The following names will be engraved on the monument: Korea — Milton R. Grieff of Mazon, Arthur T. Hannon of Gardner and Leo C. Todd of Morris; Vietnam — Robert L. Wright of Gardner, David A. De Coste of Minooka, Michael B. Finn of South Wilmington, Charles W. Becker of Minooka, Dale A. Crull of Morris, Cecil L. Russell of Coal City, David K. Jacobsgaard of Gardner, Jesse L. Johnson of Morris, Benjamin V. Doman of South Wilmington, Kurt In-Hout of Braceville and Steven Inboden of Morris.



## City donates to memorial

Morris Mayor James Washburn presented Joe Schmitz (center) and Dr. John Roth with the city's \$2,000 contribution to the Korean-Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The city's donation was approved by the city council at the last meeting. Schmitz reported about \$7,000 more is needed to complete the memorial. As of Friday \$34,000 had been donated, including \$1,000 from the village of Gardner. Although the cost of the memorial will be just over \$40,000, without donated materials and labor, the cost would have exceeded \$100,000. (Herald Photo/Michael Farrell)



FIRST MIDWEST BANK employees participated in a "Casual Day" to raise money for the Korean/Viet Nam Memorial to be erected in honor of Grundy County veterans. Each employee paid money to be allowed to dress casually. The amount collected was \$310 which the bank matched for a total donation of \$620. Accepting the money was Dr. John B. Roth Jr., co-chairman of the memorial committee. Making the presentation were Pat Johnson (left) and Sheila Vaksdal, bank employees.

# MORRIS LIONS CLUB

**4th Annual Fall Classic  
Car Show & Swap Meet  
Sunday, October 14, 1990**



Grundy County Fairgrounds  
Rte. 47, 1 mile North of I-80  
Morris, Illinois

*Spectator Donation \$1.00*

*Food & Beverages Available*



## **Lions donate to veterans memorial**

The Morris Lions Club recently donated \$1,500 to the Grundy County Korea/Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee. Gerry Carlson (right), Lions president, presented the check Oct. 24 to Rick Roseland, committee chairman, and Anita Davy, names committee chairman. The memorial will feature the names of Grundy County residents who served America in Korea and Vietnam. It will be located on the Grundy County Courthouse lawn. (Bob Davy Photo)

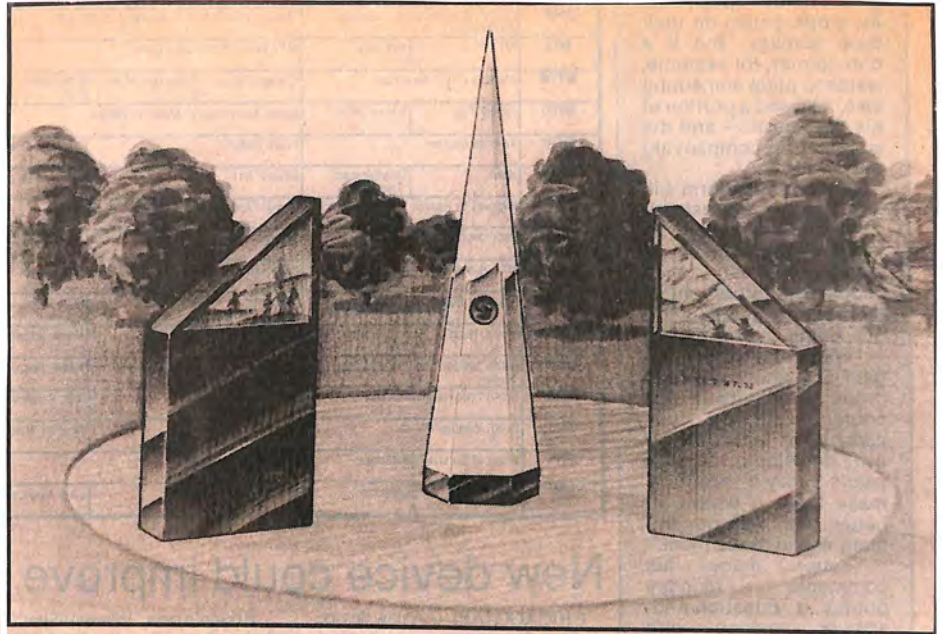
**SHOW PROCEEDS WILL GO TO: KOREA-VIET NAM MEMORIAL COMMITTEE  
AND MORRIS LIONS CITY PARK PROJECT**

## Coal City Lions Donate To Memorial



On Thursday, August 1 Public Relations Chairman Donna Meyer presented a plaque to Coal City Lions Club President Rob Parker. Recently the Lions Club donated \$500 to the Grundy County Korean Vietnam Memorial fund. The plaque is the Memorial Committee's way of expressing their gratitude for the donation.

The Grundy County Korean Vietnam Memorial Committee has commissioned Rob Parker of Star Awards And Discount Trophies In Coal City to create two different styled plaques. The plaques will be presented by the Memorial Committee to individuals, businesses, clubs, organizations, etc., who contribute to the Memorial's building fund. The smaller plaque will represent donations of \$500 to \$1,000. The larger of two plaques will represent donations of \$1,000 or more.



## Search continues for Korea, Vietnam vets

The final artist's drawing of the proposed Grundy County Korea/Vietnam Veterans Memorial has been received, but organizers are still having difficulty tracking down county residents who served during these conflicts. Apparently, many veterans of these wars enlisted in communities outside of the county, such as Joliet, Ottawa and Kankakee. Veterans who were county residents at the time of their enlistment are eligible to be listed on the memorial, regardless of where they signed up. Thus far, the following list of names has been compiled: Korea — Milton Ray Grieff, Arthur Thomas Hannon and Leo Carlye Todd; Vietnam — Robert Leroy Wright, David Anthony De Coste, Michael Blake Finn, Charles Warnes Becker, Dale Alton Crull, Cecil Lee Russell, David Keith Jacobsgaard, Jesse Louis Johnson, Benjamin Victor Holman and Kurt In-hout. For further information, contact Anita Davy at 942-3008.



## Veterans group donates \$750 memorial

Vietnam Veterans and Friends presented a \$750 check to the Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee recently. The money will help pay for the memorial to be located on the Grundy County Courthouse lawn. Roger Filnt (right), of the memorial committee, accepted the check from (from left) Keith Benson, Bob Donat, Curt Halterman and Scott Peterson.

## Korean-Vietnam War Memorial committee seeks names of veterans

The Korean-Vietnam Memorial Committee has decided that there will be two phases to the memorial.

Phase one will consist of erecting the memorial on the Grundy County Courthouse lawn. The memorial will honor war dead, those listed as missing in action and those who died while in a war prison camp during the Korean or Vietnam War.

These are the only names which can be obtained from the National Archives in Washington D.C.

Phase two will consist of an honor roll, to be placed in the lobby of the courthouse. Natives of Grundy County, plus current residents, will comprise the honor roll.

Because the committee cannot obtain the names of all servicemen and women, they are asking persons to submit their name or a loved one's name to be listed on the honor roll.

Persons should submit a copy of the DD-214, not an honorable discharge certificate.

Anyone who served the country

between June 25, 1950, and May 7, 1975, on active, stateside or overseas, will be listed on the honor roll.

If someone is missing their separation papers, they may contact the veterans' representatives at State Rep. Jerry Weller's office for help.

All names must be turned in by Jan. 1. The names should be mailed to: Korean-Vietnam Memorial, P.O.

Box 413, Morris, Ill. 60450.

Names may also be submitted to the Grundy County Clerk's office at the courthouse. Please include a telephone number and a contact person, in case there are any questions.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Donna Meyer at 634-8823 or Anita Davy at 942-3008.



DR. ROMAN M. SMYK of Coal City recently was presented with a plaque from Mrs. Donna Meyer, public relations chairman for the Korean-Vietnam Memorial Committee. It was an expression of gratitude from the memorial committee to Dr. Smyk for his unselfish dedication and sponsorship of the memorial which is under construction on the lawn of the Grundy County Courthouse. The memorial will be dedicated on Sunday, Nov. 10, 1991.



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**Sesquicentennial Headquarters**  
**115 W. Washington St.**  
**Morris, IL 60450**  
**(815) 941-2075**

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July 27, 1991

Mrs. Marge Aldrich  
803 Third Avenue  
Morris, IL 60450

Dear Margie:

The Korean/VietNam Veterans Memorial Committee would like to thank you for helping type all the letters and assembling the letters for our mailing to the local business community.

Without volunteers like you, we would not get everything done for the raising of the Memorial.

Thank you again!!!

Sincerely,

Janet Rogers  
Secretary



## Site Prepared For Korean/Vietnam War Memorial

Excitement filled the air as committee members looked on as George Winkel skillfully worked his backhoe preparing the future site for the Korean-Vietnam Memorial. George is a Korean Veteran who has donated his services. The following day Narvick Bro. donated the concrete for the footings which will hold the granite panels. Grundy County and Coal City Redi Mix have donated the concrete for the circular pad which will hold the completed memorial. At this time the committee is awaiting the arrival of lighting fixtures which will be recessed in the concrete. The granite panels which will be engraved by Morris Granite Co. Upon that completion Pat Baron, the designer of the memorial and granite artist will then etch scenes depicting the Korean and Vietnam Wars on their respective panels. He will also etch a military collage on another panel. Pat's expertise has been very helpful to the committee. He will also be helping with the stainless steel spiral which will be in the center of the memorial with the five military logos affixed to it.

The memorial will be completely handicapped accessible also.

The committee is thankful to everyone who have helped in anyway. Because of your continued support the memorial is becoming a reality.



