



STANDING AT ATTENTION to honor the newly installed veterans memorial statue in memory of Fred Magley and other local veterans at Cheyenne Valley Cemetery, south of Wheeler were (l to r) Pete Jensen, Ron Hill, Sam Miller and Jerry White. The annual Memorial Day service was held Monday morning. Herald staff photo by Douglas Sloper

Veterans honored at multiple ceremonies

By Carol Sloper

Freedom is not free. Our freedom is afforded by the many brave men and women who have served this country in the past and those that continue to sign on to protect that freedom today. This heartfelt message was conveyed this past weekend in the many county ceremonies and the "What is War" exhibit at the Quincy Street Gallery in honor of Memorial Day.

Special tribute was paid in several services to remember Medal of Honor recipient Army Sergeant Jack Weinstein. His wife, Nancy, and other family members were on hand at these ceremonies which recapped his exceptionally valorous actions on Oct. 19, 1951, during the Korean War where his platoon came under enemy attack.

Mr. Weinstein's decisions and actions that day to stay back and cover while his men withdrew from the line, killing six enemies, and ingeniously using enemy grenades when his own ammunition was out, earned him the Medal of Honor. This highest recognition for valor was delayed until March 18, 2014, after a congressionally mandated review was done to ensure that eligible recipients were not bypassed due to prejudice.

Hope Valley Cemetery

A group of 25 guests gathered at Hope Valley Cemetery, northwest of St. Francis, on Sunday afternoon in a brief but spirited service led by Larry Wilson and Althea Lebow.

Mrs. Lebow welcomed the guests and asked them to join in singing *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

"On this most solemn holiday, we must stop and consider the great sacrifices that others have made so that we may have the freedom and prosperity we enjoy," said Mr. Wilson in his address. "Let us consider what our forefathers here in this cemetery, and what those valiant service men and women, were fighting for."

Mr. Wilson urged Americans to take a look into their souls to see what they are doing with the bloodstained legacy those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice have left behind.

"For most, Memorial Day is a three-day weekend filled with barbecues and picnics, a time to get away from the normal humdrum of the week, a beginning of summer," he said. "But Memorial Day holds a special significance, not as a gesture endorsing any Nation and its current political or economic policy, but in honor of

brave men and women who gave their lives for others."

After the thoughtful message, Mrs. Lebow rounded out the ceremony by singing *You're a Grand Old Flag*. The caretakers of the cemetery invited all guests to stay afterward for homemade cookies and tea.

St. Francis Cemetery

The tributes continued on Monday morning when more than 100 people gathered at the St. Francis Cemetery east of the city at a service planned by the Lions Club and VFW Post 1528. Veterans were asked to stand: two from World War II, eight from Vietnam, five from the Korean War, and four who served in peace times.

Former Marine, Jerry White, led the ceremony and addressed those in attendance. "Today we pay our respects to all the veterans who have died. This is done by placing a small flag by the grave of every veteran."

He continued by stating that to be a strong nation, we need strong leadership. We need to continuously maintain a strong military of young men and women to serve in the armed forces. This year, he said, two of our local seniors have enlisted to serve our country: Lane Hoffman in the U.S. Marines

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RAISING THE COLORS were (l to r) Sam Miller, Pete Jensen, and Ron Hill. Playing Taps was Sydney Sundstrom. Herald staff photo by Douglas Sloper



THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE was held Sunday at Hope Valley Cemetery with Larry Wilson speaking and Althea Lebow leading the singing. Refreshments and visiting followed.

Herald staff photo by Douglas Sloper

Memorial

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and Matthew White in the U.S. Navy.

As the ceremony continued, Marvin Zimbelman paid tribute to Jack Weinstein. The Medal of Honor was displayed for all attendees to view.

Many young musicians took part in the service: Hannah Wolff performed a drum solo of *Stars and Stripes Forever*; a trumpet solo of *Reveille* was presented by Sydney Sundstrom; the *Star Spangled Banner* was played by Shelby Wolff on the electric guitar; Caleb Todd drilled out *The Liberty Bell* in a drum solo; and Aaron White strummed *Taps* on the electric guitar.

Also participating in the ceremony was Connie Rooney reading a tribute poem and Chad Miller singing a beautiful

rendition of *God Bless America*. The children of Jerry and Jackie White set America's Table.

Pastor Warren Cico gave spiritual solace to the event with the invocation and benediction.

Cheyenne Valley Cemetery

Later on Monday morning, a group of 30 guests were welcomed by Barbara Ewing at Cheyenne Valley Cemetery south of Wheeler.

As is tradition at Cheyenne Valley, a brief history of a family interred at the cemetery was presented. The Spencer Hotchkiss family was spotlighted by Marsha Magley.

"Spencer's wife and seven children moved to Cheyenne County in 1887," said Mrs. Magley. "Spencer died at the age of 63 in his home and was interred in Cheyenne Valley

Cemetery."

She said the most interesting thing she encountered when researching the family history was that Lawrence, Spencer's fifth child, drowned in 1904 in the Scoby's pond just 15 years after marrying. Mrs. Magley went on to say that newspaper accounts from 1904 indicated he had a promising future in Cheyenne County as he taught in several schools and was the county attorney. The article stated that the county mourned her loss of her "most useful, most illustrious, and dearly beloved son."

The family of Jack Weinstein was on hand. Jack's gravestone was decorated with flowers and a brass tribute created by his son, Jack, Jr. Mrs. Magley stated that a Medal of Honor tombstone will arrive soon and there will be

a grand celebration to place it at Jack's final resting place.

Helene Landenberger and Wayne Magley cited facts of the guards of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Afterward, Jerry White gave a Memorial Day devotional followed by the dedication of the new veterans' memorial statue installed at Cheyenne Valley. The statue is of four soldiers representing each of the military branches: Army, Marine, Navy, and Air Force. Mr. White (Marine), Sam Miller (Army), Pete Jensen (Army), and Ron Hill (Navy) presented a wreath on the new memorial to dedicate it while *Taps* was played.

After the ceremony, guests were invited to Majestic for refreshments and the annual business meeting.