

# Newsletter

May 2011

**President:** Jan Northrup  
**Vice President:** Susan Amlicke  
**Secretary:** Margot Chrystal  
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**Directors:** Ed Cofino, Deirdre Black Corwin, Mary Cronin, Richard Darcy, John Esposito, Tony Marsella, Michael Scully  
**Newsletter Editor:** John Esposito



One of the Wreaths Across America trailers arriving at MHS



Bob Kirby, Burt Corwin, Liza Strauss, Don Keene, Taryn Delaney, Tony Marsella, Bill Goodenough, Morrill Worcester

## *Wreaths Across America* returns to Mamaroneck

On December 11, 2010, the forty-foot trailers of the *Wreaths Across America* convoy were once again parked along Boston Post Road. For the third year, Mamaroneck High School had been designated as one of the official stops they would make on their journey from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery.

This year's wreath-laying ceremony was preceded by an assembly during which approximately one hundred MHS students and faculty members viewed a video and listened to a presentation made by Mike Scully, a member of the KMPPF Board of Directors. The audience was also greeted with opening remarks from Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert Shaps and MHS interim principal, Mr. John Goetz.

The fifty-minute presentation was designed to give students additional information about the *Wreaths Across America Program* and to let them know that the ceremony in which they were about to participate was actually part of a much larger tribute that would include memorials and military ceremonies throughout the world. Their attentiveness during the presentation and their decorum during the ceremony indicated that our students truly felt that they were part of something very special. The ceremony culminated in Kemper Park, where student body president Liza Strauss, accompanied by MHS teachers Taryn Delaney and Don Keene, accepted the wreath, which was then placed at the Monument.

*Wreaths Across America* founder, Mr. Morrill Worcester, said he was pleased to see increased student involvement in this year's ceremony and expressed his desire to include Mamaroneck High School in his itinerary again next year. We too hope that this tradition will continue.

## Beautification Project Update

We are pleased to announce that the next phase of the Kemper Memorial Park Beautification Project should be completed just in time for this year's Memorial Day ceremonies. This will include:

- Correcting misspelled names on the monument
- Repairing damage (chipping) to approximately 12 letters on the monument
- Installing floodlights to illuminate the monument and the flagpole
- Installing permanent granite planters at the monument
- Professional cleaning of the entire monument and flagstone base
- Engraving the name of *James Allen Callaghan* as per relative's request

We welcome these improvements for many reasons. Most importantly, they represent our ongoing commitment to honor the sacrifices of our veterans.

The new lights will signify that our remembrance continues around the clock each day. The addition of the granite planters is another way to express our gratitude to the honorees and it also offers us greater opportunities to involve students and community members in the beautification project. In past years, the temporary planters were tended by MHS students and local Girl Scouts. These new, larger planters will provide more space for additional participation from local garden clubs and nurseries. Correction of the misspelled names is long overdue and will be greatly appreciated by the families of these particular honorees. Likewise, the addition of James Callaghan's name represents the fulfillment of our promise to his niece who had requested it some time ago.

Extensive research by our President, Jan Northrup, has yielded twelve additional names that may eventually be added to the Monument. These individuals were omitted from the original list of honorees for a variety of reasons. Probably the most common was that families were so distraught at the time that they ignored or did not see the notifications requesting information about their loved ones. We are currently seeking family members who may want their relative's name included. If so, we will consider it our obligation to honor them appropriately.

The progress we have made thus far is due in large part to the generosity of our contributors and the support we have received from the Mamaroneck School District and we are grateful to everyone involved.

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## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Richard Kemper Memorial Essay Contest Expands

This year, the *Richard Kemper Foundation for Promoting Human Rights Education* is sponsoring two essay contests: one that is open to all high school students, including students at Mamaroneck High School and one that is open only to MHS students. The winners of both contests will receive a \$250 prize and be invited to read their essays at a Memorial Day Ceremony in *Richard M. Kemper Memorial Park* on **May 25**. The following topic is open **only to MHS students**:

- **What makes Americans patriotic? In your answer, please address specific freedoms, laws, documents or events that you feel make the American people connected to their country.**

The next topic is open to **all high school students**, including students from MHS:

- **What is a major human rights issue faced by any nation or group of people today and how do you think it can be resolved?**

An additional prize of \$100 will also be awarded for the best poster advertising this year's essay contest. Please join us at Mamaroneck High School on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. to hear the winning essays read and to see the winning poster.