Left to right - Bob Davy, Larry Meyer, Ed Aldrich, George Winkel, Roger Flint and Keith Benson.



WORKING AROUND a small American flag and a small POW/MIA flag, George Winkel donated his time and equipment Tuesday night to do the excavating work for the Korean-Vietnam Memorial at the Grundy County Courthouse. Narvick Brothers, Grundy County and Coal City Redi Mix have offered to donate the necessary concrete for the project. (Herald Photo/ Michael Farrell)

## Site preparation begins for Korean/Vietnam Memorial

BY MICHAEL FARRELL  
Herald Writer

An idea proposed about two years ago began to take form Tuesday night when work began on the Korean-Vietnam Memorial.

George Winkel, a Korean War veteran, donated his time and use of a backhoe to excavate the site on the northeast corner of the courthouse square.

Donna Meyer said the concrete is scheduled to be poured soon, perhaps as early as today.

Pat Behrens of Morris, a granite artist with a studio in Wilmington, submitted the winning design for the memorial. He is waiting for the arrival of the granite slabs to begin engraving them.

Meyer said the granite was shipped once, but when it arrived one block was defective so all of them had to be returned.

She noted members of the committee are excited about the start of the engraving process, since Behrens has invited them to watch.

Meyer said Behrens has also provided important information on how to finish the concrete and where to position the lights.

The committee has now raised about \$29,000. While this is still short of the \$40,000 goal, it is enough to begin work on the memorial.

Plans for a Korean-Vietnam Memorial were presented in the fall of 1989 by Sherric and Phil Claypool, Don and Cheryl Komnick and Curt Halterman.

While there have been some changes in the leadership of the committee, plans for the memorial have managed to stay on course.

The results of those plans are now taking shape at the courthouse.





**CONCRETE FORMS** donated by McLuckie Oil Company of Coal City were placed recently at the site of the Korean/Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Workers included (from left) Roger Flint, Bill Washburn, Bob Davy and Larry Enger.

## Work continues on memorial

During the past several weeks, site preparation has continued for the Korean/Vietnam Memorial.

Concrete forms for the circular base, donated by McLuckie Oil Company of Coal City, have been installed by committee members, along with the help of Larry Enger, Concrete Mason, who has donated his service and labor to finish the 28-foot circular pad.

There has been a second concrete pour for the base, which will hold the granite panels, provided by Grundy County Redi-Mix. It will also provide the remaining concrete for

the circular base when ready.

At the present time, the committee is awaiting lighting fixtures which will be recessed in the concrete. The committee has been informed by Morris Granite Company that the granite panels have arrived and work will begin on them in the near future.

Continued support of the project is still needed. Donations may be sent to the Korean/Vietnam Memorial at either Grundy County Bank, 201 Liberty St., Morris, or Exchange Bank of Gardner, DePot Street Gardner.



## Memorial to be dedicated on Nov. 10

The Korean/Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee announced the dedication of the memorial on Sunday, Nov. 10 at 1 p.m. on the lawn of the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St.

The memorial design was chosen from designs submitted from a county-wide competition held in 1990. The committee selected the design submitted by Patrick Baron, a local area sculptor.

Baron's design is a circular monument comprised of three granite panels. At the center of the circle stands a 10-foot brushed stainless steel spire with five bronze military medallions affixed to it, representing each of the services.

The granite panels will contain military collages depicting scenes from Korea and Vietnam, as well as a POW-MIA scene. The monument will be a tribute to eighteen fallen and missing comrades in arms from Grundy County.

The committee will also place a new Veterans Honor Roll in the lobby of the Grundy County Courthouse the same day. It will honor those who served on active duty from June 25, 1950, through May 7, 1975. The names were obtained by the committee by the submittal of the veteran's DD214s.



## ELECTRICIANS LOCAL UNION NO. 176

815-729-1240

**Brothers & Sisters:**  
We all are probably sick and tired of hearing about the Mexican Free Trade bill that President Bush keeps pushing on us, but here are a couple of examples that are already in motion and are taking away jobs from the American people.

IBEW International President J.J. Barry has recently informed us that Progress Lighting Co. is relocating its Philadelphia, Penn. plant to their nonunion plants in Cowpens, South Carolina and to Baja, Mexico. The Philadelphia plant has employed our Sisters and Brothers of IBEW Local 2005 for more than 38

years. What's more, IBEW employees were not even given a chance to transfer to the South Carolina plant, even if they wished to do so. President Barry is hereby announcing a nationwide boycott of all Progress Lighting products. He asks that these requests should not be accompanied by any threat or coercion to any employer or employees. You may however, suggest to employers that there are other IBEW organized companies with whom we have no disputes and who make similar products.

Also, AFL-CIO President Robert Georgine reports to us that a Mexi-

can ladder company by the name of Cuprum is having their products distributed by the Wisconsin Ladder Company throughout the mid western states. The AFL-CIO is asking for a boycott of the Cuprum Mexican ladders and anything with that name on it. We must continue to promote and look for the UNION MADE & MADE IN AMERICA labels and stickers.

Also, the volunteer work on the Korean and Viet Nam Memorial, located at the Grundy County Court House property, continues with the help of many tradesmen. The accent light fixtures for the memorial were donated by Ayers Electric from Morris. Pictured below are Brothers Steve Shannon and Ed Aldrich installing the memorial lights. Missing from the picture is Bill Shannon.

For our Brothers and Sisters traveling to Sister Local's please note that Local 701 will be in their new Hall effective Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 7:30 a.m. The new address is 2900 West Ogden Ave., Lisle, IL 60532.

Don't forget this week is the deadline to purchase Balmoral Night tickets. Also, Sunday, Oct. 27 at 10 a.m. is the annual trap shoot at South Wilmington Sportsman's Club.

Our congratulations go to Bruce & Chris Breaux on the birth of their baby boy, Michael Richard. We know that Michael's three sisters, Jackie, Melissa and Laura won't spoil him at all. All of us at the Hall were wondering whether Michael was born holding electrical tools or a golf club!

We would like to thank the following members who worked picket duty from Oct. 3 to 9: Walter Johnson, John Kauzlaric, Clint Leiter, Clay Schulte, Mike Giovenco, Don Roberts, Ed Kelly, Todd Rapp, Joe Jones, John Jonkman, Cletus Zube, Jim Ryan, Darrel Peterson, John Brower, John Montague, Daryl Harmon, Jake St. Angelo and Warren Kimble. We would also like to thank Roger Kempen for picketing previously and missing him on our list.

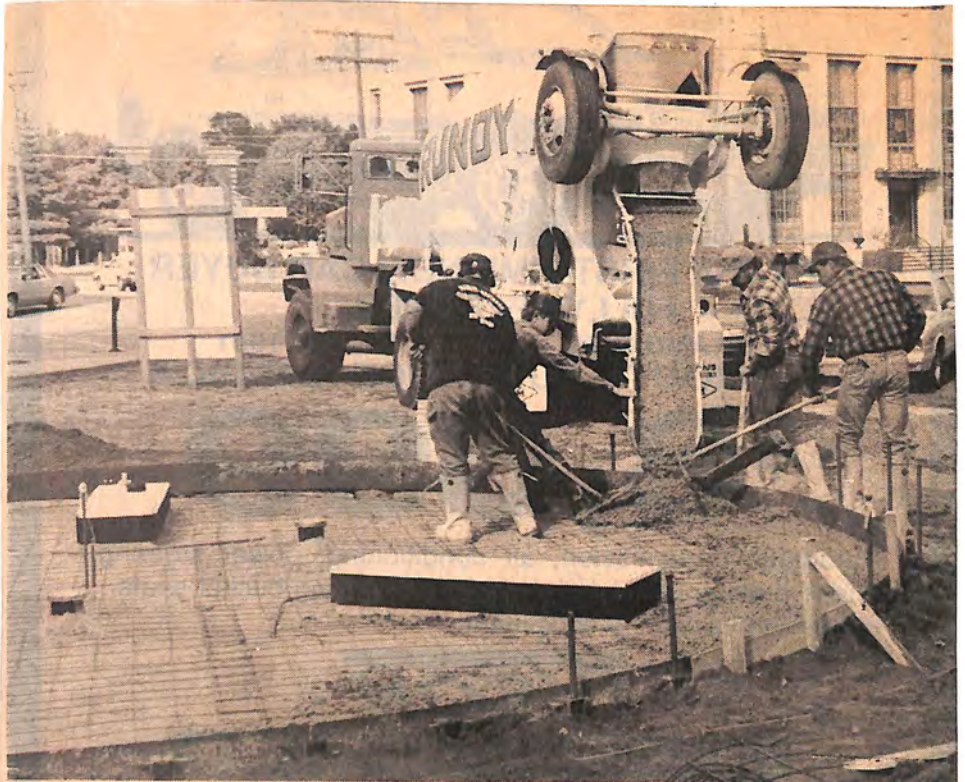
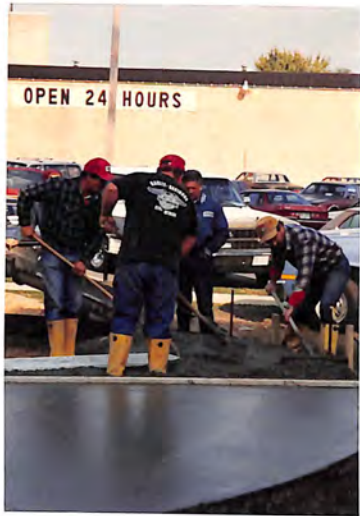
Fraternally,  
David W. Udstuen



### Memorial lights installed

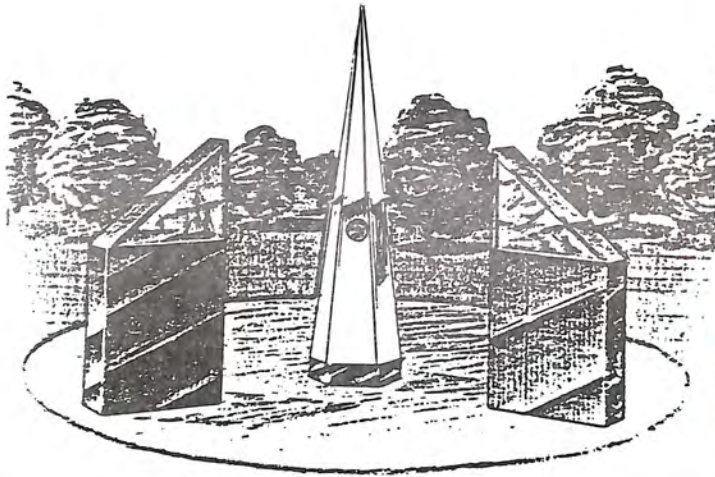
Ayers Electric, of Morris, donated and installed the moodlighting for the Korean/Vietnam Memorial at the Grundy County Courthouse. Bill and Steve Shannon, of Ayers Electric, did the work recently. Such donations have helped keep the cost of the memorial close to projections.





