

Mission Accomplished

By John Esposito

Photos by Susan Amlicke

Girl Scouts pledge to do their best to do their duty to their country, often through community-service projects. As part of Earth Week, several such projects were planned for Saturday, April 24, and one of them was participation in the Kemper Memorial Park Beautification Project.

At 8:30 on Saturday morning, Jan Northrup, President of the Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund, along with KMPPF committee members Susan Amlicke and John Esposito attended a breakfast meeting at the Girl Scout House in Larchmont, where Girl Scouts from several local troops had assembled to receive instructions for the day. Accompanying Jan, Susan and John was John's ninety-five-year-old father, John A. Esposito. Mr. Esposito is a World War II veteran who was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart Medals while serving as a Technical Sergeant with the 4th Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge in 1945. He was anxious to help with the Kemper Park Project, but said that he also wanted to let the Girl Scouts know how much he appreciated the letters and cookies they deliver to the homes of veterans each year.

Following breakfast, Volunteer Community Chairs Pat Allen and Cathy Bennett called the meeting to order and introduced Jan Northrup and John Esposito, who explained the history of Kemper Memorial Park and the goals of the beautification project. A short time later, the cadre of Scouts, armed with an array of garden tools and sporting brightly-colored gardening gloves donated by Foley's Hardware store, departed for Mamaroneck High School.

Once assembled in Kemper Park, their mission for the day was explained. Assignments included: clearing debris from the Park, planting Girl Scout donated colorful pansies in the stone planters after removing weeds and dead foliage, tilling the soil around the perimeter of the monument in preparation for the red, white and blue petunias that will be planted prior to Memorial Day, and watering the day's plantings. Within minutes, Joann DiBuono, Sabine Ginsberg, Christine Perciasepe, Gabriella Carcano, Rachel Primavera, Victoria Micalizzi, Mia Sheindlin and Alexandra Micalizzi were engaged in their specific tasks. Rakes, shovels and brooms were also wielded by Adult Girl Scout Volunteers Sue Perciasepe, Rosa Micalizzi and Susanne Vasquez.

During a short break, MHS Freshmen Christine Perciasepe and Sabine Ginsberg joined Mr. Esposito to peruse some of the names on the Monument. Christine attempted to estimate Mr. Esposito's age by assuming that he was approximately 18 in 1942. She concluded that he was about 85. When he told her that he had been drafted a few months before Pear Harbor in 1941 and was actually 26 years old when he entered the army, she and Sabine began to recalculate. After a while they both seemed uncertain about their calculation. Mr. Esposito was thoroughly amused when Christine finally stated: "You can't possibly be that old!"

A timely delivery of top soil and the water truck by MHS groundskeepers brought the day to a successful conclusion. Thanks to our Girl Scouts, it was: Mission Accomplished!



