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## VETERANS DAY







PHOTO BY NATASHA BARBER Allen Brisse (left) and Ralph Katka stand near a granite monument Oct. 13 in Foley. The two used their skills and knowledge of the granite industry to create a monument for the Veterans Memorial in Foley.

Memorial

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He first plotted the words by hand on a piece of thick rubber before using a bridge press to create a stencil. The rubber adheres

to the face of the granite for marking. and protects the polished stone where engraving is etching or moving the taking place. Brisse performed the

hand etching using an air tool with a reciprocating point that pecked at the stone and another power tool with a diamond point



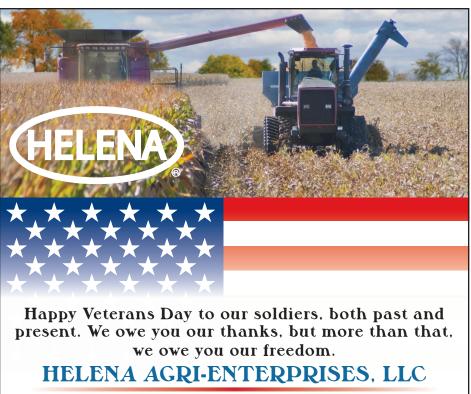
PHOTO BY EVAN MICHEALSON Jerome Katka (left) and Ralph Katka, owner of Katka's Monuments, install one of six benches at the Veterans Memorial in Foley Oct. 29. Engraved on the six benches are the words duty, integrity, honor, strength, courage and victory.

Whether engraving, stone, the job was stressful.

"People who are not in the stone business have no idea what it's like to work with a piece like this," Brisse said. "If you bump that with another piece of stone, you have a chip in it. You have to be so careful. Usually we're working with monuments (headstones) where you can lift them and stand them up, but this you're not going to lift by hand, obviously."

When the final stone was set in place, relief and reward set in. Just as military men and women are memorialized by this monument, so too are those who contributed to its development.

"It's quite an honor to be a part of this," Katka said. "So many good people came forward to help make this possible. Everybody had a little part, and it all came together really nice.



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