THE 28-FOOT circular pad for the Korean/Vietnam Memorial at the courthouse was poured Tuesday. Larry Enger was the chief cement mason, assisted by Bill Washburn, Bob Cryder and Jim Gretencord. The three granite tablets for the memorial, which were quarried in India and polished and hand-beveled in the United States are now ready to be engraved by Pat Baron, who has a studio in Wilmington. A. J. Dearth of Grundy County Redi-Mix, who provided the concrete, is a Korean Veteran. (Herald Photo/Michael Farrell)





GRUNDY COUNTY KOREAN - VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

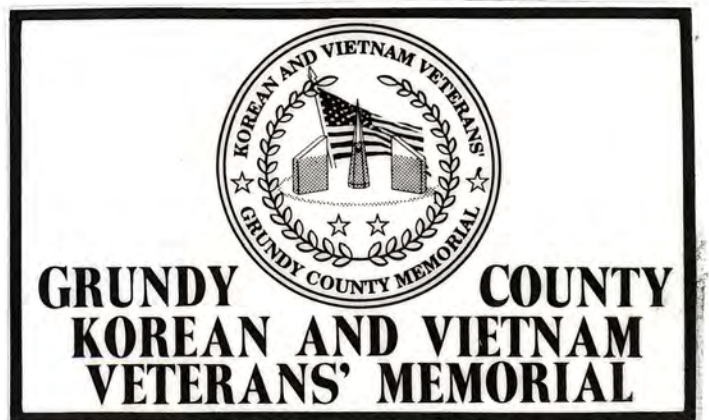
IT'S A HAPPENING! You are invited to the celebration and dedication of the memorial. The dedication will take place on Sunday, November 10, 1991 on the lawn of the Grundy County Court House, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois, at 1:00 p.m.

Please plan to attend this historical event.

===== DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO:

Exchange Bank of Gardner  
Depot Street  
Gardner, Il 60424

Grundy County Bank  
201 Liberty Street  
Morris, Il, 60450



News Release  
Prepared by Joseph Schmitz  
Phone 237-2104

#### SPEEDWAY HOSTS KOREAN/VIET NAM NIGHT

Friday evening, July 19th will be a special night at the Grundy County Fairgrounds. Frank Welch, Director of Racing and President of the Grundy County Fair Association announced that the Fair Association will donate \$1.00 from every ticket purchased for the evenings Stock Car Races to the Korean/Viet Nam Memorial here in Grundy County.

Welch stated that he and the Fair Association were pleased to see that the veterans of both the Korean War and the Viet Nam War are getting the recognition they deserve.

"These servicemen fought for the freedom of our country just like the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen of World War I & II and our recent conflict in Iraq, seeing them honored with a special memorial right here in Grundy County has an extra special meaning."

The races on Friday, July 19th will begin at 6:00 PM with Hot Laps. Time trials follow at 7:00 PM and the Late Model Heats start at 8:00 PM followed by the evenings featured races of Street Stocks, Sportmans, and the Late Model cars.

If a rain out occurs, Friday, July 26th has been set aside as a rain date.



DONNA MEYER was guest speaker recently for members of the Coal City Lions Club. She told of the progress and future plans for the Korean and Vietnam Memorial which will honor veterans of Grundy County who served in the armed services during the Korean and Vietnam War. George Jones, president of the Coal City Lions Club presented Mrs. Meyer with a donation of \$500 from the club for the project.

#### Benefit of Korean/Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund

Drawing: December 15, 1990

##### Prizes

Marketti's Finer Foods - 25 Lbs. Filet Mignon  
D & S Foods - 25 Lbs. Rib-Eye Steaks  
Testa's I.G.A., Coal City - 25 Lbs. Round Steak  
Belletini's - \$25 Gift Certificate For Meat  
Belletini's - \$25 Gift Certificate For Meat  
Rodosky's - \$15 Gift Certificate For Meat  
Donation: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00



## Granite slabs begin taking shape of veterans memorial

The granite for the Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Memorial has arrived in Morris. It was quarried in India and shipped to Barre, Vt., where it was cut into three panels. The edges were beveled and the surface was polished to a mirror-like finish. Barre, Vt., is the granite capital of the United States. It employs the largest colony of stone workers in America. The granite is the same granite that was used for the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. The panels each weigh approximately 4,700 pounds. Dan Riccolo (pictured), of Morris Granite Co., will be starting the engraving, which will consist of the maps of Korea and Vietnam along with the names of those from the county who lost their lives during these wars. Riccolo will be donating the engraving, which will also include a POW-MIA panel and the dates of each war on their respective panel. Riccolo will also be responsible for setting the granite on the memorial site at the Grundy County Court House.



## Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Memorial To Be Dedicated



Approximately eighty hours worth of free hand etching work will be required of Wilmington Artist Patrick Baron in order to help complete the Korean/Vietnam Memorial.

Photo & Article by Lee Anne Tullis

On Sunday, November 10 the Korean/Vietnam Memorial will be dedicated. The historical event will take place at 1 p.m. on the lawn of the Grundy County Courthouse which is located at 111 East Washington Street in Morris. In addition to the Memorial's dedication, a new Veterans Honor Roll will be placed in the lobby of the Courthouse. The Roll honors those who served on active duty from June 25, 1950 through May 7, 1975. The public is invited to attend the open ceremonies.

Design for the Korean/Vietnam Memorial was selected from a county-wide competition held in 1990. The winning design was submitted by Patrick Baron, a local area sculptor whose studio is in Wilmington.

Baron's design is circular in effect. At the very center of the design stands a hexagonal stainless steel spire. Five bronze military medallions will be affixed to the spire, each representing a branch of United States military service.

Three granite panels will be placed around the spire. Each panel measures four by seven feet and weighs two tons (two of the three panels are pictured above). One panel will depict scenes from Korea, another from Vietnam, and the third scenes of Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA).

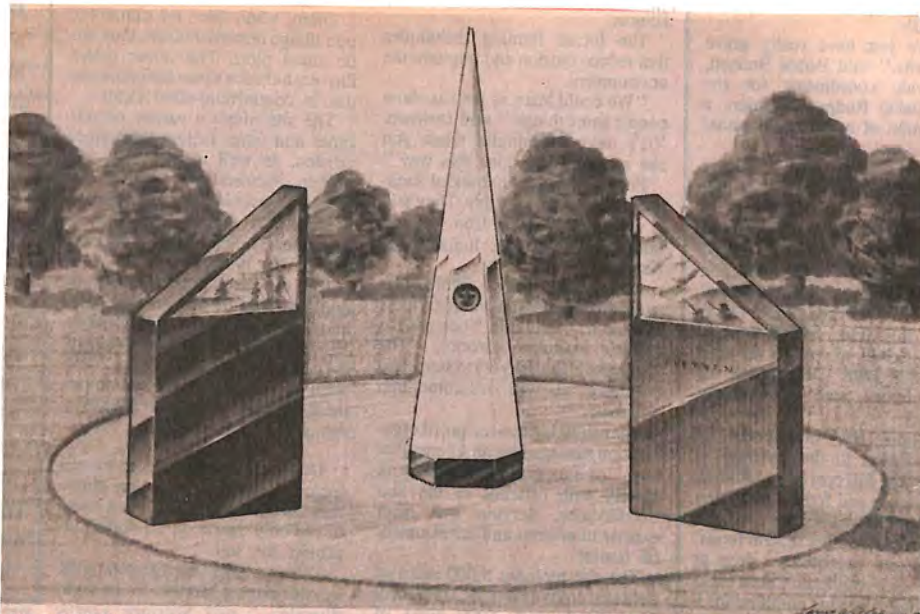
The granite is referred to as "Jet Black" granite. It was quarried in India and forwarded to the United States for final cutting and polishing. The Morris Granite Co. has served as the intermediate between the granite suppliers in India and the memorial committee. The granite is the same type used in the Washington D.C. Vietnam Memorial Wall. The black color has become nationally symbolic of the Korean/Vietnam era.

Baron, closely associated with the memorials development, is currently completing the free hand etchings that will depict Korea, Vietnam, and the POW/MIA's. The etchings will show more than just soldiers and armament, they will incorporate the human factors of pain, fear, and loneliness. The etchings in and of themselves alone, are works of art not to be missed. To achieve the etchings, Baron is utilizing a diamond tip engraving tool, cutting the design into the granite's polished surface. The depictions will remain forever. In all approximately eighty hours alone will be devoted to this portion of the monuments completion. Morris Granite Co. will complete all lettering on the monument utilizing a sand blasting method of engraving.

