

Optimists invite all to participate in Avenue of Flags program

Written by Nancy Spencer

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DELPHOS — The Delphos Optimist Club would like to honor veterans, active-duty military personnel and demonstrate community patriotism and pride within Delphos.

Active-duty Army soldier Brett Bowersock and Marine veteran Derek Fischer spoke to Optimist members Friday as part of a patriotic program to launch the Optimists' Avenue of Flags program.

Bowersock is with the 173rd Infantry and was deployed to the northern part of Afghanistan from July 5, 2012 to March 5. He is now stationed in Arizona.



“We pretty much deflected anything they sent at us,” Bowersock said. “The locals didn’t like us.”

Fischer was in the southern portion of Afghanistan from April to November 2011.

“I was in a quiet area,” he said. “Nothing much happened. The people were appreciative but

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they thought it was time for us to go.”

Fischer added that the area reminded him of Delphos because it had a lot of canals and tractors would pass on the road.

Businesses and individuals can purchase one or more of the flags to be placed on Elida Road, State Route 66 in front of Jefferson High School, in front of St. John’s Church and Schools and at the Veterans Memorial park at Fifth and Main streets during flag holidays (Memorial Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Patriotic Day (9/11) and Labor Day. They can also be purchased to be placed at the home of a soldier returning stateside

“These flags provide a powerful, silent but visible display of community pride,” project co-chair Jay Metzner said.

There are two types of flag subscriptions: individual for private memorial or active duty recognition for \$50 a year and community pride business sponsor for \$150 year.

Contributions to the flag project are 100 percent deductible.

Subscription forms can be obtained by calling Metzner at 419-234-3665 or co-chair Kevin Wieging at 419-302-1036.