

Memorial Day 2022

Welcome, and thank you all for coming.

As the newest member to the Memorial Board of Directors... I got volunteer to speak.

Today we acknowledge the 25th anniversary of this amazing memorial.

I can't help but look back to the day I was here at this armory, in my office, I was assigned here as the unit Readiness NCO, and Pete Salerno who was also assigned here at the time, pokes his head in and say "So ah, I think you have someone here to see you"

And so starts my connection with the memorial, because out in the hall was a man names Les Whittle. Not a big man, but he carried with him an enormous idea to build a memorial, and to do it right here. The thing I didn't notice at the time was he also carried a big heart and a bulldog like dedication to make this come true.

Thanks to that grandiose idea, today, on Memorial Day, a day that we honor all those that have lost their lives in the service to this great country, we can come together here to honor those service members that held Benton County and its people in their hearts.

And thanks to my fellow Board members, through a change in the by-laws, we can now add our fallen who have served this county, this country, from this very building, and paid the ultimate price.

This is a recent update, and we have not yet been able to honor our Soldiers upon the tablets.

Following me will be the reading of the honored names from the tablets, with the names of our four fallen brothers from Bravo Company 2-162d Infantry's Operation Iraqi Freedom II deployment, three of them will be read here for the first time today.