

# Development of McCloud memorial continues

By Mike McCormick  
Herald staff

In 2013, the Dollar General Store in McCloud donated land at the McCloud Y for a Veterans Memorial. The store also donated \$10,000 to help pay for it.

Fast forward to four years later and the main monument is in place and the first row of bricks bearing the names of Oklahoma veterans has been laid.

Sherry Nash is the chairperson of the committee spearheading efforts of the McCloud Veterans Memorial. It's located at 1123 W. Oklahoma Street in front of the Dollar General in McCloud just west of downtown.

She recalls the conversations and talk around McCloud about the need for a war memorial and she acknowledged she volunteered to be chairperson of the committee.

"First thing I did was get an architect, Don Price, of Shawnee. He drew it just the way I described I wanted it and he didn't charge me a thing," Nash said.

Nash stated she went over her vision with Price and then began the process of fund raising and pricing. She contacted Willis Granite from Granite, Okla., about the main monument which she designed. "It's China Black Granite," she noted.

She pointed out "that cost \$11,840."

She said "I've also designed two side panels and they will cost about \$30,000." She and her six-person committee are busy with fund raising efforts now.

Nash emphasized "we can include 1,300 names, (all Oklahomans) of deceased veterans from World War I through the present, including Iraq and Afghanistan, who have died. This isn't just for McCloud," she insisted, adding "it's open to anybody to honor their soldiers. We don't care who they are or where they are from."

Families or businesses may purchase the memorial gray, granite pavers. A 4 inch by 8 inch memorial paver with up to three lines of inscription is \$100; a 8 inch by 8 inch memorial paver with up to five lines of inscription is \$150; and a 12 inch by 12 inch paver with up to eight lines of inscription is between \$250 and \$500.

"We have a bank balance of \$19,000. We need to raise a lot more money. We need to raise about \$50,000 to complete the memorial, not including the landscaping," she estimates.

"I'm a military mom," Nash said. "This is going to be a serene place for reflection. I want people to be able to feel close, to just sit there and contemplate.

"This is not about planes, trains and automobiles," she continued.

Nash has two sons, Retired U.S. Army Capt. John Nash and Maj. Raub Nash, who is stationed in Saudia Arabia. "He was awarded three Bronze Stars, one with Valor," she stated proudly.

Nash is not from McCloud, and grew up in West Texas. She and her husband Jeff and sons moved to Oklahoma City in the early 1980s, then four years later moved to rural McCloud. Her sons went through the McCloud School System and both are OU graduates.

## January tax reported for Pott Co. schools

By Mike McCormick  
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The education sales tax figures in January for three area schools in Pottawatomie County reversed a downward trend of the past three months.

The Pottawatomie County education sales tax of .495 percent went into effect July 1 of this year, following approval by county voters in November of 2015.

Pottawatomie County Treasurer Wendy Magnus reported the January payment for the McCloud School District



Sherry Nash poses with McCloud City Manager Buck Day (center) and Mayor Stan Jackson (right) in front of the new mounted eagle at the McCloud Veteran's Memorial. Also pictured is Lucky the Dog, whom Sherry rescued after it was hit by a car just before the photo shoot. Lucky was not injured. (Herald photo/Brian Blansett)