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Dawn Risewick, left, and Darlene McEwen, activities directors at the Andbe Home, carried a banner honoring this country's veterans. Behind them followed residents of the Andbe Home.



Abner Williams, a former Green Beret from Almena, watched the parade from the comfort of a lawn chair.



Members of the Roy C. Goodrich American Legion Post from Long Island represented their community by showing their pride in Friday's parade.

# Families, pay tribute

By VERONICA MONIER

Down the hill they rolled — the color guard, cars, trucks, tractors, motorcycles and floats while marching bands added music and excitement to the annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Norton.

American Legion organizer Jake Durham estimated there were 120 entrants in this year's extravaganza.

For the folks watching on the street the parade just kept spilling over the top of the hill and running down State Street.

Richard Wiltfong is also an organizer.

"Richard is a big help," Mr. Durham said. "We work on it together. The Chamber ambassadors were also a big help. They helped line up the parade at the sign-in place. We couldn't have done it without them."

Those it was meant to honor, the veterans, rode or marched in small clusters throughout the parade. In one car two women rode — the gold star mothers, Maris Brooks and Wava Donovan, women who have lost their sons or daughters, during wartime.

"The most important float in the parade," Master of Ceremonies Marvin Matchett said when they drove by during the parade.

About 100 veterans showed up and around 50 marched in the parade, Mr. Durham said.

"We had one of our bigger groups show up this year," he said.

They ranged from World War II veterans to those who have just returned from the Iraq war. Every branch of the service was represented.

There were floats from Norton service clubs like the Lions, Rotary, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Methodist Men, the Christian Church, the Knights of Columbus, and several

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Cowboy hats on the Northern Valley dance team added a "kick" of country to their routine.

# friends to veterans

businesses. Both the Busy Beavers and Busy Jayhawkers 4-H clubs marched in the parade, as well as three marching bands — the Norton Junior High band led the parade, the Northern Valley band held up the middle, and the Norton Community High School band wrapped things up, playing Taps after the gun salute was given.

Andbe Home organizers carried a banner and were followed by Harold Shinn and Paul Ballinger, an Andbe Home resident and WWII veteran, on Mr. Shinn's motorcycle. Behind them was a bus full of Andbe Home residents. The Norton Correctional Facility and the Kansas National Guard both sent marchers and the Norton Senior Center cruised its public transportation bus down the street.

Antique tractors chugged along behind original and restored, cus-

tom and antique automobiles and trucks.

"It was one of our better turn-outs," Mr. Durham said. "I think it was one of our best parades yet."

As the temperature hovered in the mid-70-degree range and a light breeze kept the flags waving hundreds of people sat in their cars, on the flower boxes and lawn chairs and on the curb or just stood to watch the parade, which lasted more than an hour.

Fire trucks and rescue units sounded horns and flashed lights. And of course, there were horses carefully put towards the end of the parade after the marchers had gone by.

And flags. There were enough flags — put out downtown by the city, carried by the marchers and color guards, hung from cars and floats and stuck out vehicle win-



Kenneth Hays, Debra Terrell and Dale Shearer were just a few of the veterans marching on Friday afternoon.



Doug Wilfong (left) and his father Gene accompanied the riderless horse down State Street. The boots in the stirrups of the riderless horse represent all the veterans who have fallen.

We salute the brave men and women who risked their lives to protect our country and we support our troops of today as they continue to defend freedom.

WE HONOR & REMEMBER OUR VETERANS

City of Norton

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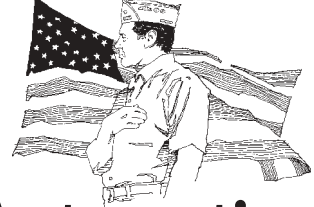
A SALUTE TO OUR VETERAN'S

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