Section B

Wednesday, May 31, 2006



daughter Jordan read an essay about the military, terrorism all service personnel.

DURING MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES on Monday and the Iraqi war. Miss McHugh urged Americans to support at the Oberlin Cemetery, Sgt. Randy McHugh watched his her father, who leaves this week for another tour in Iraq, and — Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes



Oberlin pays tribute to living, dead

Daughter's words honor father, all military personnel

By CYNTHIA HAYNES The wind blew, the sun shined, 4A.)

the flags flapped and — except for a faulty speaker system — conditions were almost perfect for the annual Memorial Day service at the Oberlin Cemetery.

With 381 American flags flying high from poles throughout the cemetery, veterans, friends and families met among the deco-

rated graves to honor both the dead ans, guard and reserve members, and the living.

The ceremony was delayed a few minutes while organizers tried to get a balky speaker system going. When that failed, the master of ceremonies, Judge John Bremer, had John and Connie Simonsson raise the main flag while Decatur Community High vocal music teacher Harrier, chaplain of the Oberlin Susan Nelson sang "The Star Spangled Banner."

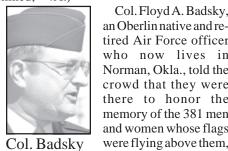
The flag was then lowered to half staff to honor the dead as the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary held wreath and poppy-laying ceremonies in front of a monument honoring those who fought in American's many wars.

Decatur County Undersheriff Randy McHugh, a sergeant first class in the Nebraska National Guard, introduced his daughter Jordan, who read her essay on supporting the country and the war. The essay was written for her freshman speech class at Decatur Community High School.

ceremony for his second tour of fund. The money will be used for duty in Iraq. He also had two tours supplies and activities by residents of duty at airports following the who suffer from Alzheimer's dis-Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

(The complete text of Miss Mc-rector Lisa Stacy.

Hugh's essay can be found on Page



there to honor the memory of the 381 men and women whose flags were flying above them, but also the living veterand others who have defended this country. He asked everyone to take part in a National Moment of Re-

phans and disabled veterans. After a closing prayer by Dr. Don American Legion Post, the Legion firing squad gave a gun salute and Allie Moore played "Taps."

membrance at 3 p.m. and never for-

get the prisoners of war, missing in

action, widows and widowers, or-

The flags, which usually spend most of the day aloft, were taken down about noon due to the gusty Memorial Day winds.

Judge Bremer thanked the many volunteers who work from Thursday through Monday each year to prepare for the annual ceremony.

Over on the front terrace at the Good Samaritan Center, a second flag display featured 87 small American flags snapping in the

The flags, honoring veterans living and dead, were purchased for \$10 each as a fund-raising project Sgt. McHugh left soon after the for the nursing home's residents' ease or dementia, said activities di-



FRAMED BY MEMORIALS from World Wars I and II, music teacher Susan Nelson (left) sang the national anthem while Judge John Bremer saluted. At the Good Samaritan Center (above), workers erected a smaller but equally patriotic display.



MEMBERS OF THE OBERLIN American Legion firing squad gave a rifle part of Memorial Day ceremonies at the Oberlin Cemetery on Monday. salute to all those who have given their life for their country. The salute was