

VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (VAC) 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The VAC held nine meetings in 2018 and meets the last Monday of the month at 5 p.m. In 2018, there were six VAC members and three alternates. Oliver Groman, Chair; Peter Scott, Vice-Chair; Members Andrew Bracy; Christopher Patton; Christopher Roth; Honorary Life Member William Grun and Alternates, John Drabouski, David Houpt and Joan Klein.

The VAC hosted the annual Memorial Day Ceremony held on Saturday, May 26th with a record number of attendees. Six names were approved by the VAC and added to the Memorial Wall. The ceremony was very successful and heartfelt by all present. **(Attachment A)**.

The VAC reviewed a letter from Constance Ace, Chair of the Warrington Historic Commission regarding the monument of Daniel P. Bradley, Jr. Daniel Bradley, Jr. was a young U.S. Army Special 4th Class soldier stationed at the Warrington Nike Base and was tragically killed on July 28, 1958 in a one-vehicle accident. The letter states that the Historic Commission feels it would be proper to honor Mr. Daniel Bradley Jr.'s service at the former Nike Missile Base by installing the marker somewhere in the vicinity of the current memorial at the Igoe Porter Wellings Memorial Field (IPW). VAC Member, Chris Roth supplied a sketch of a missile **(Attachment B)** with fins to be designed and placed at IPW. The VAC plans to have the Bradley monument along with another informational plaque erected near the Memorial Wall. The type of material must be determined and it is to be reviewed by the township engineers. We hope to have this accomplished by the 2020 Memorial Day ceremony.

The 3rd Annual Veterans Day Ceremony was held at the Township administration building on November 12th. Some Veteran and civilian employees from all departments were in attendance along with resident guests. VAC Vice-Chair Peter Scott wrote a speech on the history of Veterans Day **(Attachment C)** which was extremely educational. Veteran Larry Bullock volunteered to recite one of his poems which has become a tradition for the ceremony.

The VAC was invited and attended Valley Square's Tree Lighting on November 17th. Members Ollie Groman, Chris Patton and Peter Scott and VAC

Administrator, Jeanine Winslow attended the tree lighting. We had a table with VAC and Veteran flyers at the table. Ollie Groman, Chair brought his army boot for VAC donations and \$11 was collected which was deposited in the VAC contributions and donations account.

The VAC is working on launching a Helping Hands Program for Veterans and their families. Flyers were mailed in the Water and Sewer bills and posted in several Link Newsletters. Peter Scott, Chris Roth and Joan Klein made telephone calls to all of the Veterans who submitted the Helping Hands flyers to see how we could assist them. They only came up with three requiring assistance even though many Veterans checked off that assistance was needed. Member Chris Roth had the privilege to assist a Warrington Veteran. The Veterans daughter contacted Chris while working for Public Works. She said that her father would not go outside since his wife passed and her parents were married for over 50 years. After work, Chris visited her father and was able to step outside with him and they spoke for three hours. **This was the very first Helping Hands success story.** Since their first encounter, Chris has visited on an ongoing basis at the Veteran's request and Chris additionally randomly visits to check up on him.

The VAC is working on strategies to find Veterans like this that they can assist in whatever category is desired. We have volunteer groups ready to serve as well.

Three Memorial Bricks were sold in 2018 (2) 4" x 8" and (1) 6" x 12".

Children Play Here

Children play here.
On these fields. In this park.
All in the quiet company
of this aggregate footnote
of our Township's history.
It stands, modestly, like a
staunch sentinel,
a benevolent liege unobtrusive of his vassals
a shepherd caring for his flock.

When the games are over,
When all the living has left
When it's just twilight
and the pale of an early moon is rising
And the earth begins to speak
and be heard, and sighs in sleep
And the night birds swoop
And the breeze from half the world around
lifts the Standards and the halcyons graze against
the flagpole like a heartbeat
or the muted tolling of a bell . . .
Then is the time,
Then is the time
To know the sanctity
of these stones and names here inscribed.

Breathe of their memory, dream of the dreams they haven't
Share some little allegiance to their sacrifice.
Leave them softly, carry something of them with you.

Should you come for the games
You will miss these gentle nuances of this place, in this park.
No one will fault you.

