



**American Legion Post 90
Mamaroneck Historical Society**

**American Legion Post 347
Larchmont Historical Society**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars, David Potts, Jr. Post 1156
Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund**

May 20, 2007

Alfred Marsella
530 Palmer Avenue
Mamaroneck, New York 10538

Dear Mr. Marsella,

May 25, 2007, marks the 60th anniversary of the dedication and donation of the Richard M. Kemper Park, a World War II Memorial. The Memorial Park is named after Lt. Richard Kemper, who was killed in action in Normandy on August 6, 1944, and was donated to the Mamaroneck School District by the Kemper family.

Along with Richard Kemper, 98 other individuals are honored at the Memorial Park and, as you know, two of these are Staff Sgt. Solomon Blechman and Pvt. John Marsella. To recognize "Our 99", American Legion Post 90 (Mamaroneck), American Legion Post 347 (Larchmont), the Mamaroneck Historical Society, the Larchmont Historical Society, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund are jointly sponsoring a commemorative project. Gold Star Banner placards (9" x 15") have been printed to present to the relatives of each one of those heroes and to the current residents of the homes where the original Gold Star Banners hung 60 years ago. You are in the unique position of qualifying for a placard on two counts! Staff Sgt. Blechman grew up at 530 Palmer Avenue and his family was living there at the time of his service and John Marsella is your cousin. We know that you are familiar with John Marsella's personal history but we are enclosing the research that has been done on Staff Sgt. Blechman by the Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund.

We are hoping that you will display your Gold Star Banner placard at your home to help honor Staff Sgt. Blechman and Pvt. Marsella and to heighten awareness of, not only the sacrifice they and their families made, but what this sacrifice meant to all of us. Solomon and John were our neighbors; they attended our schools and churches, shopped in our stores, played in our parks and enjoyed our social events. They are two of the reasons our community is so special.

If you would like or need another banner, please call Jan Northrup at 834-5757 or e-mail her at northbru@aol.com and she can make arrangements for its delivery and installment.

Thank you for your consideration.