



By Jeff Headley

Keith County News

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3755 at Ogallala recently received its second significant national award when National Cmdr. William A. Thien announced the presentation of a Diamond Jubilee Award citation to the local post.

The post will celebrate its 75th anniversary on Oct. 20. In 2012, the Perkins County post consolidated with the Ogallala post.

“This is a very significant milestone for a VFW Post,” Thien said. “The Diamond Jubilee award recognized dedication, determination, hard work and a lot of patriotism. And, it recognizes 75 years of serving the needs of local veterans and their families; 75 years of service to the local community; and 75 years of contributing to the strength, power and influence of our national organization.

“In presenting this award, I send my sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of VFW Post 3755,” Thien said.

In receiving the award, Post Cmdr. Gary Bush said, “It’s a heck of an honor for the post and it’s quite an honor to accept this award while serving as commander of the post.”

The award is the second national significance presented to the post in the past three months. In July, bush was named an All American post commander during the national VFW convention at Louisville, Ky.

The All America recognition is the highest honor given by the national organization. Only 204 commanders received All American status.

In recognition of the post’s 75th anniversary, the Ogallala/Keith County Chamber of commerce will host a morning coffee from 8 until 9 a.m. Oct. 18.

From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Oct. 20, the Keith County Area Leadership Development class will hold a fundraiser, with half of the proceeds going to the local VFW and the other half designated for care packages for local military men and women serving overseas. A silent auction also is

planned as part of the pancake feed.

Pancakes, sausage links, coffee and juice will be served for \$5. Free will donations above that cost will be accepted.

Although the pancake feed ends at 2 p.m., the local post will continue with an open house until 5 p.m. in order that residents may view scrapbooks and visit, Bush said.

Bush said the organization always is seeking members. When the local VFW was first chartered on Oct. 20, 1938, it had 39 members who mustered up in the west part of the old VFW Hall to receive the organization's charter, Bush said. Currently, the group has 291 members.

The group meets the first Tuesday of each month, except for the summer months of June through August, when no regular meetings are held.

Those wanting to become members of the local VFW Post are asked to contact Bush at 308-284-0816.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is a non-profit veterans' service organization composed of combat veterans and eligible military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces.

Founded in 1899 and chartered by Congress in 1936, the VFW is the nation's largest organization of war veterans and its oldest major veterans' organization. Worldwide, the group has more than 2 million VFW and Auxiliary members in more than 7,000 posts.

The VFW and auxiliaries are dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs.