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Saffron Phillips and her grandfather, Legion Post 130 Commander John Phillips, decorate the grave of U.S. Air Force veteran Fay L. Wilson with a flag and poppy cross on Friday evening before Memorial Day. Wilson was a 1st Lieutenant, serving in World War II from 1941 to 1945 and in the Korean War. Wilson received the Air Medal and 2 Oak Leaf Clusters during his service to the country. His grave and 100-plus others are decorated for Memorial Day each year by our local Legion members. (Janet Larreau photo)

## They Will Never Be Forgotten

Memorial Day Services were held at the Arnold Cemetery on Monday morning, with speaker Kevin Kennedy giving the address. The services are organized by the American Legion Post 130 and V.F.W. Post 6157 of Arnold. Legion member Mike Harvey said planning leading up to the services to remember our fallen soldiers begins months in advance.

"We schedule the speaker shortly after Veterans Day, and already have the speaker for the

Veterans Day program in November," he said.

During the year, Legion members across the state, who are no longer able to be active, make the crosses that are placed on veterans' graves on Memorial Day. Members also hand-make poppies for the crosses. Members of Arnold's Local Legion Auxiliary unit attach the poppies to 100-plus crosses - a time-consuming task that is done each year.

Local Legion members sched-

ule a day right before Memorial Day to place the crosses and flags on veterans' graves, which are identified by flag markers indicating their service. They also hang the 44 large flags on poles that grace the cemetery's entrance. After Memorial Day is over, members remove the crosses and flags.

The annual ritual conducted by Legion and Auxiliary is appreciated by families of veterans who are buried in the cemetery.



Lt. Gov. Mike Foley (left) visits with Arnold Economic Development Corporation President Andrew Tickle after one of five ribbon cutting ceremonies that were held in Arnold for new businesses on Friday morning. (Janet Larreau photo)

## Friday Marks Five Ribbon Cuttings in Community

### Lt. Gov. Foley Says Arnold is "Great Success Story"

Nebraska Lt. Gov. Mike Foley was on hand last Friday morning at ribbon cutting ceremonies for five businesses. The Lt. Gov. first met with business leaders of the community at the Arnold Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) office for a meet and greet session, and the group then boarded the Bobcat bus to give the Lt. Gov. a tour of the town and its sites, including the recently rehabilitated Arnold Recreation Area Lake and the in-progress renovation of the Arnold Roping Arena for roping and 4-H activities. AEDC Director Cheryl Carson, who organized the day's events, said that with more time available,

the group toured Berni Crow's one-room school house, and drove to the top of Devil's Den for a picturesque view of Arnold and Mills Valley below. The tour bus made its first stop at Flowers by Shavonne, where a large group of the town's residents had already gathered to view the ribbon cutting. Shavonne Schacher spoke about her business, which she and husband Terrence had opened in January of this year, in an available storefront next to the Hotel Custer. Since opening, the Schachers have expanded the business to include

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## Old Friends Gather for A.H.S. Alumni Reunion on Saturday



Old friends reunite in the hallway of Arnold Public schools Saturday night at the annual Alumni Banquet and reunion. (Jessica Tickle photo)

By Darlene Rimpley

Surely poetry has been written that describes how time and age is all transcended at an Arnold High Alumni gathering. Writing from a personal happening, and I'm sure, relating to almost everyone who was in attendance on the evening of Saturday, May 23, we will see just what I mean. From a short visit with Mildred Bailey Smith, Class of '39, to a longer visit with Jason Steele, '95, and his wife Sarah, to hugs from Jene Hagler Byczek and Cathy Koubek Rothmeyer, both of '75, to the usual bantering from David Sheets, '50, a handshake and a few words from Norvin Pearce, '48, a visit with Jim Crosland, '65, a question about one of Bobbie's dates from Bonnie Smith Rose, '47, a good visit with Wayne, '75, and Mary Lamberty, and to just sit and visit with classmates, Jo, Ardith and Margaret, and an "older" person, Marge Thompson Ruder, '51 - that is definitely time celebrated. Oh, how I wish it happened more than once a

year!

After a delicious meal served to a large number of people, the group was called into a semblance of quiet by President Chelsea Knight Hershey. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by the crowd.

