

Northwestern Lehigh Veterans Memorial Committee Update

Ongoing Committee Activities and Event Planning

The Northwestern Lehigh Veterans Memorial Committee continues to meet monthly as we organize our annual Veterans Day and Memorial Day events at Ontelaunee Park. Last May we honored the Gold Star Family of LCPL Brandon Van Parys, USMC who spoke at our Memorial Day program. Brandon, a graduate of Northwestern Lehigh High School, was Killed in Iraq during the War on Terrorism shortly after his 20th birthday. This year, in honor of America's 250th birthday, we are pleased to announce a special Memorial Day celebration. Following our traditional program in the pavilion, the famous Pioneer Band of Allentown will perform a special patriotic concert in the park's band shell, making this year's event particularly memorable.



Fundraising Efforts for Memorial Enhancements

The committee is actively working on fundraising initiatives to support the addition of a stone wall, capped with granite, that will replace the current metal fence surrounding the memorial. This improvement will provide additional space for engraving veterans' names in the future. This spring, nine more names will be added to the memorial. Our recent fundraising mailer, seeking donations for this project, raised approximately \$19,000, a testament to the generosity and support of our Northwestern Lehigh community.



Challenges and Community Support

Last November, our Veterans Day program faced extremely cold temperatures and high winds, resulting in lower turnout and an empty cash box at the end of a long, cold day. Despite these challenges, we remain committed to exploring new fundraising ideas and continuing to host programs that recognize and celebrate the contributions of our veterans. We warmly invite everyone to participate. Your ongoing support and involvement are essential as we unite to honor those who have given so much to our community and nation.

Coming Soon to Our Village Centers

Planning is underway to have "**Hometown Hero**" banners installed on utility poles throughout our Northwestern Lehigh community. Banners will honor individual veterans with a picture in uniform and military

service information. Banners may be purchased for \$250 each and will be installed by township personnel. After application, payment, and installation logistics are completed, announcements will be made on our website and in the NWPress with instructions about how you can participate in recognizing your veteran with a banner.

Legacy and Community Recognition

Our memorial stands as a lasting tribute to the sacrifice, courage, and unwavering commitment of our veterans in safeguarding our freedoms. Its beautiful design and setting have been acknowledged by neighboring communities as well. Recently, members of our committee were invited to a kick-off meeting with the Nazareth Memorial Library to offer guidance as they embark on their own Veterans Memorial project. On the local level committee members enjoyed an evening with a Cub Scout Pack meeting at Ebenezer Church to teach them how to properly fold the American flag and explain the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thank you for helping us ensure that the legacy of our veterans is remembered for generations to come.