

## **2014-2015 Upgrading Park with Sidewalks and Gold Star Recipient Monument**

In 2014-2015, Post 14, updated the park by adding a sidewalk that runs the entire length of the park along Main Street which is seven feet wide, a second sidewalk, which is five feet wide leads visitors from Main Street up to the *Memoriam Monument*. A new concrete pad in front of the *Memoriam Monument* area was also added.

Nineteen dump trucks of clean fill and top soil had to be brought in to level the property, a new sign and a new sprinkler system were installed and sod was put down.

New electrical conduit and wiring along with four new LED light fixtures and light poles were added and the electrical work was done by Earl Lukaszewski who volunteered his many hours of work.

A new octagon shaped monument was also added in 2014-2015 named the *Gold Star Recipients Monument*, honoring twenty Military Personnel that were Killed in Action.

On top of the octagon base is a life size bronze statue of the Battlefield Cross consisting of a helmet, rifle and boots of a fallen soldier. The names and information of those Killed-in-Action are on Bronze Markers mounted on the octagon base.

Two black granite benches are located by the Gold Star Recipients Monument for family members, friends and other visitors, so they may sit and reminisce. There is a flag pole displaying the MIA-POW flag on the monument with a bronze plaque explaining the history of the flag.

The sod was put down on May 18, 2015 by about thirty volunteers from The American Legion, Iola Lions Club and other individuals which was very much appreciated. The American Legion took them to noon lunch at Crystal Cafe to show their appreciation.

The Monument was dedicated on Flag Day, Sunday, June 14, 2015.

These photographs show some of the work being done during this time period.