

Scout project to refurbish memorial

By RORYE O'CONNOR

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MT. VERNON — A refurbishment of the Jefferson County Heroes Memorial, once located at AMVETS Hall on Main Street, could be completed ahead of schedule if funding allows.

Andrew Dreas, 17, a Life Scout of Woodlawn Boy Scout Troop 102, is devoting his Eagle Scout project to the re-construction of the memorial at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, hopefully before the 15th Annual Little Egypt Fly-In.

"It should be done by Oct. 15," Dreas said. "If we could get it done earlier, it would be great. I've got

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Andrew Dreas, center, talks to attendees of the 2011 Salute to Freedom at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. Dreas hopes to complete the reconstruction and update of a memorial to fallen Jefferson County soldiers by Oct. 15. RORYE O'CONNOR/REGISTER-NEWS

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four merit badges left. It would be really nice if I was a full Eagle Scout at the time of the ceremony. Everybody could see the completion of the project, and I could be launched into the world as an Eagle Scout."

Dreas is holding a fund-

ing drive to help with the cost of rebuilding the pieces of the memorial put into storage after the AMVETS Home moved.

The cost of the memorial project is estimated to be \$8,000 to \$10,000, Dreas said.

Small signs will be placed on each side of the memorial, containing the names of the people or entities who

helped construct the memorial, information states. The signs are intended to stand with the memorial into the future. Various levels of partnership are available, from \$50 to \$500, Dreas said.

Dreas said the construction of the memorial, designed by architect Brian Edmison, has seen the advantages of discounts on materials acquired by airport

manager Chris Collins.

"We keep getting reductions in price," he said.

The new design will feature a steel frame, 2011 sign panels and graphics, advanced lighting, patio pavers and landscaping, information states.

Dreas said he has raised about \$2,000 so far and would like to raise most of his funds through the sign

drive.

"They'll be there forever with the ones who died," he said. "People will know they made a donation toward this memorial."

Dreas organized a spaghetti dinner at the Mt. Vernon American Legion last weekend to help raise funds for the memorial.

He said accomplishing his goals has been challeng-

ing with his senior year beginning.

"The summer was easier, with only this to focus on," he said. "I have some tough classes this semester. I'm trying to balance this with everything else. Last week I really got motivated to work on this fundraiser. When this project is over, I'll be glad to put my full focus back on school."

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