



An honor guard prepares to raise the flag at the Winfield war memorial.

Winfield honors vets with war memorial

Dedication takes on somber mood

BY JANET HALLMAN
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Nary a dry eye could be found at Winfield's dedication Sunday of its first war memorial, as hundreds of veterans and civilians paid tribute to those who lost their lives in battle.

A respectful silence hushed the crowd that gathered around the V-shaped brick memorial at Creekside Park, giving a bittersweet touch to the last day of the village's Good Old Days celebration.

The 14-foot-long memorial, the brainchild of two Winfield residents, was dedicated as a reminder to Winfield residents of the American veterans who died during World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

"The V shape can represent only one thing — victory," said Jim Stepanek, co-chairperson of the Winfield Veterans Memorial Committee and co-creator of the me-

morial along with Louie Miotto.

The Rev. John Steer, a Vietnam veteran and keynote speaker at the event, also reminded the audience of the selfless dedication of the veterans, whom he said "had given the supreme sacrifice."

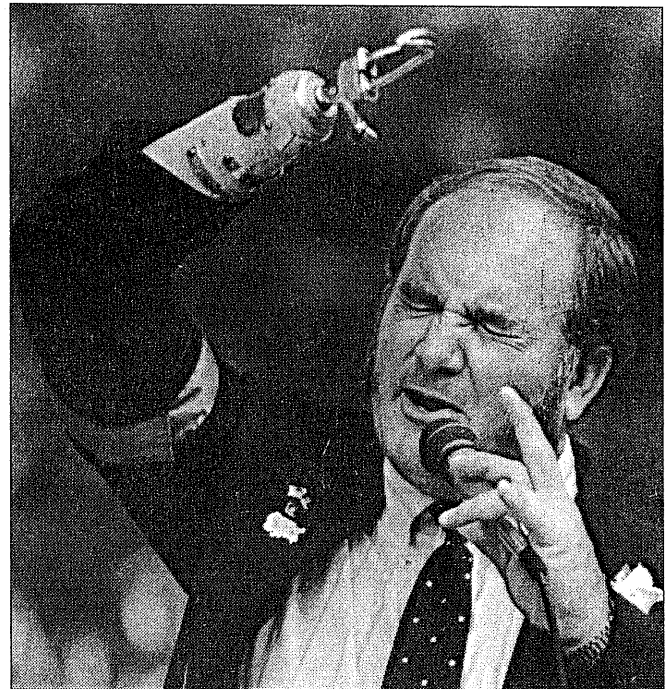
"You can do away with your military, and I can promise you, you do away with your freedom," he said.

Woodridge resident Linda Kolling, a friend of Stepanek and his wife, Marie, said she also attended the dedication of the Woodridge war memorial two years ago.

"We had a big turnout for that, and so I thought I'd come here," she said. "It is nice."

Good Old Days was a bit more lighthearted for others who attended the four-day event, which featured a parade, auto show, carnival and raffle drawings.

The theme of this year's festival was "Good Old Fashioned Patriotism."



The Rev. John Steer sings a song about the Vietnam War.

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