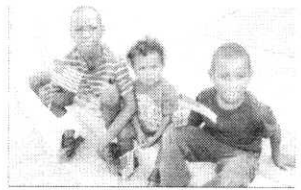


Fairfield County Dedicates World War II Memorial



Ny Quan Robinson, KenTarius Harvey and Ny Darius Boulware are ready.

It was a proud day for Winnsboro and Fairfield County. In a ceremony attended by well over 700 people on Monday, the Fairfield community dedicated a monument to 29 Fairfield County residents who gave their lives for the cause of freedom during World War II.

A year in the planning and organized largely by Bill Haslett with the help of a number of volunteers including Oliver Johnson, Pam and Donnie Laird and others, the afternoon event began with a parade down Congress Street at 4 p.m. to the tune of such WWII-era hits as 'The Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B.' Following the parade, the event proceeded to the expanse of green lawn in front of Mt. Zion Institute where a simple granite monument topped with a magnificent American Eagle and inscribed with the names of those from Fairfield County who died in World War II, rested beneath the shade of several large trees near the edge of the clearing.

After the colors were presented by the Fairfield Central High School Color Guard, the community's leaders both praised and thanked those whose names were inscribed on the monument.

The speaker for the program was Clebe McClary, a decorated Vietnam War veteran, who recounted how he lost an arm, an eye and sustained other serious injuries during a firefight in Vietnam and was rescued along with his surviving comrades by helicopters only moments before they would have been overtaken by the enemy.

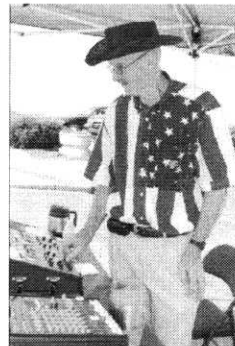
Following the ceremony and the introduction of surviving WWII soldiers in attendance, the gathering turned silent as a bugler in the distance played Taps.

A meal was served to all the guests and many finished the day posing for pictures with their war heroes in front of the new monument.

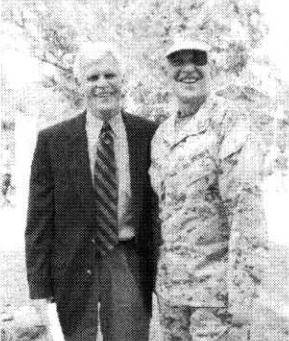


State Rep. MaryGail Douglas welcomed more than 700 people to the dedication ceremony of the Fairfield County World War II Memorial monument. Also participating in the program were Winnsboro Mayor Roger Gaddy, State Sen. Creighton Coleman, organizer Bill Haslett and speaker Clebe McClary, a decorated Vietnam war veteran from Florence, S.C. Sitting behind them are Oliver Johnson and Brother Lyles who also spoke at the event.

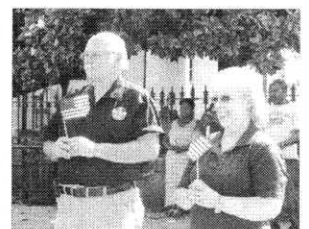
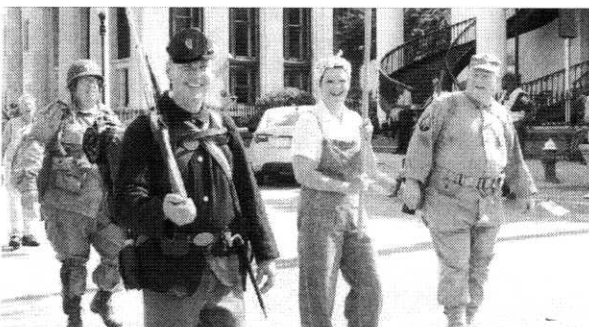
Photos: Barbara Bell



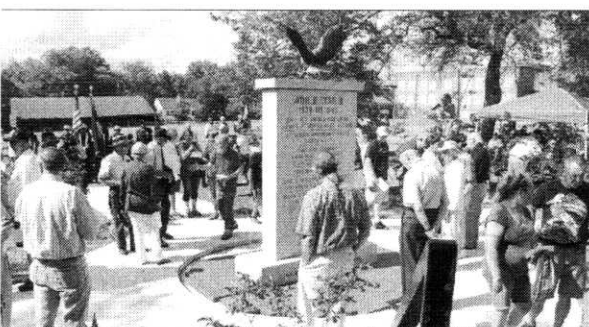
DJ Papa Charlie, left, provided Big Band Era music throughout the day, and Fairfield Chamber of Commerce president Terry Vickers emceed the parade.



Oliver Johnson and Vietnam war hero Clebe McClary.



William Browder and his fiancée Judy Bauer dressed for the occasion.



Lavinia Lyles Peltosalo, 93, wore the uniform she wore in 1943 in the Marine Corps Womens Reserves.