The children are playing:

L.S. Bullock 4/28/2018

Acknowledgements

The Warrington Township Veteran Affairs Committee wishes to thank all who have purchased the Memorial Bricks and Pavers in support of the Monument and the following Merchants which have donated refreshments



**Warrington Township
Memorial Day Ceremony**

**May 26, 2018
11 a.m.**

**Igoe Porter Wellings
Memorial Field**





**Warrington Township
Memorial Day Ceremony
May 26, 2018**

Posting of Colors: Liberty Young Marines

Master of Ceremonies: Oliver Groman, Chair
Greetings: Veteran Affairs Committee

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem: Veterans Association of Military Musicians

Presentation of Wreath: Dennis Igoe, Brother of Bill Igoe

Speakers

Remarks: State Senator Stewart Greenleaf
State Representative Kathy Watson
Honorary Guest Speaker: Christopher A. Patton
Captain, USN (Ret.)
Poem Recitation: Larry S. Bullock

Recognition of Veterans Added to Memorial: Eileen Albillar, Member
Board of Supervisors

2018 HONOREES

**Christopher H. Egen, Navy, Persian Gulf War
& Operation Enduring Freedom
Oliver A. Groman, Jr., Coast Guard, Cold War Veteran
Robert Russo, Navy, Vietnam
Harry E. Shaw, Army, WWII & Korean
Peter J. Scott, Air Force, Vietnam
Nicholas Wermeychik, Army, Vietnam**

Medley of Service Anthems Veterans Association of Military Musician
TAPS

Retreat of Colors: Liberty Young Marines

Refreshments/Social Time

Township Supervisors: Shirley A. Yannich, Chairwoman
Fred R. Gaines, Vice-Chair
Eileen Albillar, Member
Carol T. Baker, Member
Ruth L. Schemm, Member

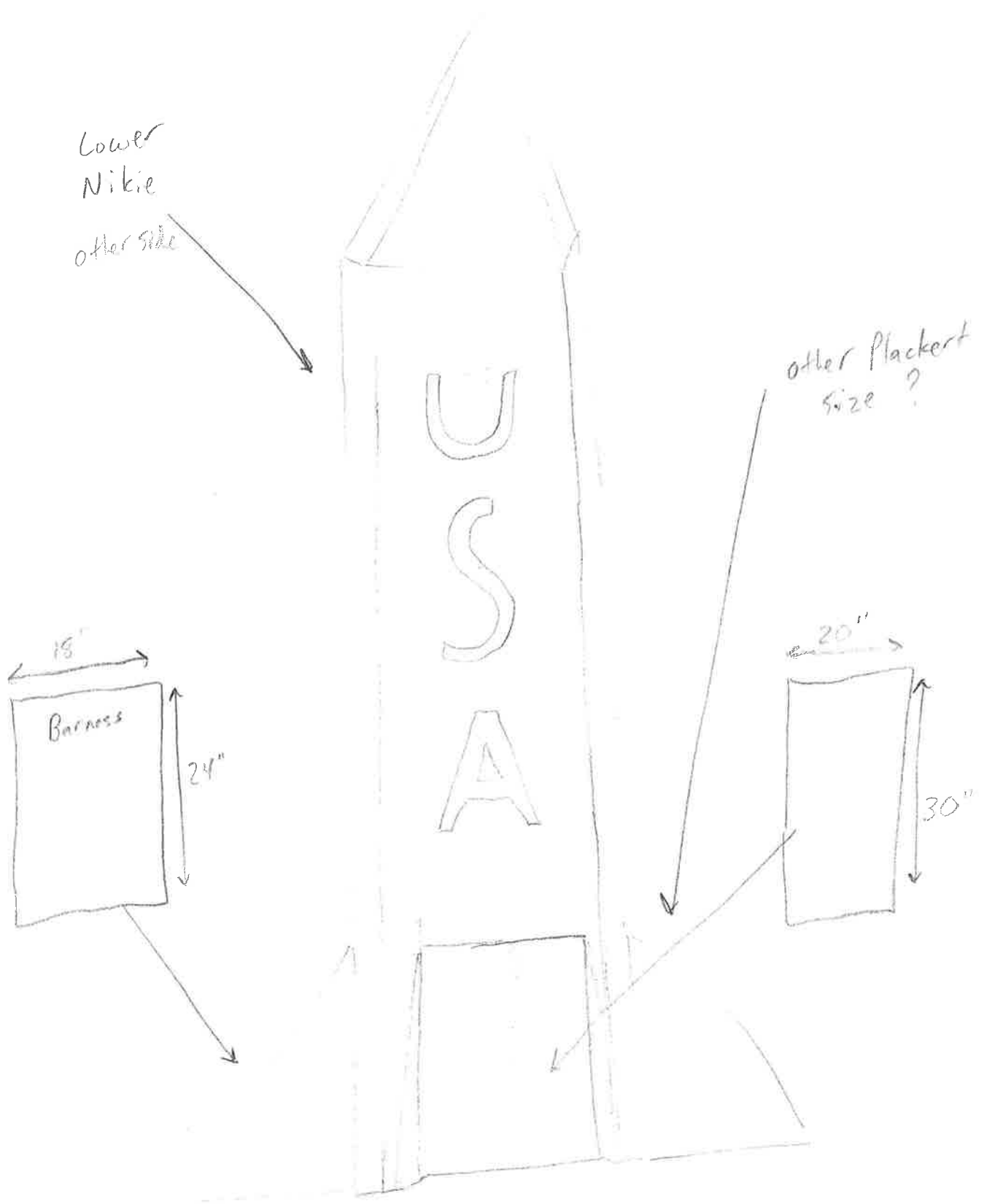
Township Manager: Barry P. Luber

Veteran Affairs Committee: Oliver A. Groman, Jr., Chair
Peter J. Scott, Vice Chair
William Grun, Honorary Life Member
Andrew Bracy, Member
Christopher A. Patton, Member
Christopher A. Roth, Member
John Drabowski, Alternate
David Houpt, Alternate
Joan Klein, Alternate