Chelsea gave thanks to Merri Jo Halstead, who planned, prepared and served the meal with the help of many people; the Ground Zero Youth Group and others who worked in the dining room carrying and cleaning; Betty Halstead Yeargain and the actors who would appear in the program planned by Betty; Secretary-Treasurer Patty Purcell Goodenow and her right hand man, husband Ken Goodenow; Janet Cole Larrea as editor of *The Alumni News*; the Lamberty girls for helping set up the dining room; and to the photographers, Jenny Halstead Jodeman and Jessica Tickle.

Linda Witthuhn Grabenstein led the memorial as she read the names of those who were deceased since April 1, 2014, and John Phillips gave the invoca-

tion.

A report from the Arnold School Foundation was given by Beverly Engleman. Brad Atkins then held three rousing rounds as he auctioned off three cakes left from the supper, with the proceeds going to the Foundation.

Board members who will plan the 2016 banquet and program are: Chelsea Knight Hershey, Betty Halstead Yeargain, Kenneth and Patty Purcell Goodenow, Dru Smith Magill, Debbie Bean Brosius, April Mills Tickle, Darlene Hagler Rimley, Josh Magill and Gary and Merri Jo Halstead.

The 2015 Master of Ceremonies, Lisa Beans, Class of 2004, was introduced. Lisa, who is currently teaching at Nebraska Indian Community College in South Sioux City, Nebraska, shared what her life has been following her graduation from Arnold High. Following her earning a Masters Degree in Fine Arts in Creative Writing, Lisa was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, which took her to Krakow, Poland, to teach English. Following her year there, she taught for a year at Louisiana State University. She shared her accomplishments to bring home the fact that the beginning of all of that was the education and nurturing she received both in the community as a whole and at AHS. She stressed the sense of community that is felt in Arnold, and her pride in all that takes place here. She brought forth the fact that another AHS graduate, Jessica Preston, was also awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, and from a town of 600 for two such winners speaks highly of the school system and the town.

Seven ladies who escaped from "a home" got the house almost literally rolling in the aisles with their pepped up dance. The ladies' aliases are Ted Bubak, Cherie Overton Armgast, Don Olson, Beverly Harding Engleman, Ty Phillips, Melva Phillips and Glen "Dolly" Weinman.



"Empty nesters" Kali Blevins and Merle Bierman perform in a skit on stage at the alumni program. (Jessica Tickle photo)

A parade of the honored classes was then held, with Lisa sharing tidbits of information about each one that she had picked up from the class members. The 70-year graduates, the Class of '45, had three of the eight living members present: Verla Strasburg May, Ploma Weinman Geiser and John Nelson. John didn't think he was much of a speaker, but he really did a good job of it!

The Class of '55 had nine of the 16 living members in attendance; '65 had 15 out of 29 living members present; Class of '75 had 25 out of 30 members present; there were eight of 15 living members of the Class of '85; nine of the 21 members of the Class of '95; and 2005 had eight of 25 members present.

Probably for the first time ever, the newest members, the Class of 2015, gained the top attendance prize (sorry, '75). Five of the six class members were in attendance. Three members of this class are also fourth generation Alumni members: Racheal Smith and Grace Magill are descendants of Mynor '18, and Cecil Nansel, '15, Smith, and Brooke Blowers is a descendant of Alice Spratt Olson, '29.

Out of state guests stood for a moment, and we know some came from Texas, Florida, California, Arizona, Illinois, Tennessee, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado. (Watch next week's *Sentinel* for a complete list of out-of-state guests).

Returning and present teachers stood up, but sat down so quickly that I saw only a few: Carlene Lanham, Berni Crow, Gary Halstead, Jane Hornung, Ila Dailey and Don Hansen.

Kali Blevins and Merle Bierman gave an insight into "Empty Nesters," and what the parents will do with the room that the college kid leaves.

The benediction was given by Darlene Rimpley, with a little old age rambling thrown in.

A favorite moment from an Alumni gathering? Well, there is the laughter that goes with the skits that the willing, talented actors put on; there is the heartfelt moments when the emcee tells of her feelings for AHS and the town of Arnold; and there is always the great meal. But I'm sure that most of you will agree that it has to be seeing, greetings and visiting with all of our old and new friends.