

We are pleased to report that plans are now being finalized to begin the first phase of the Kemper Memorial Park restoration and beautification project. Using the Park's original plans and current measurements they have taken, several MHS students are creating a new blueprint to illustrate what we envision Kemper Park will look like with new pathways, lush green lawns, an illuminated flagpole and an array of perennial plantings designed by landscape architect and retired Chatsworth Avenue School teacher David Miles.

Wilson Kizer, Kira Hoffman, Jon Holton, John Russo, Evan Amber and Alex Neir are members of the MHS Architecture Club, sponsored by MHS technology teacher Craig Romanek and the plot plan they have been working on will be useful in our fund-raising drive, through which we hope to raise much of the money that will be needed to fund the project. Understandably, in light of the current economy, it is unlikely that the School District will be able to supplement the funds we raise. However, Dr. Fried and the Board of Education have been and will continue to be valuable partners in this endeavor.

The first item on our agenda is the installation of an irrigation system for the lawns and flowers. With proper irrigation, the new lawns will remain healthy, as will the flower beds that will produce various combinations of red, white and blue flowers from early spring to late autumn. Next will come new pathways to provide safer and more attractive access to the Park and the Monument. Later phases will incorporate an illuminated flagpole, granite benches (as once existed) and trash receptacles.

Of course, all of this will take both money and commitment. Currently, we have only a portion of the money that we will need, but the commitment we have seen assures us that we will achieve our goal. We are confident in your continued support and the School Board has pledged to assist us in any way they can. The ever-increasing positive energy surrounding this project guarantees that the new Kemper Memorial Park will soon be a reality.

Wreaths Across America



This past December, the *Wreaths Across America* convoy from Harrington, Maine once again stopped in Mamaroneck during its annual journey to Arlington National Cemetery for a special wreath-laying ceremony at Kemper Memorial Park. During the remarks preceding the actual wreath laying, radio host Mike Scully delivered a moving speech in which he focused on two individuals whose names are inscribed on the monument. Among those who heard Mr. Scully's tribute to Kathleen Cullen and James Schaefer were many veterans, including MHS graduates currently serving in our military. It was fitting for them to hear how deeply we appreciate their service and it was fitting for all of us to be reminded once more of Kemper Memorial Park's significance to our community. Morrill Worcester, President of the Worcester Wreath Company and founder of the *Wreaths Across America* program said he was pleased to return to Mamaroneck and hoped to do so again next year.

Ninth Annual Richard Kemper Memorial Essay Contest

For the ninth consecutive year, the Mamaroneck High School Social Studies Department and the Kemper family will sponsor The Richard Kemper Memorial Essay Contest, open to all MHS students. This year's entrants will have two topics from which to choose:

"Take time to remember the good souls whose memories are a blessing to you and your family. Take your children to our memorial parks and monuments"

General Colin Powell

Why do we build memorials to commemorate those who give their lives for their country?

The recently established Richard Kemper Foundation maintains that the best way to honor the sacrifices made by those whose names are on the monument in Richard Kemper Park is to search for ways to create a just world in which human rights are always and everywhere respected."

What is the most important human rights issue that we face today and how would you go about resolving it?

The Kemper family will award a \$250 prize for the best essay in each category and **winning entries will be read** at a special Memorial Day event to be held at **MHS on May 28, 2009 at 3 p.m.** Ceremonies will begin inside the main entrance and then move outside to Kemper Park.



Earth Week in Kemper Memorial Park

Earth Week at MHS began on Monday, April 20 and the activities included some sprucing up of Kemper Memorial Park. Pictured at left are KMPPF President Jan Northrup, VFW Post 1156 Commander Burt Corwin and MHS Garden Club President Vanessa Zapata. Also on hand were KMPPF Vice President Susan Amlicke and KMMPF Treasurer Mark Schumer. Despite the threat of April showers, they cheerfully completed their mission to fill two newly installed planters with pansies. Pansies were used because the weather was still a bit chilly and pansies are a lot tougher than their name implies. The pansies will soon be joined by red, white and blue petunias that will be planted in time for this year's Memorial Day ceremonies in Kemper Memorial Park.

Memorial Day Ceremonies 2009

Memorial Day Ceremony
Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m.
Kemper Park

AMERICAN LEGION POST 90
Village of Mamaroneck Parade, Friday, May 29, 7 p.m.
 Mamaroneck Avenue
 Following the parade, the Ceremony will be held at American Legion Post 90 Hall on Prospect Avenue.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 347
 Village of Larchmont
 Memorial Day Parade
Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m.
 Chatsworth to Palmer to Larchmont Avenue
 War Memorial at Myrtle Blvd. and Murray Avenue
Saturday, May 30, 6:15 p.m.

VETERANS FOR FOREIGN WARS
David Potts, Jr. Post 1156
Monday, May 25, 9 a.m.
 Tompkins Park, Boston Post Rd., Mamaroneck

Recently, KMPPF President Jan Northrup received a very special gift from Tex Austin (pictured at left). On April 22, 1945, Tex was serving aboard the USS Isherwood off the coast of Okinawa when the ship was attacked by Japanese Kamikaze planes. Among Tex's shipmates who were killed in the ensuing battle was Tillio Santangelo from Mamaroneck. Both Tex and the USS Isherwood survived that battle and the remainder of World War II. When Tex left the Navy, one of the souvenirs he took with him was the division flag that flew above the bridge of the Isherwood on that fateful day (pictured right). Upon hearing of our efforts to connect with anyone with information about the Kemper 99, Tex sent the flag to Jan to honor the memory of his shipmate, Tillio Santangelo. Tex's gesture emphasizes the importance of remembering. Tex has been assured that the flag will become part of a permanent display that will serve as a constant reminder of the debt we owe to those who sacrificed so much to preserve our freedom.



Please help us to continue to do the important work that remains to be done by sending your tax-deductible contribution to:

Mark Schumer
3 Highland Road
Larchmont, NY 10538

Checks should be made payable to:

Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund, Inc.

The Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund is a 501 (c) (3) not for profit.
 All donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law and will be matched by a generous supporter of the Richard M. Kemper Park