

Hiawatha Legion namesake to be honored

(KNZA)--Homer White American Legion Post 66 in Hiawatha will honor its namesake and other area veterans who have given their lives in service of our country during a week long event planned later this month.

Event chairman Bob Sines, with the local Legion post, discussed their plans Monday with the Brown County Commission and Hiawatha City Commission for Homer White Week, which will be held July 29 through August 3.

Sines said the Legion is working with local civic organizations to put on the event, which will commemorate the 100 anniversary the death of White during World War 1, 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 and 100th anniversary of the establishment of the American Legion by Congress.

White, who grew up in the area, served as a motorcycle courier during World War 1. He died in February 1919 from injuries received in a motorcycle accident and was buried in Germany.

His body was brought back to Hiawatha and a graveside service was held at the Hiawatha Cemetery on August 3, 1919. Sines said it was one of the largest military funerals in Kansas attended by hundreds of dignitaries, residents and military veterans.

Sines said the Legion plans to re-enact the event on Saturday, August 3rd complete with a procession down Oregon Street just like in 1919. He said everyone is invited to join the procession of the Hiawatha Cemetery where a short service will be held.

Sines said also planned is a World War I remembrance banquet on Friday, August 2 at the Fisher Center. The free-will donation banquet will include a short program.

In addition, he said the Legion plans to hold an outdoor band concert and car show on July 31.

Sines said they expect 300 to 500 people to attend the week long event.