The back sides of the monument will be left blank. It is Baron's intention to make people feel, when they look at the monument, that it is incomplete. The monument is to reflect the fact that all POW's/MIA's have not returned or been returned to their homeland. According to know figures, approximately 10,000 men and women are unaccounted for from both the Korean Police Action and Vietnam Conflict.

The Honor Roll to be placed in the Courthouse rotunda was also designed by Patrick Baron. It will be pyramidal in shape and comprised of a thirty-inch granite base. Topping the base will be a stainless steel internal structure, covered with a black composite material. Silver letter will be overlaid. Military etching will complete the appearance. The new Honor Roll will compliment the present Honor Roll that stands in the rotunda honoring World War I and II veterans.





AN ARTIST'S drawing of the Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Memorial, to be unveiled in a ceremony at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Grundy County Courthouse.

## Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Memorial dedication Sunday

An historical event will happen in Grundy County on Sunday, Nov. 10, at 1 p.m. on the lawn of the Grundy County Courthouse.

The Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee will dedicate the Korean/Vietnam Memorial and Veterans Honor Roll. It will be the first memorial erected in the county since 1890 honoring war veterans.

Thanks to those men and women, past and present, who have risked their lives by serving in the country's armed forces, Americans are able to enjoy the gift of freedom.

During the Korean War, 54,246 soldiers gave their lives for the freedom of others and 8,177 were classified as POW-MIA. During the Vietnam War, 58,044 soldiers gave their lives and over 2,400 were classified POW-MIA.

Scheduled to be keynote speakers for the dedication are Medal of Honor recipient (Vietnam) Allen J. Lynch; Korean veteran Vincent Lopez; and Robert Foster, Deputy Director of the Administration for the Illinois Department of Veteran

Affairs.

Lynch currently serves as the Chief of the Veterans Advocacy Division of Attorney General Roland Burris' office. He has 21 years of experience in veterans affairs, including 11 years with the Veterans Administration.

Lynch, who lives in Gurnee with his wife Susan and their three children, received the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1967 for distinguished service in the battlefield.

Lopez is a retired Army Reserve Colonel who began his military career in June of 1944 at the age of 17. He served on active duty as commander of Service Company, 123rd Infantry Regiment and then completed Ranger and Airborne training during the Korean War.

He also served as battalion commander of Service Battalion of 12th Special Forces Group and also as acting commander of 12th Special Forces Group for a short period in 1973.

Lopez retired in March of 1982, after 38 years of active and reserve service, from the position of staff

officer in the 86th U.S. Army Reserve Command. His awards include the Combat Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab and the Medal for Meritorious Service.

Foster began his career with the Veterans Administration as a Disability Veteran Outreach Person in the Job Service in Springfield.

He has also served as Veterans Coordinator for the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State under Governor Jim Edgar and Secretary of State George Ryan. Most recently he was involved with the Desert Storm troops and their families.

Foster served in the U.S. Army until 1986 with 18 years of combined active duty and reserve component service. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

In addition, the Great Lakes Naval Choir will perform as a part of the dedication.

The actual dedication will include the unveiling of the Korean/Vietnam Memorial and the Honor Roll, which

# War memorial from the heart

*Grundy County veterans of Korean, Vietnam wars to have granite monument*

By John Pletz

HERALD-NEWS WRITER

MORRIS — They have different reasons for getting involved, but the sculptor, the granite mason and the sister of a veteran are all deeply committed to paying a lasting tribute to the Vietnam and Korean War veterans of Grundy County.

Donna Meyer, of the Grundy County Korean and Vietnam Veterans Committee, got involved with planning the memorial two years ago after heading a group that coaxed each town in Grundy County into flying a POW-MIA flag.

Dan Riccolo, owner of Morris Granite Co., wanted to give something back to the community.

Sculptor Pat Baron of Wilmington had sculpted a granite memorial for Northern Illinois soldiers and wanted to do another locally.

On Nov. 11, a lasting tribute of black granite will be placed on the grounds outside the Grundy County Courthouse in Morris to honor veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Three granite stones will be placed on the same grounds as a Civil War monument, two cannons and a bronze monument for the county's residents who served in World Wars I and II.

The project is the work of the Grundy County Korean and Vietnam Veterans Committee, which launched a \$40,000 drive on Veteran's Day 1989. Along with private and public donations, Baron and Riccolo donated \$60,000 worth of service for the project.

Baron, owner of Forked Creek Studio in Wilmington, says he has personal reasons for doing the etchings, life-like and meticulously accurate.

He is especially concerned about Korean war veterans. While doing research before designing the memorial, he and his assistant, Bruce Patterson, had to search to find information about the war.

"A lot of people seem to have forgotten about the people who served in Korea," Baron said. "They didn't even call it a war for a long time. It was a police action, yet almost as many died as in Vietnam and there were four times the number of POW-MIA."

Working in the back room of the Morris Granite Co., Baron is painstakingly scribing and etching the 7-by-4-foot stones with diamond-tipped tools.

"It's something that will be around forever and be maintained," Baron said. "Granite is about as timeless as a material as you can find."



JOHN PLETZ/HERALD-NEWS

**Pat Baron etches granite for a monument to veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars. He designed the monument and is**

**working on the 7-by-4-foot stones with diamond-tipped tools. He said he loves to do artwork for the veterans.**

"The most important thing about it isn't the artwork but the names on it, people who gave their lives, who served. It's really rewarding to do this. I love doing work for the veterans because they really appreciate the artwork I do."

Riccolo will engrave the names of three Grundy residents who died in Korea and 16 who died in Vietnam. He'll also supervise the setting of the slabs, which weigh 4,700 pounds each.

The display also includes a 10-foot-tall stainless steel pyramid on a black granite base listing 1,000 of the 3,000 residents who served in the two conflicts. Not all of the residents who served released their names. The committee hopes others will come forward later to be added to the list.

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*'The most important thing about it isn't the artwork but the names on it, people who gave their lives, who served.'*

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PAT BARON  
WAR MONUMENT SCULPTOR

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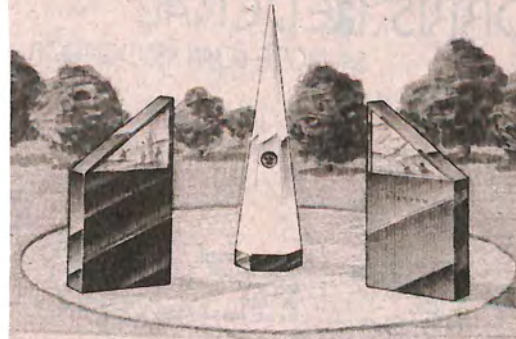
## Intricate designs sculpted on memorial

Pat Baron, a granite sculptor from Wilmington, worked literally around the clock into Tuesday afternoon on the sculpting of the images into the granite slabs that will comprise the majority of the Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Memorial. He said he uses techniques he has helped design and that the images will be accurate to the smallest detail. He indicated that, in his mind, the most important thing is not the art work, but the names of those that died in the wars which will be proudly displayed. Baron designed the Korea/Vietnam Memorial which will be dedicated in a ceremony at the courthouse on Nov. 10. (Herald Photo/Patrick Graziano)





# Memorial Dedication Sunday 1:00 p.m.



ris. The Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee will dedicate the Korean/Vietnam Memorial and Veterans Honor Roll. It will be the first memorial erected since 1890 honoring the veterans of the previous war.


Thanks to those men and women, past and present, who have risked their lives by serving in the country's Armed Forces, Americans are able to enjoy the precious gift of freedom. During the Korean War, 54,246 soldiers gave their lives for the freedom of others and 8,177 were classified as POW-MIA. During the Vietnam War, 58,044 soldiers gave their lives and over 2,400 classified POW-MIA. This done in answer to their country's call.

Scheduled to be keynote speakers for the dedication are Medal of Honor Recipient (Vietnam) Mr. Allen J. Lynch; Korean Veteran Mr.

A historical event is about to happen in Grundy County on Sunday, November 10, at 1:00 p.m. on the lawn of the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Mor-







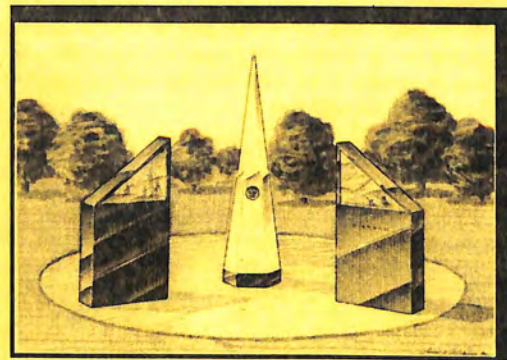
**GRUNDY COUNTY  
KOREAN AND VIETNAM  
VETERANS' MEMORIAL**





***Grundy County Korean-VietNam  
Veteran's Memorial and  
Veteran's Honor Roll***

***Dedicated November 10, 1991***



Designed By  
Mr. Patrick Baron  
Forked Creek Studio  
Wilmington, IL

*To Those Who Died • Honor & Eternal Rest  
To Those Still in Bondage • Remembrance & Hope  
To Those Who Returned • Gratitude & Peace*



