



**RECOGNIZING THE GESTURE. . .** Lt Waigand of the Clarinda National Guard unit thanks Laurence Higgins of Clarinda after Higgins announced he is starting a scholarship fund for men who will sign up for the guard in Clarinda and attend Iowa Western Community College here. Higgins hopes the contribution of \$500 will act as seed money for other contributions and help keep the guard unit here open.

## Clarinda man starts fund to save local guard unit

"I'm challenging the Clarinda area to help in saving the Clarinda National Guard."

Laurence Higgins announced during the weekends open house at the Clarinda National Guard, to help in a rescue attempt in saving Clarinda's unit.

"I'm putting \$500 in the bank that will be set aside to be divided among two high school students that would sign up in the Clarinda unit, attend weekend drills and enroll at Iowa Western Community College," remarked Higgins.

Already in effect, any student signing up for the National Guard can receive \$250 from the State and with what Higgins has done, if the Clarinda unit stays in operation, two students can qualify for the additional funds, entitling them to \$500 apiece.

"I came up with this idea on my own and like I said, I'm challenging other businesses or anyone that would like to do much the same that I'm doing, because my check won't save the unit by itself. It would be great to see this spread state-wide. People are going to have to push to keep this alive and I feel this will work," said Higgins.

The Clarinda unit is looking for 15 additional men to sign up to become the necessary strength that is needed to keep the unit going. "I feel the National Guard is the backbone of our national defense. It's important to our community, and the area that they serve." If the draft protesters fight for the freedom of speech, then they

ought to make an effort to keep that freedom of speech and be a part of our forces," remarked Higgins.

Lieutenant Waigand of the Clarinda unit expressed this as being very unique. "I can't wait to spread the word. We're being invited into the schools and I'm sure this will have a lot of bearing on a lot of students. The important part is, I hope we can get the rest of the businesses and people to help back this. This helps the high school student to remain at home, play sports, attend college and also receive a pay check from the National Guard."

"We're getting this launched immediately," remarked Sgt. Bruce Nally of the Clarinda unit.

Higgins has over 20 years in the Regular Army and National Guard combined. "The money I'm setting aside for these boys will be in memory of the living and deceased that I served with in the Anti-Tank Third Battalion, 168th Company."

Only an Iowa boy can benefit from the available funds. Higgins has given Lieutenant Waigand and Sgt. Nally the right to pick the boys that will receive the money and attend college. "It will probably be a first come, first serve basis, and a reminder is, if Clarinda should lose the company then the program will be dropped."

"I've taken the first step in helping to save the National Guard unit and now it's up to the rest of Clarinda to step in and do their share," said Higgins.