

## You Are Our Heroes Veterans, Thank You

By DORIS ELMORE  
Staff Writer

"You Are Our Heroes, Thank You" sang the A-H Grade School students K-5 to all of the veterans who were honored guests at the annual Veterans Day Program on Friday, November 10, at the A-H Grade School gym.

A large crowd attended this program along with the veterans. The color guard consisted of members of James Reeder Post 770, Atwood American Legion, George Logsdon, Steve Vollmer, Paul Quick and Maurice Bolt. Logsdon and Quick are WWII veterans.

Kristin Nall, A-H Grade School and Jr. High Principal, gave the welcome fol-

lowed by the "Star Spangled Banner" by the A-H Jr. High Choir and Jr. High Band, directed by Ms. Tina Nuckols. Legion Commander Jerry Clough led the crowd in the pledge to the flag.

Mrs. Nall read an excerpt from former President Ronald Reagan. She read: "We are forever indebted to those who have given their lives so we may be free." She continued, "We will never be able to understand what you have gone through, but today I do know we can celebrate in a free country because of those sacrifices you've made for us. I know that in Atwood, Illinois we stand together to say thank you for what you've done for us. Every child in this gym-

nasium is afforded freedoms and liberties to choose the life they want to live because of what you have done for our country. Because of men and women like you we can continue to live with those liberties. Please take time not only on this Veterans Day, but every day to thank a veteran for serving our country."

Mrs. Nall stated that on behalf of all the students and staff at A-H Grade School, I say THANK YOU for all you have done. Take this moment to sit back and enjoy the program we have prepared in honoring those men and women who have fought so selflessly for our country.

Dorothy Clough, President

of the Atwood American Legion Auxiliary, read about the POW/MIA Empty Chair ceremony. Bella Taylor and Savannah Butcher gave the meditation on respect and honor. Mrs. Nall introduced the veterans present and other guests.

The Jr. High Band played the "Marches of the Armed (Continued to Page 4)



World War II Veterans attending the annual Veterans Day program at the A-H Grade School were, left to right, George Logsdon, Robert Wolfe and Paul Quick. Logsdon and Quick were also members of the color guard. All three veterans received a special t-shirt from logo design winners Dustee Rose Gregory and Ashlynn Gingerich.



Tim Kohlbecker of Tuscola was the guest speaker at the Veterans Day ceremony held at Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School on Friday, November 10. Kohlbecker talked about his work with veterans at several local VA facilities. His focus was on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and how that impacts every veteran. Both high school and grade school students, the general public and veterans along with families filled the new gym for the services. Photo Kent A. Stock

## Area veterans saluted during ceremony at ALAH HS

By KENT A. STOCK  
Staff Writer

The faculty and student body of Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School and Arthur Grade School welcomed veterans, their families and the public to Veterans Day Services on Friday, November 10 in the new gym at the high school.

The ALAH FFA Chapter was in charge of the event which was very well attended.

FFA officer Janette Comstock gave an introduction of the celebration to those assembled. The ALAH concert band played "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" before

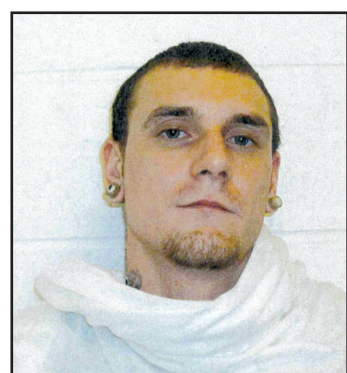
the Posting of the Colors by FFA members. The band played the National Anthem, welcoming remarks were given by ALAH HS Principal Steffanie Seegmiller, then the ALAH Chorus entertained by singing "God Bless America". This was followed by the band playing a special piece entitled "We Will Remember".

