

Geiken honored for color guard service

Written by Deb Egenberger

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He organized pregame routine 16 years ago.

The Gothenburg color guard has posted America's flag before kick-off of Swede home football games for the past 16 years.

Cliff Geiken, a World War II veteran who started in infantry and later served in the drum corps, was instrumental in starting the color guard tradition. He was a key part of the pregame routine until he retired three years ago.

During halftime of Friday's football game against Ord, Geiken was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his service to both the color guard and the school.

Geiken was also on hand to help Gothenburg Public Schools launch a new program.

The school is providing free activity passes to families in the community with active military service members.

The first such passes were presented Friday to the Robert and Mary Schwanz family.

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Robert Schwanz has served in the National Guard for 23 years including two deployments in Iraq, one for 16 months and the other for 12 months. He was also deployed for hurricane relief in New Orleans twice, for fires in Chadron and a tornado in Kearney. Schwanz is a sergeant first class.

