

## Dianne Rachelle Bedner Smith in favor of HB 2307, March 2023

To the Chairman and members of the House Taxation Committee,  
My name is Dianne R Smith. In the year 2000 I was the City Clerk of Bushong, Kansas and purchased piece of land for \$50.00 in the hopes of building a Veterans Memorial. While City Clerk I was also doing the history of Bushong, Kansas where I found 4 boys who died here in WWII together on D-Day . 2 of those boys were brothers and all were friends. Later I became the Vice President of the North Lyon County Museum. At that time I found 6 more men who died in WWII. That made bushong, with the loss of 10 men who were killed in action out of a population of 134 people the highest loss, per capita in Kansas, perhaps the U.S.

I started the Memorial in 2015 for all of North Lyon County Kansas. We became a 5013-c in 2018 (81-2935167). The property taxes were \$5.00 at the time. In 2021 our taxes were \$199.98. This is not including sales tax on everything that we have purchased for the Memorial. This has put a real hardship on us since we depend on donations. We are not Government run, and we have had no government assistance. I started with a dream and others thought the dream was fantastic. Our accountant and our lawyer has tried to obtain tax exempt status after we were turned down by the state. We continue to be denied. We were most recently denied by the Kansas Board of Tax Appeals.

I would like your help. I beg for your help to get this changed with all those tax dollars we have spent. All of the tax dollars spent so far could have gone to honor our Veterans.

We got our Memorial done in 2020 and we are now working on a K.I.A. Memorial Wall and Garden to honor the 10 local boys who died in WWII. We acquired the old bank that will eventually be the Museum for all of the heirlooms families have donated to North Lyon County Veteran's Memorial.

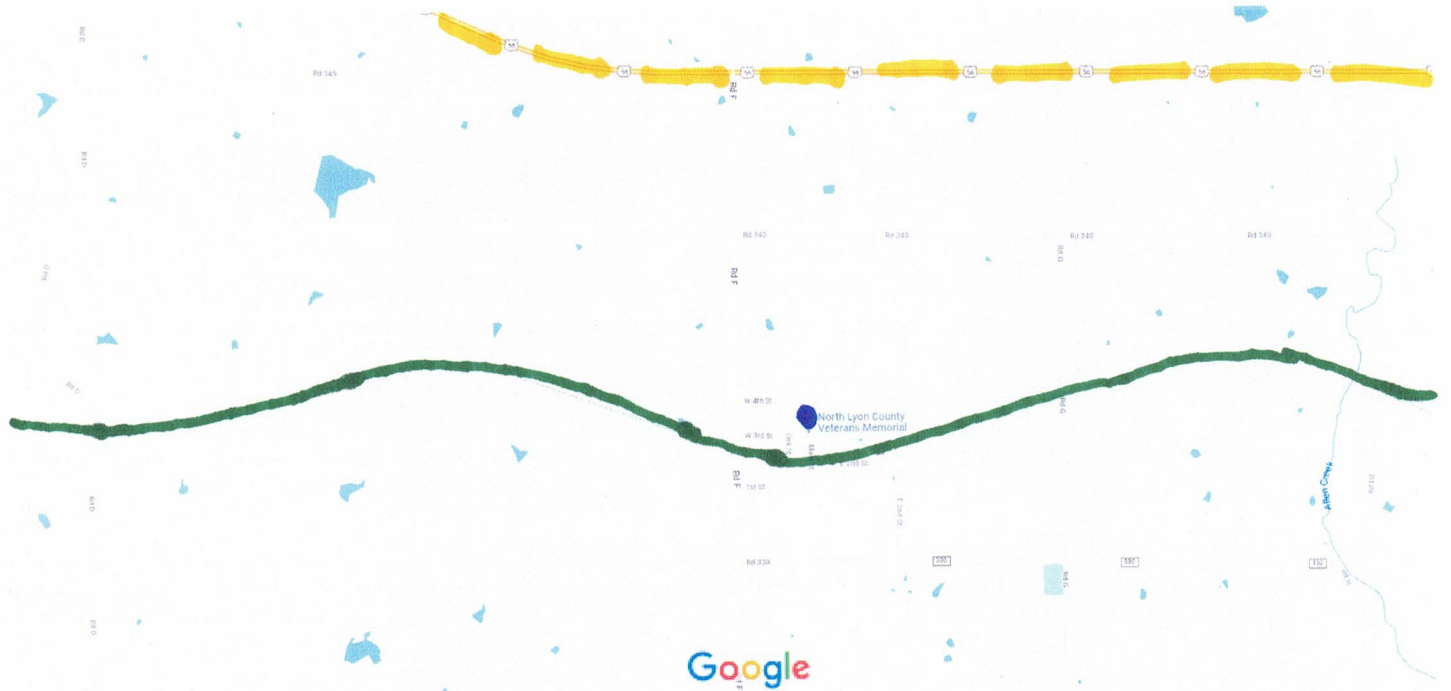
We have worked and donated countless hours and finances since this projected started. When I took this on, I promised myself I would make sure every Veteran here was remembered and honored, even it this work killed me. I have had many roadblocks that we overcame.

We cannot overcome the current tax burden without you.

I am not much for words but, I love my Veterans with all my heart and soul. When I get down about the help I sometimes don't get and its' only me and my husband; I think of what my 4 veterans went through on d-day and I smile because I remember, this is why.