## TO GRUNDY COUNTY VETERANS

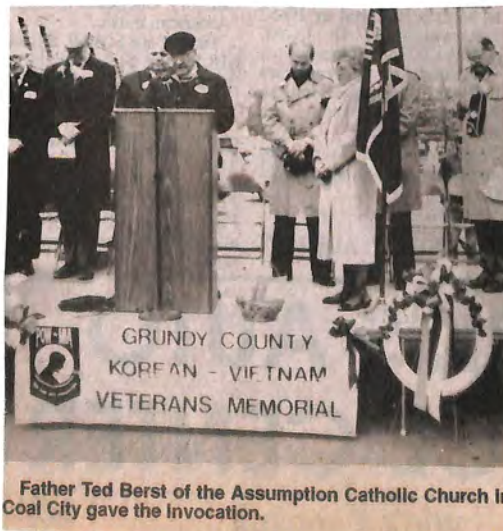


PHOTO BY LARRY KANE

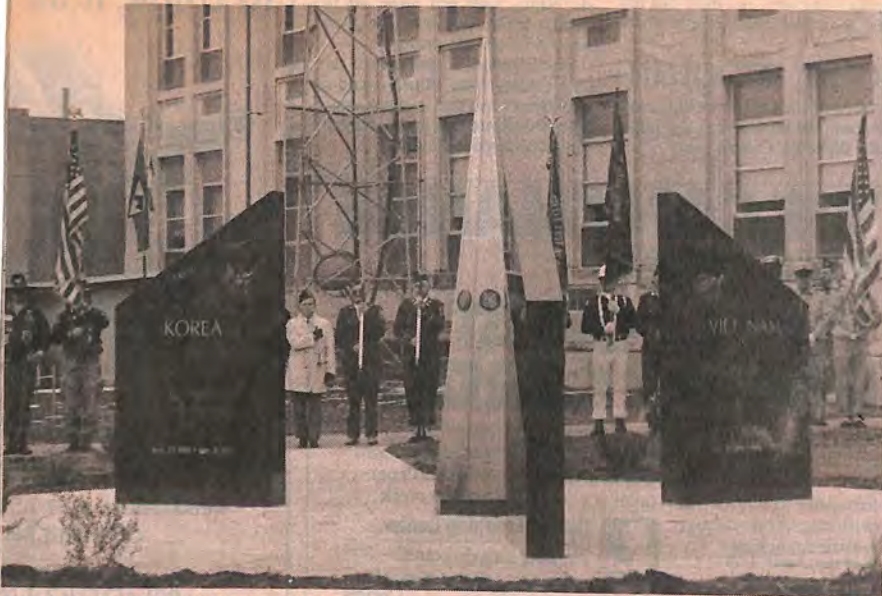
Dedication ceremonies were held Sunday for this memorial to Grundy County veterans of the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The memorial was designed by

Wilmington sculptor Patrick Baron. It is a circular memorial comprised of three black granite panels with a 10-foot-tall, brushed stainless steel spire with

bronze military medallions affixed to it representing the five branches of service. The monument is in the courtyard of the Grundy County Courthouse in Morris.



Father Ted Berst of the Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City gave the invocation.



THE GRUNDY COUNTY Korean-Vietnam Veterans Memorial was unveiled Sunday afternoon as a large honor guard of past and present members of the armed forces stood at attention. (Herald Photo/Patrick Graziano)

## Korean-Vietnam Veteran's Memorial dedicated Sunday

By PATRICK GRAZIANO  
Herald Writer

The Korean War may have ended 40 years ago, and the Vietnam War nearly 20, but for veterans and their families those conflicts are far from over.

On Sunday afternoon, hundreds of individuals turned out to honor the men and women who served in those wars, who died in those wars and those who are yet to return from those wars.

After months of work and planning, the Grundy County Korean-Vietnam Veteran's Memorial and Veteran's Honor Roll were dedicated in a ceremony attended by veterans and the family members of those who died or are still missing in the conflicts.

These family members were honored with a presentation of a yellow rose and memorial pins, while their loved ones were honored with the first war memorial dedicated in Grundy County since 1890.

Donna Meyer, Public Relations Director for the Memorial Committee, said before the ceremony, "It's a very joyous time. All the hard work that has gone into this is well worth the effort to honor those men that served their country. It will live forever in my heart. It is a very proud day."

The memorial, which committee chairman Edward Aldrich called a "constant reminder of those who served their country," consists of

three granite pieces, engraved with images of both wars and a POW scene, as well as a metal spire bearing medallions of all the armed services.

Also included on the memorial, which was designed and sculpted by Wilmington resident Pat Baron, are

*"These memorials are only hunks of cold concrete unless we make them something to us. ...There are other wars that we have to fight, there are other wars that we have to win."*

—Allen J. Lynch  
Congressional Medal  
of Honor Recipient

the names of those who died or are still missing in the wars.

Following the ceremony, Baron said, "I think it lived up to the expectations of our design. It fits in very nicely."

Dan Riccolo, of Morris Granite, who engraved the names and maps on the memorial, said, "I think there's a lot of satisfaction seeing a job well done, especially this one which is so personal and emotional to a lot of people."

These emotions were shown following the ceremony as veterans, families and area residents took their first look at the memorial.

They touched the images and the names, they took photos of them and they remembered their deceased or missing loved ones.

One veteran, Bill Ward, who served as a medic with the 16th Infantry in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966, chose to stand off to the side and watch as people viewed the memorial.

He said, "It is hard to talk about it. My whole company got killed in one day. It's (the memorial) nice, you know. You just stand in the background and kind of watch it. I just missed it (being killed)."

Other veterans shared their stories and opinions of the memorial during the official ceremony.

The keynote speakers were Korean veteran Vincent Lopez, a retired Army Reserve colonel who began his military career in 1944; and Vietnam veteran Allen J. Lynch, a Congressional Medal of Honor winner.

Lopez told the crowd that while he served, "I sometimes saw others make great sacrifices which I would like remembered." He then went on to detail the sacrifice of men who served under him.

He also shared with the crowd a brief history of the Cold War, saying that both the Korean and Vietnam

## Memorial...

From page one

wars were "absolutely necessary to America's winning the 42-year-old Cold War."

Lynch said, "These memorials are only hunks of cold concrete unless we make them something to us."

He continued, "There are other wars that we have to fight, there are other wars that we have to win... We have to fight to make America the country that it can be, should be and will be."

Lynch then urged the crowd to fight for better education and to end drug abuse. "We need, as Americans, to honor their sacrifice by serving the living today," he said.

Another featured speaker was Robert Foster, Deputy Director of Administration of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. He shared with the crowd some reflections on Desert Storm and the 14 Illinoisans who lost their lives in that war.

That statistic takes on a new meaning, he said, when you see a military officer walking up your driveway to tell you one of them is your son, daughter, husband, wife, brother or sister.

In referring to those who have died in all wars in American history, Foster said, "At least we know that they laid down their lives for a noble cause. They fought and died for prin-

cipals our country stands for."

Following the ceremony, Foster took an opportunity to view the memorial close-up. He said, "It is absolutely gorgeous, a true display of community support. I am sure it is something the governor himself would be very impressed with."

Governor Jim Edgar sent a letter which was read by Foster during the ceremony. In it, Edgar said, "Those veterans who served so proudly in Korea and Vietnam will forever be remembered."

In addition to Edgar's letter, a letter was read from Congressman Tom Ewing, by Aaron Quick, Deputy Chief of Staff; and State Rep. Jerry Weller spoke.

The ceremony, which lasted just over an hour, also featured the poem "Forgotten Soldier," which was read by G. Keith Benson; the laying of wreaths; a reading of the "Gold Star Parents Prayer"; a 21 gun salute; and a number of musical performances.

The ceremony ended with Linda Jaskoviak performing the song "God Bless the U.S.A.," the chorus of which says, "I'm proud to be an American, at least I know I'm free."

This was a fitting end, for those in attendance on Sunday afternoon could not help but feel proud as they remembered all those men and women who have fought to earn that freedom.

## Grundy County Korean-Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Dedication

Although there was a chill in the air, the weather cooperated with the dedication ceremony Sunday for the Grundy County Korean-Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. The monument was placed on the courthouse lawn in Morris.

A crowd estimated at nearly 1,000 turned out to hear several speakers and view the memorial.

Memorial committee spokesperson, Donna Meyer, was extremely pleased with the turnout.

"The entire committee would like to thank the many benefactors who contributed their time, talents and resources towards this endeavor, without your invaluable support, the dedication would not have been realized. We are extremely grateful to those who assisted in our attainment of our goal."

Meyer also thanked the families who had loved ones who died in the two conflicts.

"Without their sacrifices, we would not enjoy the freedoms we have today."

Guest speaker, retired Army Colonel Vincent Lopez echoed those thoughts by saying soldiers did not die in vain. He believes the conflicts helped the U.S. win the cold war.

"Whether they were thought at their times to be won or lost, the conflicts both were absolutely essential to America winning the 42 year old cold war. No matter who won these battles, we won the cold war because of them," Lopez stated.

After the unveiling of the black granite memorial, Alan Lynch, with the veteran's advocacy division of the Illinois Attorney General's office, said residents should make the memorial mean something.

"These memorials are only hunks of cold concrete unless we make them mean something to us. Because as we die or move away, these people on the memorial will become just faceless names unless we make the memorial mean something," Lynch said.

The memorial committee has worked on design and fundraising for nearly two years. State Representative Jerry Weller acknowledged them.

"This dedication is a special day, a day that's been designated by Grundy County to remember those who have given and risked their lives in service to our nation," Weller said. "My family has memories, my brother served in Vietnam, my father and uncle in World War II and my great uncle in World War I. These experiences for our family and the nation were trying times, but my family was fortunate, my family members came home."

"Many families were not so fortunate. Today we remember the men and the women who were members of our family. Our friends and our neighbors, someone who lived across town, today we remember those who did not come home."

