

# Newsletter

May 2010



## Veteran's Day Ceremonies in Kemper Memorial Park



## Veteran's Day Event 2009

Our soldiers fight this day, this night, in places far from us, from home,  
Too often, out of sight and mind. Our lowered flags bear witness to  
The last full measure of their hope, for us, for their posterity.  
Others are at home at last, with wounds we know and those unseen,  
With hearts and minds forever changed, by what they know and leave unsaid.  
Thus it has been, from Valley Forge to Gettysburg, to the Argonne,  
From Normandy to Pork Chop Hill, Khe Sanh, Iraq, Afghanistan.  
Dawn's early light reveals the world, each hour all around the globe  
In vigil for those gone before, and those whose courage marks each day.  
Then night time falls on those who fight; who rest in hope of one more day.  
We gather here, this eve, for you; in tribute and in memory.  
We will not forget what you have done, for us, for our posterity,  
Across the way our minds are filled with cause, effect, and why, what for.  
But it is here that our hearts are filled with gratitude, with love and more,  
And hope that morning's light will bring you peace, a peace to end all war.

Kathleen Donnison 11/9/09

The Mamaroneck School District's annual Veterans Day ceremony took place in Richard M. Kemper Memorial Park on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 3:15 p.m. The after-school ceremony was scheduled at this time since school would be closed the following day. The ceremony began with World War II veteran and Gold Star Brother Tony Marsella leading the audience in singing "America the Beautiful."

In his opening remarks, Superintendent Paul Fried noted that it was gratifying to see the large turnout of students present. He then acknowledged all of the veterans who were present by asking them to stand and be recognized. School Board President Linnet Tse spoke of her deep appreciation for the sacrifices made by American soldiers and her father's service as a World War II veteran. Dr. Fried and Mrs. Tse both emphasized the importance of Kemper Memorial Park to our school and our community as a symbol of the sacrifices that have been made to ensure our safety and our freedom. MHS social studies teacher Kathy Donnison read an original poem she had written to honor America's veterans. She was followed by two of her colleagues, Shannon Turner Porter and Janice Landrum who read two poems written by Joyce Kilmer, a sergeant in the 165th U.S. Infantry Regiment who was killed at the Second Battle of Marne in 1918 at the age of 31. As Town Supervisor Valerie O'Keeffe pointed out, Kilmer had also been a Larchmont resident and a street in Larchmont was later named after him. The ceremony concluded with "Taps" played by MHS tenth-grader Danny Fiddelman.

Before and after the ceremony, students could be seen congregating in various parts of the Park. Hommocks students from Richard Darcy's social studies class were doing rubbings of names on the Memorial for their research projects and other MHS and Hommocks students were engaged in conversations with veterans and other attendees. During the actual ceremonies the students were respectful and attentive. Regardless of the fact that they would be off from school the next day, it was obvious that Veterans Day truly meant something to them.

## Mission Accomplished

Girl Scouts pledge to do their best to do their duty to their country, often through community- service projects. 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

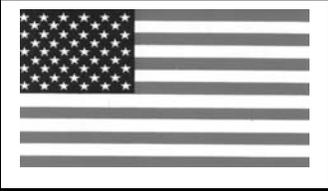
Following breakfast, Volunteer Community Chairs Pat Allen and Cathy Bennett called the meeting to order and introduced Jan Northrup and John Esposito, who explained the history of Kemper Memorial Park and the goals of the beautification project. A short time later, the cadre of Scouts, armed with an 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!**





### **Flagpole Installation Marks Beginning of Kemper Memorial Park Restoration**

This year's Memorial Day ceremonies in Kemper Memorial Park will be enhanced by the new flagpole that was installed earlier this month. Thanks to generous donations from the **VFW, American Legion Post 90, American Legion Post 347, The Knights of Columbus, Anthony & Josephine Marsella and Joel & Carmela Robins**, the thirty-foot flagpole, adjacent to the Monument, became the first of many planned additions and improvements to the Park. A formal dedication of the flagpole will take place in June. Further information will follow soon.

### **New Kemper Memorial Display Debuts at MHS**

Through our continued collaboration with Dr. Fried and the Board of Education, we have been permitted to use two of the display cases in the lobby of the main entrance to Mamaroneck High School. They will showcase artifacts, photographs and biographical information to give students and visitors a better understanding of the impact of World War II on the Larchmont/Mamaroneck community, especially the families and friends of those whose names are inscribed on the Kemper Memorial.

The current display includes a large map delineating where each of the 99 honorees once lived. Another portion of the display is dedicated to individual honorees that will be spotlighted throughout the year. The first of them is John J. Marsella, who was killed in action at Anzio Beach in 1944. Specific information about John's life growing up in Mamaroneck, his military experiences and a replica of the Purple Heart Medal, like the one that he and the other 98 honorees were awarded, are also included in this section.

We hope you will take the opportunity to view this exhibit during the upcoming Memorial Day ceremonies or whenever you visit MHS.

## **TENTH ANNUAL RICHARD KEMPER MEMORIAL CONTEST**

For the tenth consecutive year, the Kemper Foundation is sponsoring an essay contest open to all MHS students. This year's entrants will have three topics from which to choose:

**Values:** In what way is President Roosevelt's Four Freedoms Speech relevant today? Include in your answer obstacles to achieving Roosevelt's vision and ways to overcome any obstacles.

**Human Rights Organizations:** Choose a human rights organization and discuss the mission of the organization and its accomplishments.

**Veterans:** Is America honoring her veterans? Use the following quote as your starting point: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." *John F. Kennedy*

The Kemper Foundation will award two \$250 prizes for the best essays. An additional prize of \$100 will be awarded for the best poster to publicize the contest.

Winning essays will be read and prizes will be awarded at a special Memorial Day ceremony at Mamaroneck High School scheduled for **May 25 at 3 p.m.**



## **MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES 2010**

<b>Kemper Park</b>	<p><b>Richard Kemper Essay Contest Ceremony:</b> <b>Tuesday, May 25, 3 p.m.</b>            Ceremony begins in lobby of main entrance to Mamaroneck H.S. and then moves outside to Kemper Park.</p> <p><b>Memorial Day Ceremony:</b> <b>Sunday, May 30, 11 a.m.</b> in Kemper Park</p>
<b>Village of Mamaroneck American Legion Post 90</b>	<p><b>Village of Mamaroneck Parade:</b> <b>Sunday, May 30, 5 p.m.</b>            Mamaroneck Avenue. Following the parade, the Ceremony will be held at American Legion Post 90 Hall on Prospect Avenue.</p>
<b>Village of Larchmont</b>	<p><b>Memorial Day Parade:</b> <b>Thursday, May 27, 7 p.m.</b>            Chatsworth to Palmer to Larchmont Avenue</p>
<b>American Legion Post 347</b>	<p>War Memorial at Myrtle Blvd. and Murray Ave. <b>Saturday, May 29, 11 a.m.</b>  <b>In the event of rain, ceremony will be held at Flint Park Headquarters</b></p>
<b>Veterans of Foreign Wars David Potts, Jr., Post 1156</b>	<p><b>Monday, May 31, 9 a.m.</b>            Tompkins Park, Boston Post Rd. Village of Mamaroneck</p>

