

ARMORY & VETERANS MEMORIAL KIOSK

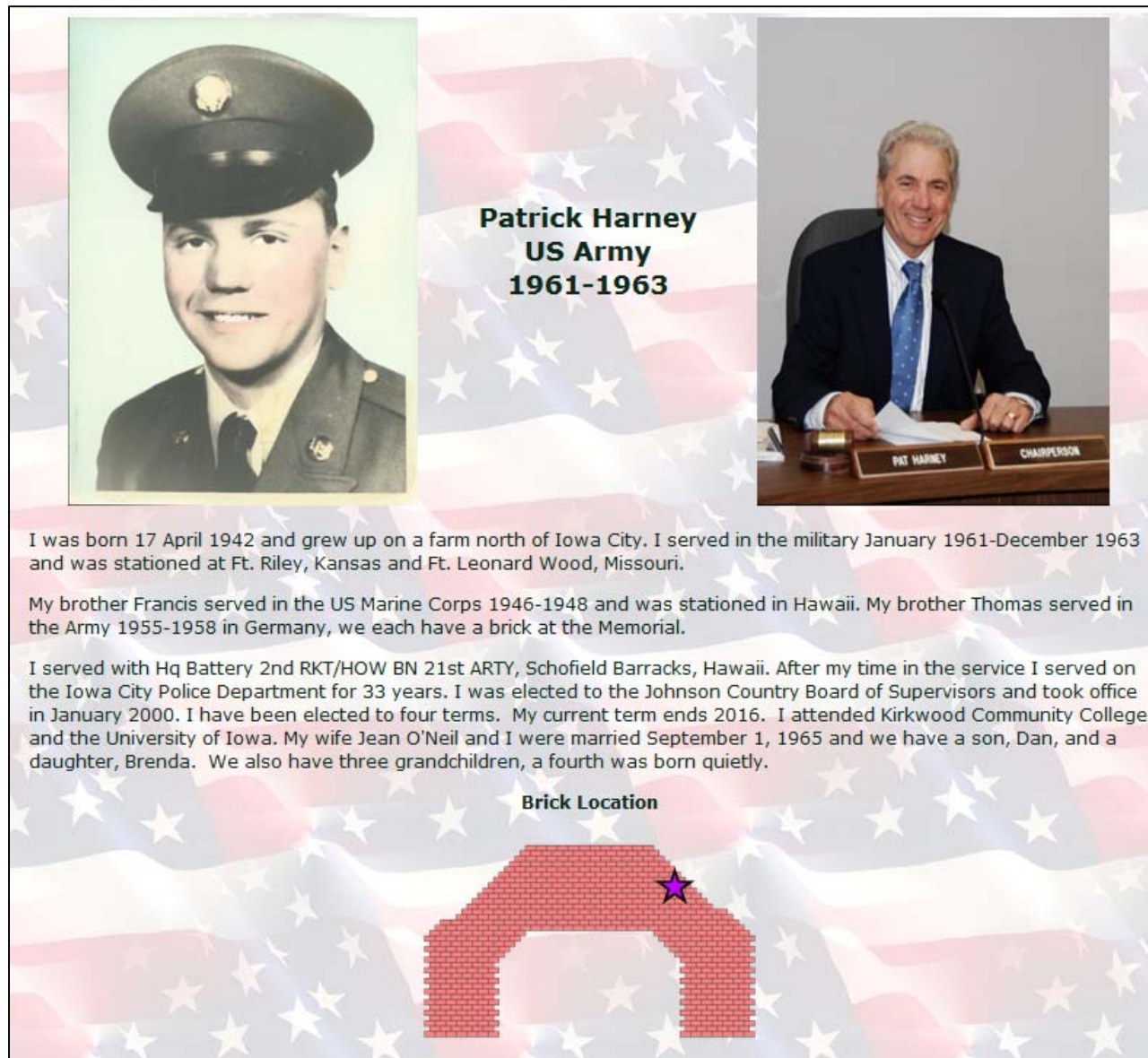
During the dedication ceremony for the Johnson County Armory & Veterans Memorial (Veterans Day 2013) a promise was made by Veterans Affairs Director & Project Manager Gary Boseneiler to those in attendance that someday the memorial would expand to include accessible information via a computer of sorts, perhaps a kiosk. Fast forward to Memorial Day 2016 which is when the outdoor Kiosk became active. This was a collaborative effort between the Johnson County Information Technology Department, Physical Plant, & Veterans Affairs, with the outstanding support of the Commission of Veterans Affairs and the Johnson County Board of Supervisors. What a terrific example of intergovernmental cooperation and coordination. Additionally, there was collaboration between two local contractors who traded labor for memorial brick pavers for their businesses and Veterans on their work crews.

