

ST. ELIZABETH VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION - 11 NOVEMBER 2008

The St. Elizabeth Veterans Memorial was dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, 2008, sponsored by St. Elizabeth American Legion Post 545. The opening ceremony was in the school gym followed by a flag raising ceremony at the memorial.



Welcoming remarks by Al Luetkemeyer, who conceived of the memorial and secured funding. He explained the history and purpose of the project and recognized the St. Elizabeth Mutual Insurance Co. for funding, the bishop and pastor for the site, the American Legion post for maintaining the memorial going forward, and the various people involved in the design and construction.



Charlie Wilde led the Pledge of Allegiance and explained how the ceremonies would proceed inside and outside at the memorial with the honor guard to lead the way ahead of the family representatives of the men from the community who were killed in action.



Ray Doerhoff introduced the representative relatives of those killed in action, recognized veterans who were seriously wounded, identified people who were major sources of information for the project, and explained the data collection and notebook contents.



Dale Doerhoff gave the history of the wars in which local veterans served going back to the American Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, and how many from the community served in those wars and in times of peace.



Honor guard approaching the memorial: L. to R.: Shannon Wilde, Tom Oligschlaeger, Darren Wankum, Doug Holtmeyer, Brett Holtmeyer, Nathan Wilde, Justin Wilde.



Raising the American flag over the memorial for the first time.



Honor guard retiring as representative family members of those killed in action stand in the monument circle holding American flags.



American Legion Post 545 Commander and WW II veteran Ray Doerhoff, who spearheaded the effort from a concept through the completion and dedication in less than a year, standing by the memorial tablet that includes his name. November 11, 2008.