Family members and community members attend a ceremony at Klickitat County's Stonehenge Memorial to recognize 14 fallen service members who died in World War I and the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day.

Remembering Armistice Day

Community gathers to honor WWI servicemen memorialized at Stonehenge

By Beth Schroder

The fog begins to lift, but still lingers to shroud the Stonehenge Memorial in its grip.

It is bitterly cold here in Klickitat County on this day of remembrance. November 11, 2018, marks the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day when, as history has put it, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the ceasefire agreement between the Allied forces and Germany went into effect. This signaled the end of World War I.

Families of the fallen, dignitaries and citizens gathered near Maryhill to remember the area's 14 servicemen who did not return home after the war. Representatives of the families place small wreaths on posts set below each serviceman's plaque. Officials from local, state and national government offices give speeches.

The memorial is a replica of Stonehenge in England. It is home to plaques honoring Klickitat County's World War I fallen. The men came from throughout the county to serve their country in the Army, Marines and Navy.
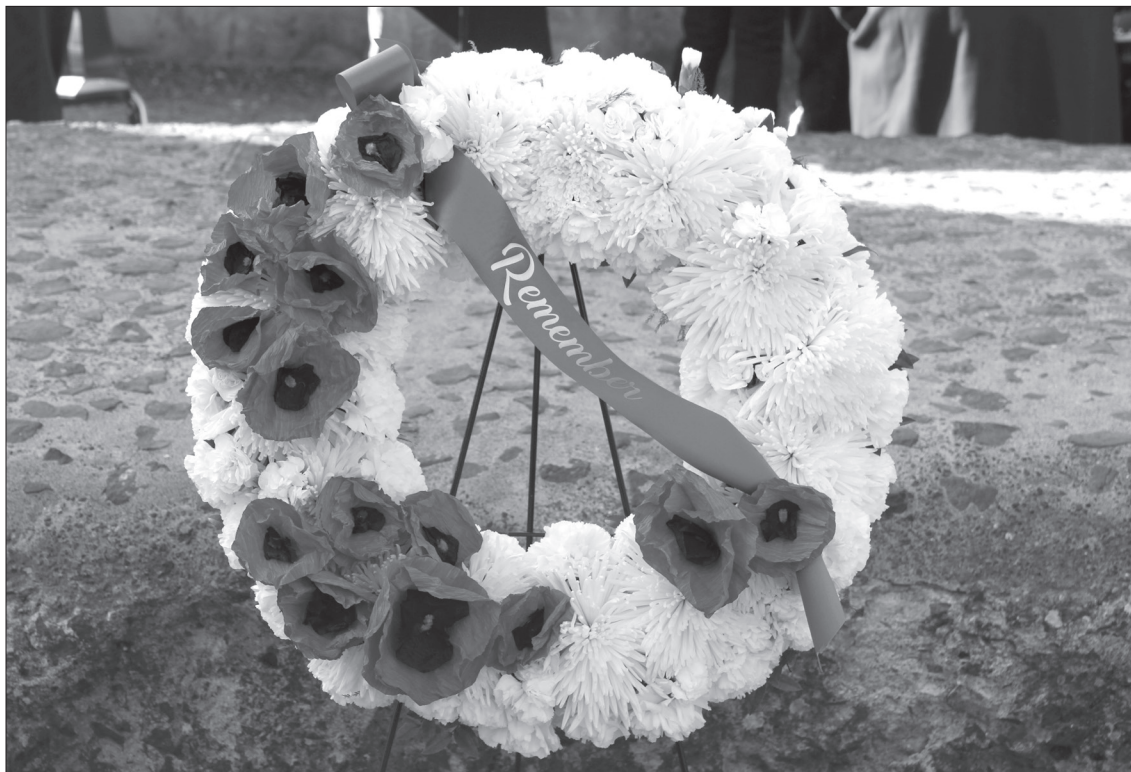
Each brass plaque is inscribed with the servicemember's name, birthday and date of death. Those honored here are James Henry Allyn, Charles Auer, Dewey V. Bromley, John W. Cheshier, William O. Clary, Evan Childs, James D. Duncan, Harry Gotfredson, Robert F. Graham, Louis Leidl, Carl A. Lester, Edward Lindblad, Henry O. Piendl and Robert F. Venable.

As the remembrance ceremony progresses, the sun begins to break through the fog and shines down on those gathered to pay their respects.

Attendees hear stories of the men they have come to honor. Retired Army Col. John Miller—father of Klickitat PUD Commissioner Doug Miller—shares the lives of these men from his book "14 Klickitat County Heroes."

The ceremony concludes with readings, song and an invitation to plant Flanders Field poppies in the memorial garden.

This day has been a labor of love spearheaded by the Maryhill Museum of Art and Gavin McIlvenna with the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It is a chance to honor and remember those who died in WWI. ∎

A remembrance wreath was laid at the memorial altar inside the Stonehenge Memorial in Klickitat County to honor the 14 servicemen who died in World War I.

Skot Barker, events and marketing manager for The Dalles Civic Auditorium, leads the gathering in the National Bell Tolling—21 chimes symbolizing the nation's highest honor. Washington State Parks Ranger Mark Harris, dressed in World War I British military attire, chats with attendee Garrett Schroder.