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## Woodlawn Hunt Club event pays respects on Sept. 11

□ Servicemen participants in Sept. 11 S.T.A.T.E. Testing Sporting Clay tournament hold 21-shot tribute in honorable ceremony

**BY EMILY BRUNS**  
Staff Writer

**CRESTON**—For the second year, Woodlawn Hunt Club LLC owners Carl and Kris Pierce hosted the Sept. 11 S.T.A.T.E. Testing Sporting Clays Tournament, in which sportsmen and shooters gathered from all over Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan to participate.

S.T.A.T.E. Testing, which is an independent professional engineering firm located out of East Dundee, hosted the event in which 35 people divided into teams for the clay pigeon tournament.

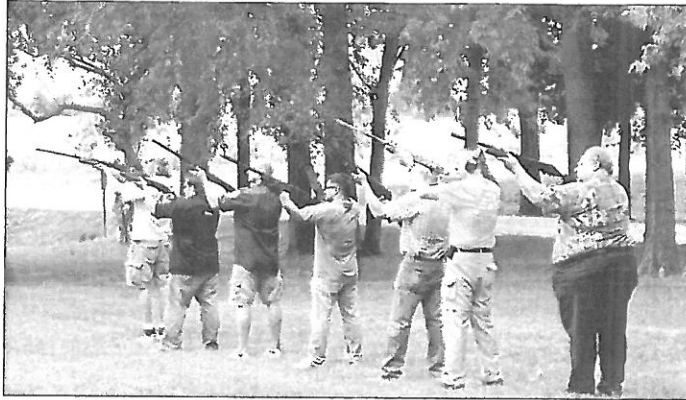
"Carl and Kris were gracious enough to test the sporting day school last year. It's an appropriate way to pay tribute to honor what happened on Sept. 11 years ago as well as the troops that continue to fight for our freedoms. This is a fun event and we are thankful come again this year," Jay Behnke, president of S.T.A.T.E. Testing

Prior to the tournament festivities, the group gathered around the hunt club's flagpole to recite the "Pledge of Allegiance" and reflect and pray for the troops.

Behnke also spoke. "We want to pay respects for those who served and died protecting our country and rights. Our forefathers gave us the right to bear arms for a reason and we are here today to celebrate that freedom. Soldiers have died for the rights that we have today," he said.

Following Behnke's speech, six military servicemen and one firefighter continued the ceremony with a 21-shot shotgun tribute. The act of honor was followed by a final moment of silence. The event attendees later dissipated into their teams and continued on with the tournament festivities.

The Pierces said that they will hold another Sept. 11 tribute next year to keep the relatively new tradition going.



Above, members of the military and one fire fighter shot into the air to recognize the significance of Sept. 11. (Photos by Emily Bruns)



The sportsmen and shooters gather around the hunt club's flagpole while S.T.A.T.E. Testing president Jay Behnke gives a speech.



Prior to the tributes, Jay Behnke introduced the tournament teams and explained the rules for the day. The event was monitored by two officials.