

Region

Veterans memorial dedicated

by Teri Klassen
Sunday Herald-Times

BLOOMFIELD — The sun shone. The flag waved.

Hundreds of people sat in lawn chairs or stood on the Greene County courthouse lawn Saturday as the first county veterans memorial was dedicated, 70 years after World War I and almost 20 after Vietnam.

"If we don't do it now in our time, who's going to do it?" queried Bill Felton, a World War II veteran who helped supervise the project. "The

money wasn't easy to get, \$10 or \$20 at a time."

As they saluted the county's 159 war dead whose names are on the granite monument, veterans in the crowd were apt to count their blessings.

"They gave something that no one else can give for us to have what we have here today," said Vietnam veteran John Burris, an Eastern High School graduate. "It's not my memorial. It's for them, and I'm proud to have helped them."

As the Bloomfield High School

band played "The Star-Spangled Banner," James Baukat, the nephew of one of Burris's classmates, saluted, then put his left hand on his chest, and then his right hand. The 7-year-old never knew his Uncle Kenneth L. Walters, whose name is among 12 listed on the memorial under Vietnam.

Nearby, as bird droppings splattered off the lawn chair in front of him, James Letsinger barely smiled.

"That's just like on D-Day," he said. "I was lucky all those bullets

missed me."

Letsinger "scrounged around in three or four trunks" to find the World War II soldier's uniform he modeled Saturday, consisting of olive-drab, slightly moth-eaten wool Eisenhower jacket and overseas hat, and tie and shirt.

"This shirt belonged to my wife's first husband, a flyer who was lost in World War II," he said. Capt. Doyle Dugger, a B-17 flyer who died in Germany in March 1943, is among the county's 100 World War II dead.

Letsinger himself was in the Sixth Engineers Special Brigade, an assault group that landed at Normandy, France, on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

Of about 3,600 living Greene County veterans, close to 75 percent served in World War II. In addition to the 100 World War II dead and 12 Vietnam dead, the memorial lists 29 for World War I and 18 for Korea.

"The price of freedom is high," said Crane Naval Weapons Support Center Executive Officer Ralph

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Staff photo by John Teahune

BLOOMFIELD — Taps are played as Marines salute the 159 war dead listed on Greene County's first veterans memorial during dedication

ceremonies Saturday at the Greene County courthouse. The monument was paid for entirely through private donations.

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Darling in his dedication speech. "We must accomplish the mission that the dead have assigned us. . . . Above all, remember their names. They were killed once. They must not be killed again by forgetful-

ness."

The monument was paid for entirely through private donations. About \$20,000 had been raised before Saturday, of which about \$16,000 was for the monument itself, and about \$4,000 for the fence, landscaping and maintenance costs. Additional donations were rolling

in Saturday.

Felton, of the Greene County Veterans Council, said there is talk now of adding names of Civil War and Spanish-American War dead to the monument. There should be room for them on the blank east side of the memorial's gray pillars, he said, and for any who might fall

in future wars.

For the notion that fear of nuclear war has put an end to war is "a wrong assumption," said Greene County historian Gene Combs, who spent five years with the American Red Cross during World War II. "Well, the millennium has not yet come."

Greene County Veterans Memorial - List of Names for WWII		
Abram	Lawrence	R.
Armpriester	James	E.
Ausman	Homer	F.
Barker	Emerson	Y.
Barnett, Jr.	Arreatus	
Barton	Lester	
Barton	Chester	
Beasley	Nelson	
Bernes	Albert	L.
Berry	Jessie	R.
Bingham	Milford	
Bohnert	Paul	
Bowersock	Glenn	
Bruce	James	
Bullock	Earl	W.
Burris	Charles	
Byers	Paul	R.
Cambill	Paul	
Carnegie	Lee	J.
Christy	William	F.
Clayton	Charles	L.
Cole	Leslie	R.
Crody	Harold	
Cromwell	Howard	
Crowe	Ranard	M.
Dicus	Lloyd	E.
Dillon	Ebler	
Dobbins	John	
Doublemont	Dene	
Dugger	Doyle	
Elkins	Paul	H.
English	Albert	D.
Fiscus	Collins	
Fitzpatrick	Max	M.
Flory	Dale	F.
Flory	Max	E.
Fulford	Carl	G.
Gambill	Paul	
Gardner	Robert	
Gastineau	James	J.
Gentsheimer	Robert	N.
Gibson	Richard	E.
Gilbreath	Robert	
Gillham	Ivan	B.
Gilmore	C.	Dallas
Gordon	John	R.

Gordon	Robert	R.
Hannon	Fred	J.
Harting	Harold	
Hasler	Max	D.
Hill	Harry	
Hines	Richard	E.
Humphreys	William	
Hunter	Willard	O.
Inman	Carlos	
Jarvis	Richard	
Jenkins	Herbert	L.
Johnson	Benjamin	B.
Keller	Fredrick	P.
Kelley	Joe	B.
Kramer	Rex	
Livingston	Alfred	
Lockwood	Harold	
Logston	William	
Mann	Ferrell	A.
May	Blain	B.
McDonald	Paul	R.
McFarland	John	
McLain	Frederick	
Miller	Marion	R.
Miller	Dale	
Moore	Delmas	
Mowery	Richard	A.
Myers	Joseph	
O'Bannon	Robert	
O'Neill	Dallas	B.
Overman	Patrick	H.
Paris	Perry	
Payton	Don	K.
Pearson	Granville	
Peltier	Bruce	
Pershing	C.	Paul
Poole	Eugene	K.
Reynolds	Donald	
Rich	Earl	A.
Sams	Cletus	
Scecina	Thomas	J.
Scecina	George	J.
Schloot	James	D.
Scott	Floyd	A.
Scott	Vernis	
Senior	George	
Shepherd	Robert	F.

Singer	Vincent	
Slough	Robert	L.
Stacy	Dale	E.
Stamm	John	A.
Stewart	Russell	
Stough, Jr.	Clyde	A.
Stringfellow	Edward	A.
Tally	Kenneth	
Turpin	Theodore	
Uland	James	J.
Uland	John	R.
Vest	Carl	H.
Wolfe	Vail	
Woodburn	Albert	
Woodruff	Corbett	
Wright	Johnnie	A.
Wright	Jack	W.