FFA officer Zane Crist and FFA member Griffin Rose handled the individual introduction of veterans in attendance prior to the band playing the "Armed Forces March". FFA officer Taylor Powell was next

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## Atwood Police Department seeks the public's help in locating man with arrest warrant

The Atwood Police Department is seeking the public's assistance with locating a local resident. Brock K. Anderson is 31 years old and wanted for an Illinois Department of Correction's parole arrest warrant. Anderson is a white male, 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighs 200 lbs. Anderson has brown hair and hazel eyes. Anderson also has tattoos on his neck and left arm. Anderson may be in the Champaign, Atwood, or Decatur area. If located, the public is



**BROCK K. ANDERSON** asked to contact the Douglas County Sheriff's Office at 217-253-3442 or the Piatt County Sheriff's Office at 217-762-5761.



Chet Utterback of Atwood and Pam Utterback of Champaign were recently selected to receive the Honorary American FFA Degree.

## Utterbacks receive Honorary American FFA Degree

Chet Utterback of Atwood and Pam Utterback of Champaign were recently selected to receive the Honorary American FFA Degree.

Both Utterbacks have served on the National Poultry CDE (Career Development Event) committee for over 12 years.

Through their work, the University of Illinois has supplied all of the live birds for the National and State FFA CDE's during their time on the committee.

They also are members of the ALAH Alumni FFA chapter and do a lot of poultry extension and teaching.

Chet is the retired manager of the University of Illinois Poultry Research farm and currently owns and operates Utterback Consulting, LLC, a poultry consulting business.

Pam works as a Research

Specialist at the University of Illinois in poultry nutrition and management.

This award is given to those who advance agricultural education and FFA through outstanding personal commitment.

The National FFA Organization works to enhance the lives of youth through agricultural education.

Without the efforts of highly dedicated individuals, thousands of young people would not be able to achieve success that, in turn, contributes directly to the overall well-being of the nation.

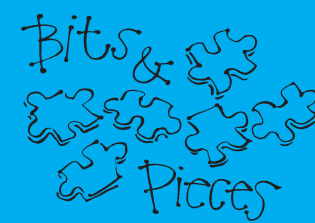
The Honorary American FFA Degree is an opportunity to recognize those who have gone beyond valuable daily contributions to make an extraordinary long-term difference in the lives of students, inspiring confidence in a new generation of agri-

culturists.

Members of the National FFA Organization's board of directors approved the nomination.

Pam and Chet received their awards at the 2017 National FFA Convention & Expo during an onstage ceremony on Friday, October 27 in Indianapolis, where they received a certificate and medal and their names will be permanently recorded.

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 649,355 student members who belong to one of 7,859 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The organization is also supported by 225,891 alumni members in 1,934 alumni chapters throughout the U.S.



## Bement Christmas Tree Lighting

Bement Christmas Tree lighting will be held Sunday, November 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Veterans Park.

Free Swiss Miss hot chocolate and hot apple cider will be served. Come and join the fun!

## Christmas on the Hill coming Dec. 2 in Cerro Gordo

Coming December 2, Parade with Santa arrival, Vendors, Lunch with Santa, and Bucket Raffle! Sponsored by Cerro Gordo Legion Auxiliary

## Santa Claus is coming to Hammond

Santa Claus is coming to Hammond on Saturday, December 2 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the Hammond Community Building.

Visit with Santa, enjoy cookies, hot chocolate and a craft.

This event is sponsored by the Hammond Community Boosters.

## Illinois Bicentennial Flag Raising Ceremony

The public has been cordially invited to the Illinois Bicentennial Flag Raising Ceremony on December 4, 2017 at 12 o'clock noon at the Douglas County Courthouse.

As we approach our 200th year of statehood, The Illinois Bicentennial Commission has requested that every Illinois County participate in a simultaneous Flag Raising Ceremony at noon on Monday, December 4.

In accordance with their request, all Douglas County community leaders, elected officials and the public are invited to attend the Ceremony at the Douglas County Courthouse.

## Bement Christmas Parade. Dec. 9

Bement Christmas Parade will be held Saturday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m.

Meet Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus at the Village Hall after the parade.

Free cookies, Swiss Miss hot chocolate, hot apple cider.

Free pictures with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

Come and join in the fun and celebration.

## Atwood Red Cross Blood Drive

The Atwood American Legion Auxiliary Blood Drive will be held on Thursday, December 14, from 2:00-7:00 p.m. at the United Church of Atwood.