Among the other ceremonies included Robert "Puffy" Burt reading a prayer for the Gold Star parents and Keith Benson reading a poem titled "The Forgotten Soldiers."

Father Ted Berst of the Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City gave the invocation while Pastor Robert Bartlett of the Church of Hope in Gardner delivered the benediction.

The honor roll, listing names of those who served from Grundy County, was also unveiled in the courthouse.

After the ceremony, the family members who have loved ones listed on the memorial, were each given a commemorative pin and a yellow rose.





**Program**

Master of Ceremonies..... Donna Wills-Meyer  
 Pledge to the Flag..... Roger E. Flint  
 National Anthem..... Staff Sergeant John D. Guse, U.S.A.F.  
 Invocation ..... Father Ted Berst  
 Assumption Church, Coal City  
 Welcome..... Edward R. Aldrich  
 Comments from:  
 Congressman Thomas Ewing, by Mr. Aaron Quick  
 Deputy Chief of Staff  
  
 Governor James Edgar, by Mr. Robert Foster  
 Deputy Director, Administrations,  
 Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs  
  
 State Representative Gerald "Jerry" Weller  
 Mr. Leonard Bols - Chairman, Grundy County Board, Morris  
  
 The Lord's Prayer ..... Ms. Linda Jaskoviak  
 Forgotten Soldier..... Read by G. Keith Benson  
 Keynote Speakers:  
 Mr. Vince Lopez - Korean Veteran  
 38 Years Military Service  
 Mr. Allen J. Lynch - VietNam Veteran  
 Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient  
 Introduction of Memorial Craftsmen:..... Mr. Patrick Baron,  
 Designer and Area Sculptor  
 Mr. Dan Riccolo,  
 Morris Granite Company  
 Granite Craftsman  
 Unveiling of Memorial ..... Roger E. Flint,  
 Kurt Halterman,  
 Rick Roseland  
 Dedication Speech ..... Mr. Robert Foster  
 Deputy Director, Administrations,  
 Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

Gold Star Parents Prayer..... Read By Robert "Puffy" Burt  
 Roll Of Honor..... Read by Janet Kulig-Rogers  
 Yellow Rose and Memorial Pin presented by  
 Joseph Schmitz and Larry Daggett to  
 respective family member.

Laying Of The Wreaths  
 Korea..... Gerald Belt  
 VietNam ..... Rodger Christensen  
 POW-MIA..... Robert Davy  
 Honor Roll..... Curt Halterman  
 21 Gun Salute..... Cantigny V.F.W. Post #367  
 Taps..... Richard DePung and Earl Gillum  
 Let There Be Peace On Earth ..... Ms. Linda Jaskoviak  
 Benediction..... Pastor Robert Bartlett  
 Church of Hope, Gardner, Illinois  
 Announcements..... Donna Wills-Meyer  
 God Bless the U.S.A. .... Ms. Linda Jaskoviak

The V.F.W. Post 6049 will be hosting a  
 reception immediately following the dedication  
 for those in attendance.  
 The post is located at  
 309 McKinley, Morris, IL

Photographs of the dedication available from:  
 THE PICTURE TAKER

Fred Ruetz ..... (815) 634-2589

Videos of the dedication available from:  
 Steve Marshall ..... (815) 744-4227





## Grundy Co. veterans memorial



Top photo: Ed Aldridge, (at podium) chairman of the Grundy County Korean/Vietnam veterans memorial committee and member of IBEW Local 176 thanks the crowd for their support and effort in helping

make the memorial a reality.

Bottom photo: Korean War veterans including retired IAM member John Pless (second from right) prepare to fire a 21 gun salute at the dedication ceremonies.

## Grundy County veterans



Dedication ceremonies were held Sunday Nov. 10 for the above pictured memorial to Grundy County veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars. The monument is located in the courtyard of the Grundy County Courthouse in Morris. Funds were raised for the memorial through the generosity of area labor unions, businesses and individuals.

Bottom photo: From left, Ed Aldridge, chairman of the Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Vets Memorial Committee and member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 176 and Lynn Fieldman, business manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 176 at the dedication ceremonies. Also assisting Aldridge on the committee from organized labor were Jerry Belt, a member of Shee,



Metal Workers Local 265 and Larry Daggett, a member of Machinists Lodge 851.

Assisting in the construction of the memorial were George Winkel, a member of Operating Engineers

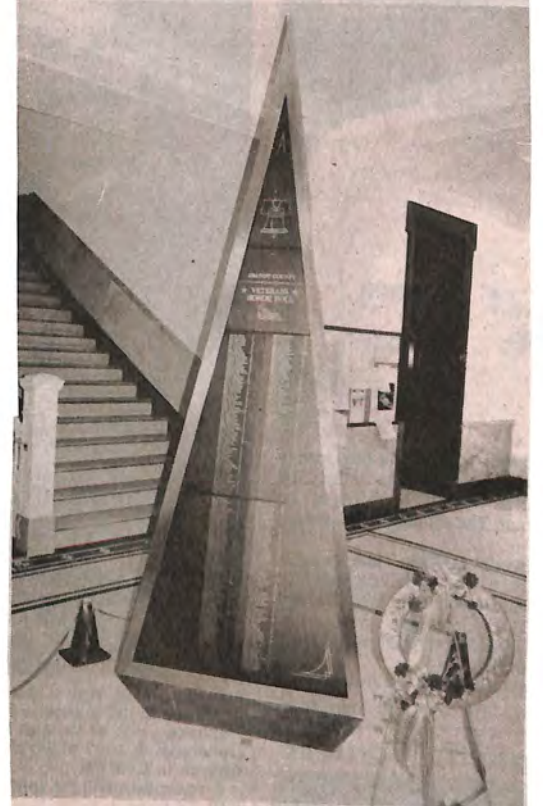
Local 150; Larry Engert, a member of Cement Masons Local 161 and Bill and Steve Shannon from Ayers Electric and members of IBEW Local 176. (More photos on page 4).



Memorial committee spokesperson, Donna Meyer, addressing the crowd.



COAL CITY, ILLINOIS WEDN  
**Scenes From  
Memorial Dedication**



The honor roll, listing names of those who served from Grundy County, was also unveiled in the courthouse.



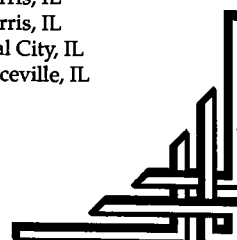
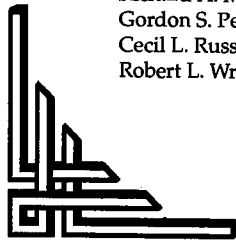
*This page is dedicated to the  
memory and honor of the  
following soldiers.*

**KOREA**

Milton R. Grieff	Mazon, IL
Arthur T. Hanon	Gardner, IL
Charles J. Newport	Mazon, IL
Leo C. Todd	Morris, IL

**VIETNAM**

Charles W. Becker	Minooka, IL
Edward F. Clennon	Minooka, IL
Dale A. Crull	Morris, IL
David A. Decoste	Minooka, IL
Benjamin V. Doman	South Wilmington, IL
Michael B. Finn	South Wilmington, IL
Steve L. Inboden	Morris, IL
Kurt Int-Hout	Braceville, IL
David K. Jacobsgaard	Gardner, IL
Jesse L. Johnson	Morris, IL
Richard A. Marshall	Morris, IL
Gordon S. Perisho	Morris, IL
Cecil L. Russell	Coal City, IL
Robert L. Wright	Braceville, IL



**Grundy County Memorial  
Committee Members**

**Chairman** Edward A. Aldrich  
**Co-Chairman** Dr. John B. Roth  
Kurt Halterman  
**Treasurer** Joseph Schmitz  
**Secretary** Janet Kulig-Rogers

**Public Relations**  
Donna Wills-Meyer  
Rick Roseland

**Building Committee**  
Roger E. Flint, Chairman  
G. Keith Benson  
Gerald Belt  
Robert "Puffy" Burt  
Larry Daggett

**Finance Committee**  
Joseph Schmitz, Chairman  
Robert Davy  
Anita Davy  
Rodger Christensen  
James Pantaleone

**Honor Roll**  
Anita Davy  
Donna Wills-Meyer  
Nancy Palmer

**Dedication Committee**  
Janet Kulig-Rogers  
Donna Wills-Meyer

**Thank You**

The Grundy County Korean/VietNam Memorial Committee wishes to acknowledge the many benefactors who have so generously contributed their time, talents and resources toward this endeavor. Without your invaluable support, the dedication of Korean/VietNam Memorial and Veterans Honor Roll would not have been realized.

We are extremely grateful to those who have assisted in the attainment of our goal.

We also extend our sincerest thoughts to the family members of those we honor today. Because of the sacrifice of their loved one, we are able to enjoy the FREEDOMS we have today.

**Voice of the  
People**

**Citizen grateful  
for memorial**

Dear editor:

This letter is written to personally show my gratitude, as a citizen of Grundy County, to the Korean-Vietnam Memorial Committee and to each and every one who participated in the beautiful ceremony at the memorial dedication.

Their long hours and hard work have proven to me what a great community we live in. To our fallen heroes, you give us freedom. I thank you!

Phyllis Maskel  
Morris

**Vet memorial  
touches family**

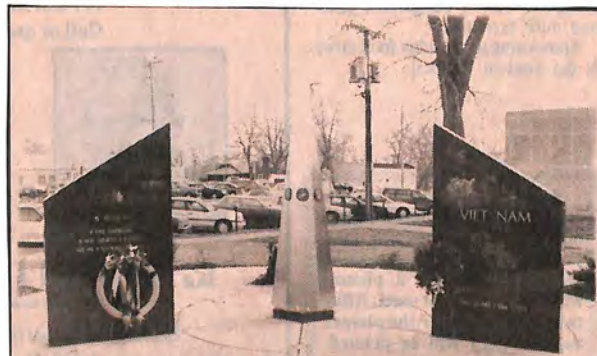
Dear editor:

Yesterday, Sunday, Nov. 10, 1991, we attended the dedication of the Korean-Vietnam Memorial on the courthouse lawn. It was a very thoughtful, well planned, moving commemoration.

