

Dear Editor:

With Leon and Charlotte Kumor and families, promotion by Experimental Aircraft Association and assistance by Ted Tietjen, the “Celebration of the American Spirit” was held Sunday at the Grant Airport.

Starting a wonderful day at 9 a.m., the Young Eagles flight rally gave over 20 rides to children.

A demonstration was given by Airlink medical helicopter with assistance from Grant’s emergency responders.

The afternoon program started with a great welcome by Mayor Mike Wyatt, followed by a presentation of colors by Boy Scout Troop 160 and the Pledge of Allegiance. Father Pfeiffer gave a prayer.

Ted Tietjen introduced guests and the many “worker bees” that helped in many areas.

Ron Kumor, Bob Bounds and Dana Cornelius gave an interesting history of Leon’s flying, Master Pilot requirements, and a Master Pilot Award reenactment.

Maureen (Kumor) Johnson introduced the singing group *The Avi8ors*.

This group includes three women and one man from the Omaha area, who dress in military attire and sing all the good songs of World War II era, just like a USO show. They dazzled the crowd singing 20 songs with all their extras. They are just out of this world entertainment, we are so lucky to have them come to Grant, Neb., thanks to Leon Kumor.

During the program Commander Krause recognized all veterans of wars from World War II to the present time, those who served in peace time and veterans who went on the flights to Washington D.C, even acknowledging the Red Hatters.

I got the honor of giving the story of “Taps.”

The weather cooperated, it was comfortable in the hangar.

The crowd was tremendous, it was a thrill to see people just coming and coming. Some in wheelchairs, walkers and canes—but they made the effort. It was worth it.

The components were wonderful, every detail was covered. Proves what a promoter plus community help can accomplish.

God Bless America.

Gerry Pankonin

Grant