

Veteran's Memorial making Progress

February, 2020

The Northwestern Lehigh Veterans Memorial is continuing to move towards the construction phase in Ontelaunee Park. At their January meeting Brown Design Corp. was contracted by the Memorial Committee to develop the design and construction specifications. Chris Brown is the Architect who has been planning the development of Ontelaunee Park for Lynn Township since May 2000.

The committee approved a total budget of \$300,000 for the memorial design and construction. A total cost is necessary to initiate our fundraising campaign with businesses and organizations as well as private donors. The entire cost of the memorial will be funded by tax-deductible contributions from grateful donors in our community who are willing to recognize the service and sacrifices of our local Veterans. There is NO FEE required to submit a Veteran's name to be included on the memorial.

To date, 1725 names of Veterans have been entered in our data base. The committee has set July 4th, 2020 as the deadline for accepting names to be engraved on the granite panels. The total number of names is needed to determine how many panels are required, which then defines the size of the memorial footprint. Veteran's names will be listed in alphabetical order on the panels that show the time period in which they served. Names received after July 4th may be added after construction is complete. Unfortunately, they will have to be placed where space is available on the panels which, will detract from the alphabetical order and make it more difficult to locate the Veteran's name.

An important consideration for the memorial design is the ability to add names of future veterans thereby including our youth who will answer the call to serve in future conflicts. In doing so, this memorial will perpetually honor the service of all our veterans from the birth of our Nation into the future, recognizing the on-going struggle to protect our freedom.

Our website, nwlehighvetsmemorial.org shows the development of the design and progress toward securing the donations required to build the memorial. The symbolism of all the features designed into the memorial is explained and patriotic quotations from our nation's leaders bring an historical context to the memorial layout. The website also posts the minutes of all committee meetings, the application form to submit Veteran's names and other information about committee activities.