As a sister of one of the three names on the Korean segment, I am so happy and feel so honored with the efforts of the committee that prepared this celebration in honor of our brother, Jack Newport, and many other soldiers.

I want to give a deep, heartfelt thanks to all those who took part in the planning and execution of this fine artistic memorial.

Marion Newport Blagi  
Oak Park



**Thank You Grundy County**

The Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Committee wishes to acknowledge the many benefactors who have so generously contributed their time, talents and resources toward this endeavor. Without your invaluable support, the dedication of the Korean/Vietnam Memorial and Veteran's Honor Roll would not have been realized.

We are extremely grateful to those who have assisted in the attainment of our goal. We also extend our sincerest thoughts to the family members of those honored.

Because of the sacrifice of their loved ones we are able to enjoy the FREEDOMS we have today.

*Sincerely, the Memorial Committee*

- |                      |                     |                   |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Edward A. Aldrich    | Richard Roseland    | Anita Davy        |
| Dr. John B. Roth     | Roger E. Flint      | Roger Christensen |
| Kurt Halterman       | G. Keith Benson     | Nancy Palmer      |
| Joseph Schmitz       | Gerald (Jerry) Belt | Larry Daggett     |
| Janet (Kulig) Rogers | Robert (Puffy) Burt | Bob Davy          |
| Donna (Wills) Meyer  |                     | James Pantaleone  |

# Will we be able to end war before courthouse lobby is full of names?

## The Heartlander

By Ed Walker



*"As long as war is regarded as wicked it will always have its fascinations. When it is looked upon as vulgar, it will cease to be popular."*

— Oscar Wilde

My fondest memory of the Grundy County Courthouse on Washington Street was a soft, summer night many, many years ago. I'm not sure what the occasion was (I was quite small then), but I recall there was a band concert on the lawn and there were delicious ice cream cones available.

Men were dishing up the treats from those big canvas containers lined with dry ice to keep the precious contents cold. Ice cream was never as good since that evening.

It was also the first time I was able to inspect the cannons that stood guard on the courthouse lawn. One cannon from the big war and one from the other big war.

And I remember spending a long time looking up at the figure on top of the concrete spire and wondering who Shiloh was. My folks filled me in on Shiloh during our drive home.

It was years later that I remember going inside the court house. It seemed impressive inside and contained the same sounds and smells one could experience in the post office down the street.

After walking around the inside of the building I spent some time look-

ing at the tablets that listed the names of those who had served in World Wars I and II. I recognized some of the names there; some were friends of my folks, some were relatives, some were sweet corn customers, some of them were neighbors and some went to our church. Not a single one of them seemed like the sort of person who should've been in a war.

But that was a long time ago. My exposure to military conflicts, at that point in my life, was limited to matinees in the Morris or the Times theaters.

With vivid clarity I can recall wondering if I'd ever have my name on such a tablet. I decided that there probably wouldn't be any more wars and left it at that.

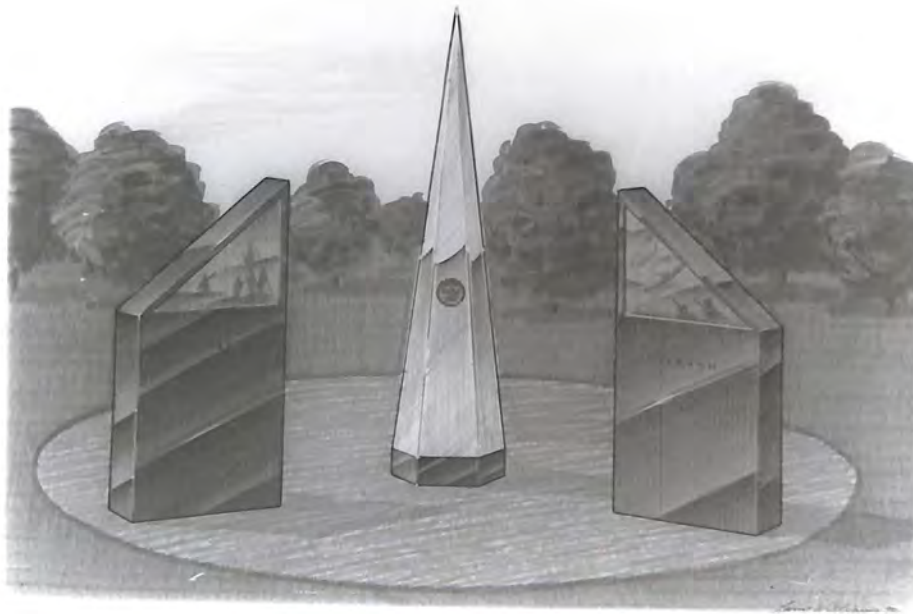
Just this past Thanksgiving weekend my mother and I went into the court house to see the names inscribed on the new tribute to the Korean and Vietnam vets.

There were so many names that I recognized. Some were my friends, some were relatives, some were old grade and high school classmates, some had been sweet corn customers, some played along side me on the MCHS football, wrestling and baseball teams, some were neighbors and some went to the same church I did when I was a Morris area resident. Not a single one of them seemed the sort of person who should've been in a war.

There will no doubt eventually (and should) be a similar recognition of those who served in Desert Storm. After that is erected we will have to make sure that we stop having wars ... there simply isn't much more space available in the court house.







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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
1125 15th St. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005  
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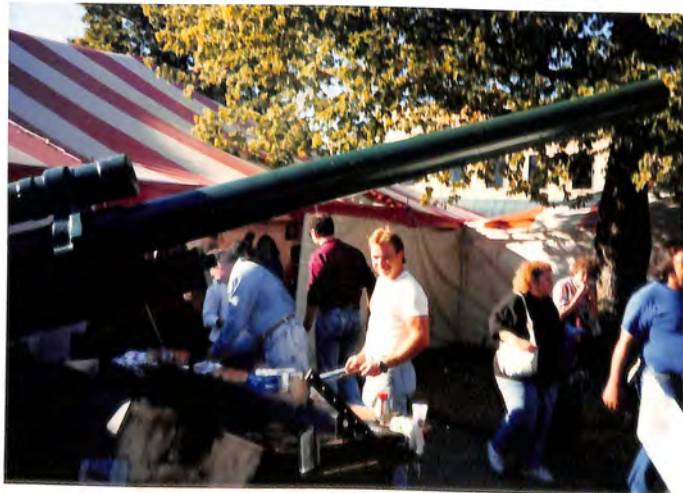




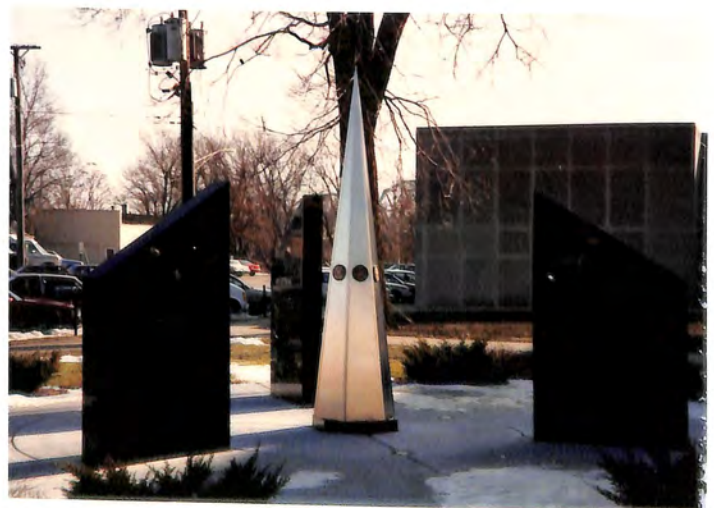




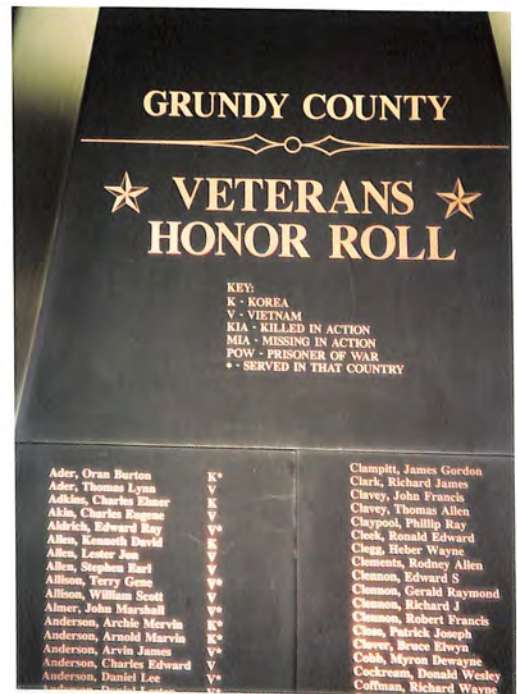












April 1992

# IBEW<sup>®</sup>

## JOURNAL



The Korean/  
Vietnam  
Memorial  
Stadium  
(Local 176,  
Joliet, IL).

