



THE FIRST GRADE STUDENTS brought their flags to the Veterans Day ceremony on Friday. Students, staff and individuals gathered at the flag pole to honor veterans.

# Students honor veterans in flag ceremony

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

St. Francis grade school and some high school students, along with teachers and individuals, gathered at the flag pole in front of the grade school to honor veterans on Friday, Veterans Day.

Scott Carmichael, principal, welcomed everyone and introduced Bob Gross, Korean War veteran, who talked about veterans.

A veteran, he said, is someone who has served in the armed forces but is no longer serving. There are five branches of the service: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. Mr. Gross was in the Air Force 60 years ago.

In the United States, he said, everyone except the Native Americans, came to this country for

freedom, whether it be religious or because they were being "picked on." In the United States of America, people could live the way they wanted to.

Today, he said, we are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan so the people of those countries can have freedom.

Our country is the only country where people can talk about the government and express if they don't like what is going on.

Because of our servicemen and women, he said, we can safely sleep in our bed. God bless our servicemen and women!

Logan Whitmore played "Taps" as the flag was being raised. The "Pledge of Allegiance" was said.

Mary Beikman, art teacher, organizes the ceremony each year.



THE FLAG SALUTE was repeated by Sydney Allard, Riley Cross and Jordan Smull.



AS THE FLAG was raised by Marlin Queen, Scott Carmichael, principal, left, and Bob Gross stand at attention.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien



VETERAN, Bob Gross, left, gave a talk about veterans and how they have given this country and the people freedom. Above, Logan Whitmore played "Taps" as the flag was raised.