

# Nations honor vets

Events focus on World War I

ASSOCIATED PRESS

He was chosen from thousands of nameless dead, victims of machine-gun fire, artillery explosions and poison gas who littered the horrifying battlefields of the Somme in World War I.

Australia exhumed him from a cemetery in northern France this past week and buried him in his homeland Thursday, the 75th anniversary of the armistice that ended four years of carnage that claimed 12 million lives.

"The unknown soldier ... by his deeds, proved that real nobility and grandeur belongs not to empires and nations but to the people on whom they, in the last resort, always depend," Prime Minister Paul Keating, one of the pallbearers, said in a televised eulogy watched by millions of his countrymen.

In ceremonies Thursday before a dwindling band of survivors, the victorious nations who lost a generation of young men in World War I marked the 75th anniversary of the armistice that ended the bloodshed.

Church bells pealed in Paris, and Big Ben chimed in London at 11 a.m., the symbolic hour when the machine guns and artillery finally fell silent on the Western Front

See **VETERANS**, page 3A



Enterprise/Scott Esslinger

**W.J. 'Dee' Landry, foreground, and Fabian Herpin stand at parade rest as they and the remainder of the VFW Post 4820 honor guard await their cue to fire a 21-gun salute at the close of the Veterans Day program at the Golden Triangle Veteran's Memorial Park on Thursday.**

# Female veterans get their moment

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — With tears, hugs and solemn remembrance, the Vietnam Women's Memorial was dedicated Thursday to declare that women served and suffered,

too, in the Vietnam War.

"Welcome home, daughters of America," said Diane Carlson Evans, who had the idea for the memorial and fought for its construction for 10 years.

"Welcome home, our sister veterans," said Evans, who

served in Vietnam in 1968-69. "Thank you for what you did. Let no one ever forget what you did."

Thousands of Vietnam veterans, male and female — many dressed in jungle fatigues — gathered at the Vietnam Memorial site for the

dedication. Although only a relative few could see the ceremony, thousands waited for hours until its end to place wreaths at the monument and the nearby memorial wall.

The U.S. Park Police esti-

See **FEMALE**, page 3A