I. Basic Requirements

E. On Thursday, November 12, 2009, Hauser-Hantge Funeral Home in Fairfax held a Veteran's Appreciation Day and Flagpole Dedication. Hundreds of invitations were mailed out to all residents of Renville County ages 50 and older. The program was offered, free of charge, to honorably discharged veterans and their spouses, or a guest. As the invitation stated: "You served us, now let us have the honor of serving you."

Most of the attendants belong to the local VFW and Legion Clubs. These gentlemen also participate in their local honor guards and volunteer their time at local military funerals. The funeral home was privileged to dedicate the Flagpole at the Funeral Chapel in honor of these dedicated, local veterans.

The program benefited the attendees by honoring the participants, offering them helpful information and providing them a lunch, served by the funeral home staff.

The program allowed the funeral home to extend goodwill and thanks to these service men and women for all they have done and continue to do for us. It also got participants interested in thinking about pre-planning and pre-funding their own funeral services.

The program featured a video tribute of the veterans in uniform, military trivia, door prizes, a moment of remembrance, informational guest speakers and lunch. Speakers included Bert Wasierski, Pat Zalusky, and Brenda Schramm.

Bert spoke extensively on the topic of benefits available to veterans, both before and following death. Pat spoke on medical assistance. He explained spend downs and suggested methods to correctly protect assets to fund final expenses. Lastly, funeral home staff member, Brenda, discussed preplanning. Following the meeting, there was a time for questions and one on one discussion with the presenters.

Approximately 100 people participated in and attended this program. A wonderful time was had by all.