

## History of Floyd County Veterans Memorial

The idea for a veterans memorial originated with local veterans and an organizational meeting was held March 30<sup>th</sup> 2004. That meeting was attended by Art White, John Gohr, Dan Squier, Bruce White, Chuck Lemaster, Keith Oldham and Andy Cerio. Marci Hall-Jacobsen also joined the group as a representative of the Veterans Affairs Office. The original idea was to have the memorial honor Charles City veterans and to have it located in Central Park in association with a Pavilion that was being proposed there. As time progressed, other sites were considered but in May of 2005, the committee decided to include all of Floyd County veterans and the county court house was chosen as the most suitable location.

Since we were going to have a county-wide memorial, it was decided to reorganize and invite all county veteran organizations to have a representative on the committee. This was done and the new group consisted of: Art White, Chairman; Phil Manskar (Charles City VFW); Dan Squier (Charles City AMVETS); Don Tieskotter (Charles City American Legion); Marci Hall-Jacobsen (Floyd County Veterans Affairs); Mary Ahart (Marble Rock American Legion); Clint Richards (Prisoners of War) and Don Casler (Rockford American Legion). Nora Springs and Rudd American Legions chose not to have a representative. Over the following months and years, representatives would be replaced and other veterans who have served are: Bruce White, Jodie Buehler, Steve Merrill, Marla Tegtmeier, Matt Ross, and Terry Mork. Active members over the last two years are: Art White, Bruce White, Dan Squier, Don Tieskotter, Jodie Buehler, Marci Hall-Jacobsen and Don Casler.

Dennis White of Residential Designs, Inc. was retained to offer a design for the memorial. Although we have taken liberties with his original submission, he is to be credited with the basic design of the memorial.

After considering bids from seven area granite dealers, Lewiston Monument Company of Lewiston, MN was awarded the contract.

The art work on the back of the Dedication Stone is the creation of Rockford artist, Tracy Ingham.

The project was financed mainly from the \$100 donations received from each of the veterans, or their families, you see on the memorial as well as donations from businesses and individuals listed in this program.

We, the committee, are proud of the finished product. We sometimes thought it would never get done. We have met in organized meetings over 50 times, volunteered countless collective hours, enjoyed occasional praise as well as criticism. Our goal was to have a memorial that would honor all Floyd County veterans and compliment the court house grounds. We feel that we have achieved this goal and hope you, the viewing public, enjoy the memorial for generations to come.

Floyd County Veterans Memorial Committee