## Okinawa Exhibit at MHS

The third in a series of exhibits focusing on Kemper honorees and World War II's impact on the Larchmont, Mamaroneck community will debut later this month. This exhibit features the **Battle of Okinawa**.

The invasion of Okinawa represented the largest amphibious landing in the Pacific Theater of Operations. Combined forces totaled 451,866 Navy, Marine and Army personnel and over 1300 vessels, including sixteen fast aircraft carriers, eight new battleships, fourteen sleek cruisers and forty or fifty destroyers. Task Force Fifty-Eight was the mightiest fleet ever to sail the Pacific. Despite this impressive military force, casualties were enormous. The US Army, Marine Corps and Navy reported a total of 12,513 killed or missing and 38,916 wounded. Four Marines, three sailors and one aviator from the Larchmont community were among those lost.

Once again, extensive research by KMPPF President, Jan Northrup, assisted this time by research intern Rita Orazi, has assembled an impressive collection of facts, photographs, illustrations and personal narratives that dramatically tell the story of this strategic battle and the parts our honorees played in our ultimate victory.

The two previous World War II displays, focusing on the **Italian Campaign** and the **Battle of the Bulge** proved to be valuable learning experiences for MHS students and we are certain that this exhibit will be equally effective. Please stop by to see it in the lobby of the main entrance to Mamaroneck High School, either during this year's Memorial Day ceremony or whenever you visit MHS.

### Introducing: Research Intern, Rita Orazi

Pictured alongside KMPPF President Jan Northrup is our current research intern, Rita Orazi. Rita is a sophomore at Rye Neck High School and she is working as an intern to fulfill the school's community-service requirement. Rita recently did research on the Battle of Okinawa for the display at Mamaroneck High School. Through internet research, Rita was able to locate the service numbers of the Marines who were killed in Okinawa. With the service numbers, we were able to access the Marines' military records and the records proved to be a treasure trove of information. Now that the Okinawa display is finished, she will start researching the **Philippines Campaign**, during which seven Kemper Park Honorees lost their lives.

Rita is also fluent in Italian, which has been a great asset in the research she has been doing on one of the Kemper Park Honorees, Donato Greco, who apparently came to the United States in 1940 and was killed during the Italian campaign. Currently, we do not have a photo of Donato. The family here in the United States has been difficult to locate. However, if we can locate the family in Italy, they may be able send us one. For some reason, the name on the monument is **Graeco** but the newspaper articles, immigration records and military records all spell the name **Greco**. Hopefully, with Rita's help, we can get the name's spelling clarified and, if necessary, correct it.

The KMPPF Board of Directors offers sincere condolences to **Jean Kemper** on the recent passing of her partner, **Eric Kruh**.



Please visit our booth at the **Mamaroneck Harbor Fest** on Sunday, June 5 – 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.



80 North Chatsworth Avenue

[kempermorialpark.org](http://kempermorialpark.org)

## **MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES 2011**

### **Kemper Park**

**Richard Kemper Essay Contest Ceremony:** **Wednesday, May 25, 3 p.m.**  
 Ceremony begins in the lobby of the main entrance to Mamaroneck H.S. and then moves outside to Kemper Park.

**Memorial Day Ceremony:** **Monday, May 30, 11 a.m.** in Kemper Park

### **Village of Mamaroneck American Legion Post 90**

**Village of Mamaroneck Parade:** **Monday, May 30, 5 p.m.**  
 Mamaroneck Avenue. Following the parade, the Ceremony will be held at American Legion Post 90 Hall on Prospect Avenue.

### **Village of Larchmont**

**Memorial Day Parade:** **Thursday, May 26, 7 p.m.**  
 Chatsworth to Palmer to Larchmont Avenue

### **American Legion Post 347**

War Memorial at Myrtle Blvd. and Murray Ave.: **Sunday, May 29, 11 a.m.**  
**In the event of rain, the Ceremony will be held at Flint Park Headquarters.**

### **Veterans of Foreign Wars David Potts, Jr., Post 1156**

**Monday, May 30, 9 a.m.**  
 Tompkins Park, Boston Post Rd., Village of Mamaroneck