

Remembering those who served, both living, dead

The avenue of flags was missing, but still Old Glory flapped from many a pole at the Oberlin Cemetery on Monday as the American Legion and dozens of citizens remembered those who served, living and dead.

The hundreds of memorial flags which traditionally line the cemetery were missing this year. Rain can be a problem as it's impossible to find a place to dry out more than 200 large, wet flags, Legion members say.

Still, there are several dozen flags along the pathways — not the memorial coffin flags but brave show non-the-less.

It was chilly and blustery in the morning, but the rain held off and the annual presentation of the colors, prayers, wreath laying and patriotic speech were enjoyed by young and old.

Jordan McHugh gave the annual talk, an update of one she gave two years ago just days before her father, Staff Sgt. Randy McHugh, shipped out for Iraq. This year, as before, her father joined her



JORDAN McHUGH, with her father Randy, gave the keynote speech.

at the podium and held the microphone so she could read a speech telling everyone how proud she is of not only her father, but all our military, and how he and others protect our freedom of speech so we can even say if we don't agree with the war.

She asked the onlookers to support the president and the armed forces in any way they could and to stand behind those who are willing to lay down their lives for our country.

Allie Moore played bugle, John and Connie Simonsson posted the colors, Kenzie Fisher sang the National Anthem, Stan Chapin gave the opening and closing prayers, Jim Miesner placed a ceremonial wreath, the American Legion Auxiliary made a Gold Star memorial, the Oberlin American Legion Post provided a rifle squad for a 21-gun salute and the Herndon Veterans of Foreign Wars Post provided the color guard.



PREPARING TO PLAY the song "To the Colors," Allie Moore played bugle for both the opening and closing of the Memorial Day program at the Oberlin Cemetery.



PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE FLAG, members of the Herndon Veterans of Foreign Wars, including Bob Martin (above left) and Jerry Harris, helped with the Memorial Day ceremonies in Oberlin on Monday as John and Connie Simonsson raised the colors.



OBERLIN AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERS made up the rifle squad, which stood at rest during Jordan McHugh's speech.

Photos and story by
Cynthia Haynes