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Some Bonds Never Break

A.H.S. alums reunite for annual reunion

By Darlene Rimpley

Each year as I prepare to write up a report on the fun we had at the annual Alumni weekend, I try to think up an opening that will get people's attention. Well, folks this is it!

I say Alumni weekend, but the fun, ideas, and work begins as soon as one Alumni is over, and the Alumni board starts the planning for the next year's events. Many phone calls, ideas that are discussed, thrown out, and finally agreed upon and then....it is the weekend!

The honored classes do it up big! A barbecue on Friday night, a walking tour of the town (and what a way to “brag” about Arnold and how great the business section has grown), afternoon gatherings, eating as a group, the banquet and program, and Sunday gatherings as they say “so long! See you in 10 years.”

Do I have your attention? Well, how about the heartfelt moments as the crowd recited the Pledge of Allegiance and tenth grade student, Adalei Tullis, sang “The Star Spangled Banner.”

Now that you are fully “tuned in,” we will get into what the crowd is there for.

Kirk Crawley, Class of '78, was introduced and shared his memories of Arnold elementary and high school, bringing many memories to many people throughout the evening.

Mary McKain Dymond brought a solemn moment as she read the names of alumni who had passed away in the last year, and John Rosentrater gave the invocation.

Giving tribute to our great country's 250th birthday, Bob Hough and Rev. Irving Jennings sang “God Bless America,” and “America the Beautiful,” accompanied by Melody



(Above) Emcee Kirk Crawley works the crowd at Saturday's A.H.S. Alumni Reunion. Over 200 alumni and spouses turned out for the annual gathering. (Below) Alumni President Cheryl Mills Uhrmacher presents the Honored Teacher of the Year plaque to Cris Christensen. - Jessica Tickle photos

Larreau Jennings '76. Cris Christensen was honored as the Teacher of Merit.

Honored classes time! All classes before 1947, with the exception of three, have no living members. The three remaining classes each have one surviving member: 1939 Mildred Bailey Smith, 1943 Alice Hagler Conner, and 1944 Norma Oman Erikson.

The class of 1956 started

the parade with three of the nine members living. They had 23 graduates. The Class of 1966 had a large graduating class of 34, with 26 living, and five present at the program. The Class of 1976 - wow! There were 22 of the class of 31, all living, present. (Needless to say, if there had been a prize for the “best attending” class, they would have won. The Class of 1986 has 19 of 20

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Legion Gets Set For America's 250th Anniversary



In anticipation of the celebration of America's 250th anniversary, American Legion Post 130 members have given the Arnold Cemetery a total refresh, painting flag poles, raising new flags, and adding lighting. With plenty of help, all of the projects were completed before Memorial Day weekend.

The 39 poles along the highway were scraped and painted white, along with the speaker stand and podium. Using conduit, lines were trenched in for the speaker wire and to light up the flag by the podium. Lines were also trenched in to light up the flags along the highway. A junction box was also installed if more lighting is needed.

R.T. Green donated two sets of flags for the cemetery, allowing a fresh new start for the season. These flags will be flown all the

way from Memorial Day to Veterans Day, and will need changed out at least once.

“Under normal circumstances, a set of flags will last about 10 years, but since we're flying them for several months, and with our weather, a set will only last about four months,” said Legion member John Phillips. “The flags that have been flying over Memorial Day and Veterans Day were donated by LV Conner. They're still in good shape and will be flown again.”

A project that wasn't planned was repainting the Arnold Cemetery sign at the entrance.

“Charlie Foran has wanted this done for years,” said Phillips. “The last time the sign was taken down was after the early 1980's storm, when it was destroyed. Floyd Ondrak took it home and fixed it, and it's been up ever

since. It was really faded. Clay (Mohr) and I took it down, and Charlie took it home and painted it. It's really bright now.”

Earlier in the spring, Legion members reset all of the veterans markers, attaching them to the stone or resetting them closer to the marker.

At the new Veterans Memorial site located along Highway 92, automatic lights were set before Memorial Day, which light up the American flag, fans out and catches the other flags and most of the stones. This will allow the names of veterans to be read at night.

With help from the school staff, Legion Auxiliary members prepared for Memorial Day activities by cleaning up the crosses and adding new poppies.



NJHS members Dagen Fletcher, Jaxsen Schacher and Aden Smith work with Charles Foran placing flags on veterans' graves while NHS member Malachi Neth drills holes for the poppy crosses on May 22 at the Arnold Cemetery.



Legion and Sons of the American Legion members (from left) John Phillips, Steve Graff, Clay Mohr, Kristy Wallace, Charles Foran and Mike Harvey stand under the recently painted Arnold Cemetery entrance sign. - Debbie Connelly photos