

# Prior Lake American

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## Mural on Main



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Hundreds of community members gathered at Carlson Ace Hardware on Main Avenue SE in Prior Lake on Saturday to unveil a mural — “Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima” — that depicts the famed U.S. Marine Corps flag raising of Feb. 23, 1945 on Mt. Suribachi.

### Iwo Jima mural dedicated to local veterans

BY JACQUELINE DEVINE  
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Hundreds of community members gathered at Carlson Ace Hardware on Main Avenue SE in Prior Lake on Saturday to witness the unveiling of a mural — “Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima” — that depicts the famed U.S. Marine Corps flag raising of Feb. 23, 1945 on Mt. Suribachi, dedicated to all who have served the country in uniform.

Mayor Kirt Briggs said the ceremony had a wonderful turnout and showcased how close the community is, especially when it comes to honoring veterans.

“We had a wonderful turnout, a very heartwarming turnout I would say. Veterans on motorcycles, the whole city council, a number of SCALE (Scott County Association Leadership & Efficiency) members and community leaders attended,” Briggs said. “It truly was an event that exemplifies the small town feel of Prior Lake like never

before as well as our love and respect and honoring of our veterans.”

Briggs said the mural was the perfect homage to local veterans and he is very pleased with its location.

“The mural could not have found a better home. We are a city that honors our hometown heroes,” he said. “You see it in our parks, we see it on banners on our street lights and now, thanks to the Carlsons, we have a mural on Main.”

The Prior Lake VFW Color Guard, Patriot Guard, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and many others attended the short program. Rep. Tony Albright (R-Prior Lake) said a few words after members of the Prior Lake High School Anthem Team sang the national anthem and the VFW Post 6208 led the pledge and invocation.

As the ceremony began, U.S. Marine veteran and VFW member, Ed Spieker, hoisted a flag atop the mast. The 4’ x 6’ flag had previously flown over the United States Capitol and was delivered in advance for the ceremony by Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN).



Members of the VFW Post 6208 stand in front of the “Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima” located at Carlson Ace Hardware on Main Avenue SE in Prior Lake.

A community member donated sand that came from the beaches of Iwo Jima to be placed in the ball of the flag pole where it will remain permanently.

#### FAMILY LEGACY

Michelle Imholte, co-owner of Carlson Ace Hardware along with her husband, Al, said her family has a long history of service

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#### COMMUNITY



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