

Veterans Day ceremony draws 100 to VFW hall

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News
 Around 100 people gathered at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall to remember those who have fought and those who are still fighting to keep this country free.

Veterans Day ceremonies traditionally begin at 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month, the time when the armistice ending World War I was signed in 1918. After World War II, the name of the holiday was changed from Armistice Day to Veterans Day to include all who have served or died in service to the country.

Sophomore Brennan Clouse, son of JoAnn and Ken Clouse, gave his second-place Voice of Democracy speech for the audience. He talked about the different eras the country has gone through, starting with the Revolutionary War period.

"Challenges to freedom are not over," he said.

Clouse said voting rights have been gained for women and anyone over 18, but he asked if maybe it's time to lower the voting age again. He said he thinks teenagers should have the right to vote, asking why they had no voice in democracy.

Jody Tubbs, a representative for the Kansas Commission on Veteran Affairs, was the main speaker.

"One thing I am grateful for is that I was born in the greatest country in the world," she said.

She went on to talk about the benefits veterans are offered. She said the state maintains four veterans cemeteries, at WaKeeney, Fort Leavenworth, Winfield and Fort Dodge.

"The cemeteries at WaKeeney and Winfield are beautiful," she said, adding that any honorably discharged veteran and his or her family can be buried at one.

Service-connected disabilities can include hearing and vision problems, she said. There has to be

at least 10 percent hearing loss and tinnitus, she said. Letters of support from employers, doctors and wives can help to document the problems.

She said some participants in the in Battle of the Bulge have disability from cold exposure and servicemen who were in Vietnam from Jan. 9, 1962, to May, 7, 1975, could have been exposed to the weed killer known as Agent Orange, which can cause lung, prostrate and larynx cancer.

Three factors must be present for service connected disability, she said: A current disability, an injury that took place during service and that the two are related.

To get benefits non-service-connected disability, she said, a veteran must have low income, below a certain net worth and have medical expenses to pay.

There is a widow's pension, she said, but the income requirements are so low that the majority of

spouses do not qualify.

The current federal VA health care system was set up in 1996, she said, and in 2003, income and net worth requirements were added.

A color guard from the 170th Maintenance Unit of the Kansas National Guard posted and retrieved the colors for the ceremony.

JoAnn Wahrman of the VFW

Auxiliary announced the winners of the Patriots Penessay contest; Abby Jolly, daughter of Jay and Carol Jolly, was first, Brendan Fulcher, son of Bill and Dana Fulcher, second and Ryan Hilmer, son of Marlin and DeAnn Hilmer, was third. All the winners are in the seventh grade.

Carlene Fenner gave an overview

of auxiliary's activities. Rusty Renner provided the music with "God Bless the U.S.A." and invited everyone to join in "American the Beautiful."

VFW Commander Bill Selby gave 60-year pins to Dick Brock, Maurice Daise, Ray Fixsen, Les Frazier, Lowell Harding, Bob Schlindler and Floyd Wagoner.

Students, parents give program

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"I don't regret going over there and would go back," Gonzales said.

Lisa Varney told the students she "was on the other side of the coin," the spouse waiting at home for her husband, who is a specialist in the Kansas National Guard.

"I miss him very much and I'm

going to cry," she said. "Bryan has been gone since June. Ernie West, also from Goodland, is in his unit.

"This is his second time in Iraq," She said she is asked if we need to be there.

"Yes," she said. "They had done a lot over there."

Varney said she tries to send a "care package" to her husband at

least once a month.

She explained to the students that veterans are people who had been in the military. She said it means a lot to her husband when people thank him for serving his country.

The kids recited the Pledge of Allegiance before the program and sang the National Anthem at the end.

Museum opens display on dentistry

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mer when the swimming pool and all the parks would be in operation. A "Steever Day" was set aside for the occasion.

Shortly after he became mayor, the article said, Dr. Steever decided that private utilities were charging too much to pump water and light the streets. He started a plan to install a small diesel engine in the

present water works building for that purpose, and the operation was so successful that it developed into a plan for a municipal light plant for the entire city.

A special election was held on Feb. 9, 1937, and a \$200,000 general obligation bond issue passed. The city bought 21 acres from Gus Tompkins for \$1,500 for the light plant.

Fairbanks-Morse Co. got the

contract for construction of the first unit, and the small engine was moved from the water works, with a larger unit also being installed.

Through the years, three additional engines were installed, and a new section was added to the building with a separate building for the switchboard.

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CONTEST, from Page 1

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