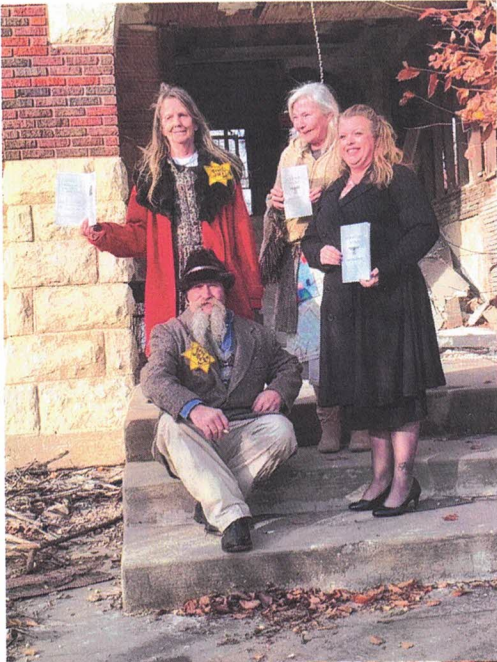
Let's change this law together for our Veterans tax exempt for sales tax and property taxes for 5013-c war memorials.

*Dianne R Smith*



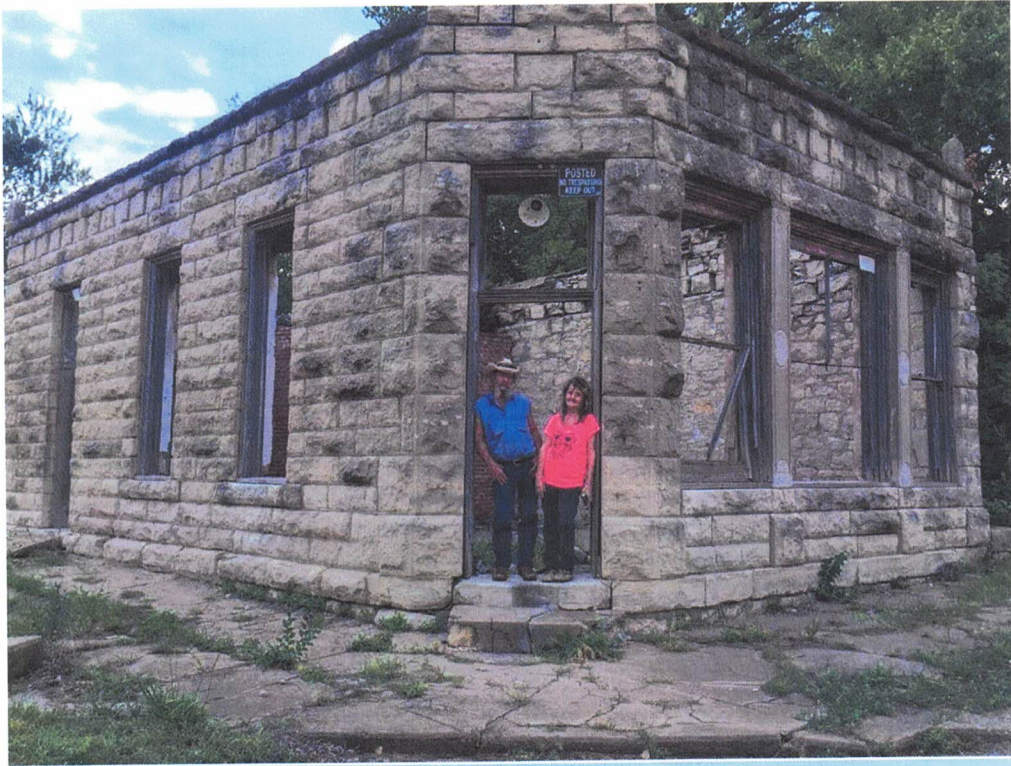
Map data ©2023 1000 ft





Re-enactors come every year.





future home  
of the Museum

From this →



To all of this





† JAY MORELAND  
MAR 21, 1923  
JUNE 6, 1944

† JOHN HERRICK  
NOV 11, 1924  
JUNE 6, 1944

† KENNETH SIMMONS  
MAY 4, 1923  
MAR 31, 1945

† DELAND LEEDS  
FEB 18, 1920  
DEC 10, 1944

† ARTHUR PLUMB  
AUG 7, 1920  
DEC 2, 1942



ALL GAVE SOME

DURING WWII, BUSHONG, KS  
HAD A POPULATION OF 134.  
TEN BUSHONG RESIDENTS GAVE  
THEIR LIVES SERVING THEIR  
COUNTRY DURING WWII.  
BUSHONG SACRIFICED  
MORE LIVES IN SERVICE  
TO THEIR COUNTRY,  
PER CAPITA, IN KS AND  
PERHAPS THE NATION.

SOME GAVE ALL

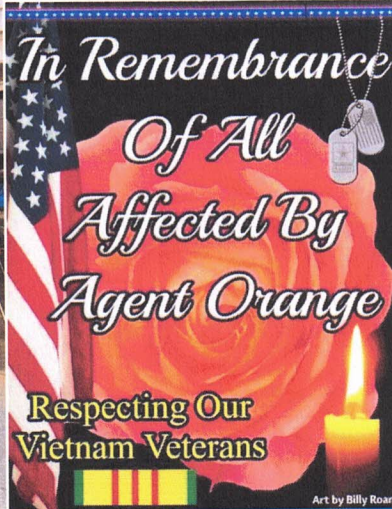
† WILLIAM MORELAND  
JAN 8, 1925  
JUNE 6, 1944

† REX GORE  
FEB 17, 1924  
JUNE 6, 1944

† CLINTON MALLORY  
OCT 23, 1921  
NOV 9, 1944

† MORRIS DAVIS  
NOV 29, 1921  
NOV 12, 1943

† ARLIE STILL  
JULY 25, 1909  
JUNE 18, 1944



Memorial Wall  
and Garden honoring  
10 Bushong soldiers  
who died in WWII

