

# FINAL FRAME



A large crowd gathers for the Veterans Park Dedication Ceremony in Chaska on Nov. 11.



PHOTOS BY MARK W. OLSON

Maddie Hill waves a small U.S. flag at the Veterans Park Dedication Ceremony.

## ‘In the midst of patriots’

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**V**eterans Park was dedicated on Veterans Day, Sunday, Nov. 11, which also marked the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI.

The dedication of the park, located off of Creek Road across from Firemen's Park in downtown Chaska, attracted a large group of people

"I'm excited to have this awesome park tribute as another amenity in downtown Chaska," said Chaska Mayor Mark Windschitl. The park will provide a quiet place to reflect on the service of veterans, he told the crowd.

"From those of us who have served, we welcome you. We want to enjoy this park and remember it for a long time. It's a place to come to find peace and honor and rest and remembrance," said VFW Post 1791 Commander Rich Daniels.

"Thinking of the heroes who joined us in this group today, and those who are here only in spirit, a person can't help but feel awed by the enormity of what we encountered. We stand in the midst of patriots and the family and friends of those who have nobly served," said American Legion Post 57 Commander Steve NaSalle.

"The service members we honor today came from all walks of life, but they shared several fundamen-

tal qualities. They possess courage, pride, determination, selflessness, dedication to duty and integrity. All the duties needed to serve a cause larger than oneself," NaSalle said.

The service culminated with the raising of flags representing the United States, Minnesota, Chaska and all the branches of service — Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, as well as the POW/MIA flag.

**Former Chaska mayors Bob Roepke and Gary Van Eyll, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, attended the Veterans Park Dedication Ceremony.**



**Vietnam War veteran Harry Niemela and his daughter Cara Hobbs, who served in the National Guard as a medic, raise the U.S. Army flag during the dedication ceremony.**



Kristi Ryan, a U.S. Air Force veteran, receives a big hug from friend Bev Diles before the Veterans Park ceremony began.