

Veterans Day program held at Bement Middle, High School



The Bement American Legion Post sponsored an essay contest for students in Bement Middle School and Bement High School. The theme for this year's student essays was regarding the homeless problem among veterans in this country. Winners read their essays during Veterans Day ceremonies at the school. High school winners (left) were Ryan Stoerger and Kiersten Rogers. Middle school winners (right) were Jariah Adamson and Xander Hutchcraft. Photo Kent A. Stock



Connie Kinsella spoke to the large crowd of veterans, community members and students in Walsh Gymnasium at Bement Schools. Kinsella spoke about the Land of Lincoln Honor Flights program. Photo Kent A. Stock



Cerro Gordo Veteran's Day Assembly held at school

By CHRISTY JANKOWSKI
Staff Writer

On Friday morning, Cerro Gordo held an assembly as it does every year to honor Veterans. Prior to the assembly there was a biscuit and gravy breakfast.

The assembly kicked off with a posting of the colors from the American Legion Post 117. Following, the choir sang the National Anthem and Superintendent Robinson asked everyone to stand with their hands over their hearts.

The band played a few numbers. Then, Mrs. Pamela Grohman, the school's music director lead the grade schoolers through their own little numbers. Grohman who will be retiring this year also played with the band, as pictured.

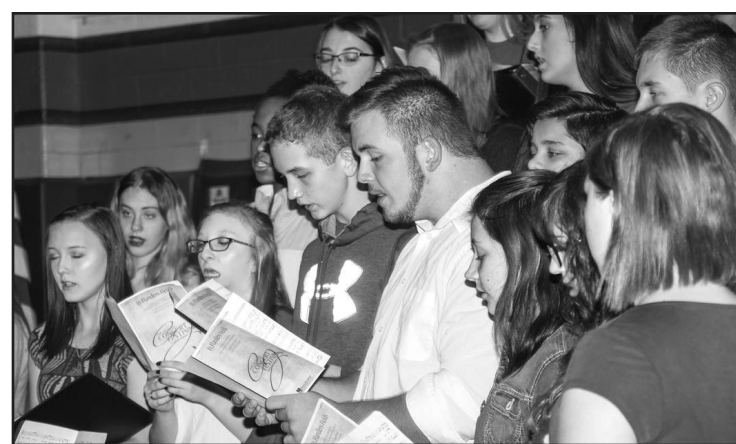
The first and sixth grade classes passed out thank you notes to Veterans, and high school student, Cora Hyde spoke about her Grandfather. Robinson spoke intermittently as well, and asked each Veteran to present themselves

if desired. Robinson read aloud the poem, "Flanders Field" written by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae who served in WW1. He wrote the poem after losing a fellow friend, a soldier. The poem speaks of death, bravery, and peace, as indicated in the first stanza:

"In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below."

The assembly finished with a musical presentation of "Flanders Field" in which all members of the choir and some fellow Cerro Gordo teachers formed a circle around the Veterans present. As the Legion exited the gymnasium, a tear fell from my eye as the ceremony itself was not only educational for the students, but touching.

At right are a few pictures of the assembly.



SWEETS FOR VETERANS. Gary Schaffer, Oscar Lanter, Gary Zachary, Kent Smith and Paul Espy were the first veterans to come and enjoy the Cerro Gordo Legion Auxiliary desserts and beverages served along with comradery on Veterans Day at the CG Post.