### HEARTS AND MINDS AT WORK

L.U. 176 (arts&spa), JOLIET, IL—The Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Memorial (see photo) was built by donated labor from various building trades and with funds donated by many people and organizations. The accent lighting and materials were donated by Ayers Electric. Bro. Ed Aldrich, who served as chairman of the Memorial Committee, along with Bros. Steve and Bill Shannon, installed the lighting and power for the memorial.

Before the weather turned cold, Bros. Jim Wasser, Dean Goselin, George "Dan" Boudreau, John Bessette and Morris Moody took 27 people of the Shapiro Development Center for a day of fishing. Zeebo rods and reels were supplied for the day, and prizes were awarded to the people through a donation by the local.

These are just two examples of community services that are performed by our union Brothers and Sisters across the nation. The list could go on and on, thus proving further that we, as union members, not only take pride in our jobs but also take pride in our communities and are always trying to help those less fortunate than we are.

We must continue to promote ourselves on the jobsites and in the communities. We need to educate the public about the contributions the union movement provides throughout the nation. Ask yourself when was the last time you saw a scab contractor donate

anything to a worthwhile cause. The scabs only concern is filling their pockets by undercutting everyone else's standard of living. Also their employees can't afford to donate anything because they are working 60 hours a week for peanuts and don't have the time or the money.

We must stick together and continue to combat the nonunion movement with every means available to us.

DAVID W. USTUEN, P.S.



## *Save Outdoor Sculptures In County*



For the past three months, volunteers have been searching the county recording outdoor sculptures for a national survey. SOSI (Save Outdoor Sculpture) is a joint project of the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, and the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property, Inc. Outdoor sculptures, the most accessible form of history and art, are a severely endangered cultural resource, suffering from neglect, environmental pollution and vandalism. The information will help complete a national survey and encourage future care of the art.

The following will be submitted for Grundy County: Morris: Korean/Vietnam Memorial, The James Kenneth Allen Memorial, The Civil War Memorial, the three statues at the Prayer Garden at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, and the Moose at Lake Tandem Lodge.

Coal City: Statue at the Assumption Catholic Church and the War Memorial at the Middle School

Minooka: Angelo Con Palma Statue at St. Mary's Cemetery, Statue at St. Mary's Church, and the War Memorial

South Wilmington: Mickey Finn Memorial, Cross at St. Lawrence Church, and the War Memorial

Verona: Bench at the Methodist Church

Diamond: Diamond Mine Memorial

Gardner: Book sculpture at the Church of hope and the War Memorial

Historical plaques, gravestones, bells, cannons, etc. were not eligible for this survey but may be included in a local historical listing. Anyone knowing of other sculptures which can be seen from a public road, even if the sculpture is privately owned, is asked to call Pat Neff, 634-2370 or Lucy Sutton, 287-2196 this with the information or additional information on the above listing. A special thank you to all the people who assisted these volunteers in this important project for Grundy County.

## GRUNDY COUNTY BOARD

1320 UNION STREET  
MORRIS, ILLINOIS 60450



PHONE: 815-941-3420

### COUNTY OF GRUNDY

*Offered by Stephen Spangler*

**WHEREAS**, Since May 1891 no other Memorial has been erected in Grundy County to honor those who served in the Armed Forces.

**WHEREAS**, Seeing the need to memorialize and pay tribute to the veterans who served in the Armed Services and protected the fundamental Right of Freedom in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

**WHEREAS**, A committee of concerned citizens formed to pursue the erection of a monument and honor roll which would recognize all those who served from June 25, 1950 to May 7, 1975.

**WHEREAS**, A committee of the following people, Rick Roseland, Ed Aldrich, Donna Wills-Meyer, Bob Davy, Janet Kulig-Rogers, Rodger Christensen, Roger Flint, Keith Benson, Larry Daggett, Anita Davy, Nancy Palmer, John B. Roth, Robert "Puffy" Burt, Curt Halterman, Joe Schmitz, Jerry Belt and Jim Pantaleone, has donated countless hours of their time to assemble the appropriate information and funds necessary to preserve our Heritage for future posterity.

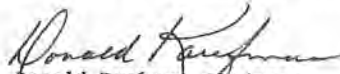
**WHEREAS**, Through the generosity of the citizens, businesses and organizations of Grundy County, the Memorial and Honor Roll became a reality.

**WHEREAS**, As a result of the persistence and tireless efforts of the committee, this beautiful Memorial received the State's premier recognition in the Governor's Hometown Award competition.

**RESOLVED**, That we, the Grundy County Board, recognize and appreciate all the past and continuing efforts of the aforementioned committee members of the Korean/Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee who contributed to the historical Memorial built on the Court House Lawn and the Honor Roll placed in the Grundy County Courthouse.

**RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the members of the Grundy County Korean/Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee.

Adopted by the Grundy County Board on January 12, 1993.

  
Donald Kaufman, Chairman



**Memorial committee recognized on marker**

Novelli Memorials of Joliet recently donated a granite marker with a bronze tablet attached to the Grundy County Korean-Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee. The tablet contains the dedication date and the names of the committee members. The marker has been placed next to the sidewalk leading to the memorial, which is located on the lawn of the Grundy County Courthouse. *(Herald Photo/Michael Farrell)*



■ George H. Fisk — Publisher and editor  
 ■ Jack Azman — Advertising director  
 ■ Fred W. Carlson — Business manager  
 ■ David W. Hass — Opinion page editor  
 ■ Reynold F. Hertel — Managing editor  
 ■ Leon Hove — Production manager  
 ■ James Tezak — Circulation director

## It took years to cope with war problems

MORRIS— Don Komnick was a 19-year-old soldier when he got off an airplane in South Vietnam just a few days before Christmas, 1968. He was scared and confused.

And they were loading coffins into another plane as his unit marched down the runway.

But a group of Green Berets who were going home passed by Don's unit. One of the Special Forces soldiers shouted a piece of advice to the new troops:

"Keep your butts down and don't make any friends."

Don, who is now a 42-year-old worker at Caterpillar in Joliet, didn't know then how long that warning comment would hang in his mind and haunt his nightmares.

The young soldier was so exhausted that he slept through a mortar attack during his second night in Vietnam. He said that was the last sound sleep he had for a year.

But he adapted to Vietnam and the death all around him. He quickly learned what the Green Beret had meant about making friends.

Friends like Don's buddy Robert Holmes died. But there was no glory in battle or posthumous medal in the young soldier's death. Holmes was just a soldier who was doing some repair work on a tank track. The heavy tank fell on him, crushing away his life.

Don came in from the bush one day and found the company com-

mander waiting for him. The officer had paperwork in his hand and Don's bags had already been packed. The Red Cross had arranged for an emergency leave since his mother was scheduled for open heart surgery.

There wasn't even time to change from his sweaty fatigues before he boarded a plane. Don was still wearing that uniform and boots covered with Vietnam mud when he landed at an air base near Los Angeles.

He changed into a dress uniform there. But his buddies had forgotten to pack his dress shoes. He was still wearing the muddy boots when he got home.

Don said he was in a daze at home. He felt like the world at home was just spinning around. People seemed to have no idea what was really going on in that place he had just left. And he had to go back there to finish his tour of duty.

"I had adapted to that world," he said.

He finally came home for good just a week before Christmas, 1969. His bride, Cheryl, was waiting. That Christmas was one of the best ever holidays, Don said.

But Cheryl said her husband had changed. He didn't want to talk about Vietnam. He was quiet and withdrew into himself.

They eventually had three children, the oldest a little girl named Kimberly. She was the apple of her daddy's eye. But the child was born with weak blood vessels in her brain.

And Kimberly died in 1979 at the age of 8.

Cheryl had no idea how much

make friends, why he was so over-protective of her and their sons. Friends had died in Vietnam. Kimberly had died because of Vietnam.

Don was still listening to that friendly advice about not making friends.

But Don, with the help of his family and a whole new crop of veteran friends, has finally come home mentally. He is very active with veterans groups and is chairman of the Grundy County Vietnam-Korea Memorial Project.

This group hopes to build a five-panel memorial on the courthouse lawn in Morris and dedicate it next year on Veterans Day. The memorial will be engraved with the names of almost 2,000 Grundy County men who served in those two wars.

Among those names will be six Grundy County soldiers killed in Korea, nine killed in Vietnam and one who is still missing in Korea.

A series of fund-raisers is being planned to pay the estimated \$40,000 cost of the memorial. Anyone interested in learning more can write to the memorial committee at Box 478, Morris, Ill. 60458, or call Don at (815) 942-1939.

Don, who said he is coping with his problems now, hopes the memorial will help other veterans deal with the same kind of stress that he experienced.

"I want them to know there is somebody there for them," he said.

Do you have an idea for a local column? Call John Whiteside at 729-6052. You may send your suggestion to John Whiteside, Joliet Herald-News, 300 Caterpillar Drive, Joliet, Ill. 60436.

### WHITESIDE

John Whiteside  
Herald-News  
Columnist



Don was accepting responsibility for Kimberly's death. He thought that he had killed her. Don was worried that he carried the results of Agent Orange, the chemical defoliant used in Vietnam, in his blood.

Don's depression became even worse than it was before. But he didn't talk about Vietnam, or his daughter's death. He held it all in.

He was a loner without any close friends.

Cheryl knew that her husband woke up in the night sweating from his nightmares. She had seen him shake and throw around his arms in bed.

"But he never said a word about Vietnam for more than 15 years," she said.

In the summer of 1986, Don visited the black granite Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. But seeing the wall full of names of the dead only escalated his depression.

By August, 1987, Don was in such a deep state of depression that he wanted to die. He cut his wrists in an attempted suicide.

Three months later he and Cheryl separated for a few weeks.

"But that's when he started talking to me, he opened up," Cheryl said. "I started to understand."

She understood why he didn't