**Veteran Affairs Committee
Administrator:** Jeanine M. Winslow

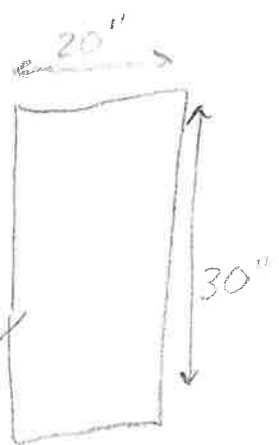
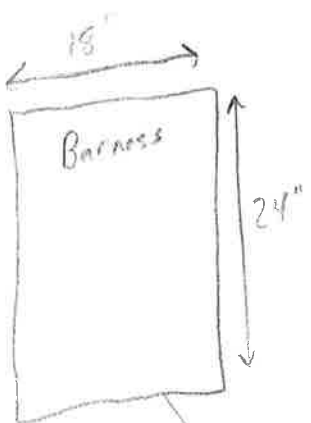
Memorial Engravings: Kulinski Memorials

4/29/2019



Lower
Nikie
other side

other Plackert
size ?



3 or 4 fins

fins
minimum 20" x 30"

BRADLEY FIELD

IN MEMORY OF

SP4 DANIEL P. BRADLEY JR.

ENLISTED MAR. 30, 1949

DIED JULY 28, 1958

U. S. ARMY

Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

- 16.1 million living veterans served during at least one war.
- 5.2 million veterans served in peacetime.
- 2 million veterans are women.
- 2 million veterans served during the Korean War.
- 7 million veterans served during the Vietnam War.
- 2.5 million veterans served in Iraq or Afghanistan; 1/3 with 3 or more deployments.
- 2,317,760 are in uniform now
- Of the 16 million Americans who served during World War II, about 558,000 are still alive.

26 presidents served in the military; 4 in the revolutionary war and 7 in the civil war.

About a month ago, my wife and I visited the Normandy Beaches where 156,000 Allied troops landed on the first day and 326,000 landed within 5 days, we continued on to the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial where more than 9,000 US servicemen are buried; the beaches were as silent as the cemetery, the deafening tumult of war long ended.

This past Saturday, my brother and I returned from a two week journey visiting Civil War battlefields where those that have served before us fought and died for what they believed in. The sites we visited included Antietam, Shiloh, Chickamauga, Vicksburg, Stones River and about a dozen others where tens of thousands fought and died; these fields were also very quiet now. The Americans who fought in these battles and others around the world have fought for our freedom and have kept our nation strong.

Veterans returning from service have been received differently through the years. WW I and WW II veterans were met with parades and great celebration. The Korean War “Police Action” ended with an armistice and Americans were fairly non-reactive being accustomed to unconditional surrender. Viet Nam was quite different; veterans were met with outright hostility which only changed when Veterans of Iraq began to be properly thanked for their service. And as Larry said, “we had served our country, proven our devotion to duty but not without some little... no not little, some great cost”.

No matter which branch you served in, whatever your job path or how many years you served, raising your hand and committing yourself to service in the military was a brave and selfless act. One that resulted in few guarantees—of where you would be assigned; whether and where you might deploy; and, in some cases, if you would return home in one piece, or at all.

Thanks to those who have served and those who continue to serve today, America can sleep peacefully at night. Military men and women know the risks, but they accept them in many cases so that others won't have to.

Just a couple months ago, you may have seen in the news, Marines assigned in our nation's capital could be seen literally running toward danger. A raging fire had broken out in a neighboring home for seniors, and Marines raced toward the flames to ensure the residents were safe.

They played a pivotal role as first responders and helped ensure nearly 200 residents escaped the burning building.

This illustrates what those of you who served already know: Service doesn't halt when the men and women who serve have returned from war, are at their home duty station or are on leave.

It does not even end after we hang up our uniforms one final time. Over time, every enlistment or commission comes to an end, but veterans'

service has no expiration date. We should be grateful not only for their time in the military but for all they do to continue to give back to their country and its citizens long after their discharge is signed.

Thank you for taking the time to remember our heroes. They never gave up on us, and we can't give up on them.

While thousands of other brave men and women have returned from war throughout our nation's history, there are still service members in harm's way around the world. I would ask you to please pause for a moment to think of those currently standing watch across the globe.

God bless you all, bless our veterans and bless the United States of America.