The new kiosk maps the location of memorial paver bricks engraved with the names of Veterans and supporters and a link to the honoree's biography, if available, for the general public (memorial visitors, family members, fellow brothers and sisters of the military) to learn about Johnson County Veterans. Prior to the installation of the Kiosk, one would stand on the site and look for the brick until they found it. The kiosk allows people to not only quickly locate the brick they are searching for; it also allows the reader to learn about the Veterans experiences while viewing some remarkable pictures of the Veteran in uniform as far back as WWII. A typical bio includes two pictures, one of the Veteran in their younger day while in uniform and a more recent photo including a paragraph or two about the Veteran's history.

This one of a kind innovative piece of technology has created a new service to Johnson County. It provides individual biographies of those who served our country while capturing the broader military history of Johnson County. I've been asked by several other counties how we pulled this off. I typically respond by telling them about the outstanding support that I've received from my Commission, the Board of Supervisors, Information Technology, & Physical Plant. As with any success story effective communication was important along with teamwork, dedication, and even some trial and error. I believe that other counties could benefit from our work and perhaps eventually connect our electronic military history to a centralized database in Iowa. The memorial is a dedication to all those who served, however the biography links are such a great opportunity for Veterans and their families to share their stories, stories that might easily get lost or forgotten. Johnson County had a vision for an interactive memorial and brought several departments together to work toward the kiosk goal. Now that the kiosk is a reality, visitor participation with the memorial has increased thus resulting in important Johnson County Veteran memories and military history information being shared with anyone who visits the memorial.

This weatherproof outdoor kiosk offers a unique service to county residents and enhances the Johnson County Armory & Veterans Memorial established Veterans Day November 11, 2013. Since the kiosk activation in May 2016; and as a result of a television story, newspaper article, and press release submitted by the Johnson County Grant & Communications Coordinator; 29 additional memorial brick pavers have been sold.

Below is a typical example of what the Kiosk will display:




**Patrick Harney
US Army
1961-1963**

I was born 17 April 1942 and grew up on a farm north of Iowa City. I served in the military January 1961-December 1963 and was stationed at Ft. Riley, Kansas and Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

My brother Francis served in the US Marine Corps 1946-1948 and was stationed in Hawaii. My brother Thomas served in the Army 1955-1958 in Germany, we each have a brick at the Memorial.

I served with Hq Battery 2nd RKT/HOW BN 21st ARTY, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. After my time in the service I served on the Iowa City Police Department for 33 years. I was elected to the Johnson County Board of Supervisors and took office in January 2000. I have been elected to four terms. My current term ends 2016. I attended Kirkwood Community College and the University of Iowa. My wife Jean O'Neil and I were married September 1, 1965 and we have a son, Dan, and a daughter, Brenda. We also have three grandchildren, a fourth was born quietly.

Brick Location



This is an overhead picture of the memorial taken by Gary Boseneiler from a cherry picker about 30 feet up. The kiosk stands at the front of the memorial. Visitors can find bricks on the kiosk and then easily locate them on the memorial itself, or learn about any brick they see while visiting.

