

MEMORIAL DAY



Les Murillo rings a bell to signify those members of American Legion Post 77 who have died in the past year.



Steve Venables talks about those local residents who gave their lives in service of the country.



Bryce Hansen performs taps on his trumpet during Memorial Day Services at the Woodland Cemetery.

RECALLING THE FALLEN



PHOTOS BY JIM SMITH — DAILY DEMOCRAT

Unit 77 Auxiliary President Maria Lopez and Silvia Hillyer, past president of Unit 77, escort Martha Vomacka, who laid a wreath in memoriam of her son, PFC Robert Stewart, who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1968.

Woodland remembers those in the military who lost their lives for the country

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In a light-hearted but moving ceremony, members of American Legion Post 77 and speaker Steve Venables, remembered those who gave their lives in their service of their country on Memorial Day.

Speaking in the veterans section of the Woodland Cemetery beneath light blue skies and an ever-present breeze

that kept hundreds of flags flying, Venables recalled past and present service members as well as looked ahead to ceremonies to mark the 100th anniversary of World War I.

Sitting and standing next to some 2,000 flags that marked gravesites were around 200 people who came out for the hourlong service held on the northern side the cemetery. Members of the American Legion, assisted by local Scouts, had marked graves one day earlier.

The service got underway with an introduction by Wally Hunter, second vice commander and master of ceremonies, and was quickly followed by a prayer from Ted Hillyer, Yolo Post 77 chaplain and a performance of the National Anthem by Douglass Middle School singers along with a rendition of God Bless America by the Holy Rosary Choir.

The service also featured a memorial wreath placed on the Yolo Post 77 monu-

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“Over 900 men boarded trains ... and 31 of these men paid the ultimate price.”

— Steve Venables, of Woodland and a U.S. Army veteran

Facebook: Woodland resident Steve Venables talks about those who lost their lives in the service of their county at Memorial Day services.