

## NOVEMBER 2018

Women were the focus of this year's **Kemper Contest**, asking students to introduce us to American women who have served, or are currently serving our country in the military, as volunteers, or on the home front. The three winning entries included a poem, an essay and a drawing. In her poem titled "*Angel in Fatigues*" **Sylvie Gheewalla** described the work of *Ruby Bradley*, one of the most highly decorated women in U.S. Military history. Serving in the Philippines as an Army nurse, she was captured by the Japanese only three weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor. In captivity, she and several other imprisoned nurses provided medical help to the prisoners. She assisted in 230 operations and helped deliver 13 children before being freed by U.S. troops on February 3, 1945. For the subject of his essay, **Mark Yukelis** chose retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General *Patricia Horoho*, who was the 43<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Army Surgeon General and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Medical Command. She was the first woman to hold these positions. As a Pentagon nurse, Horoho was also recognized as a *Nurse Hero* by the American Red Cross on September 14, 2002 for giving first aid to 75 victims during the September 11 attack on the Pentagon. The drawing by **Liana Haigis** illustrates the harrowing experience of *Mary Jennings Hagar*. On July 29, 2009, on her third tour to Afghanistan, Hagar was piloting a combat search and rescue helicopter to rescue soldiers from an active battlefield. Taliban ground forces disabled her helicopter, wounding Hagar with shrapnel to her arm and leg. Despite her injuries, she was able to complete her mission. Hagar was awarded the Purple Heart for the wounds she sustained. She was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor Device in 2011 and remains one of the few women to receive this medal since Amelia Earhart.

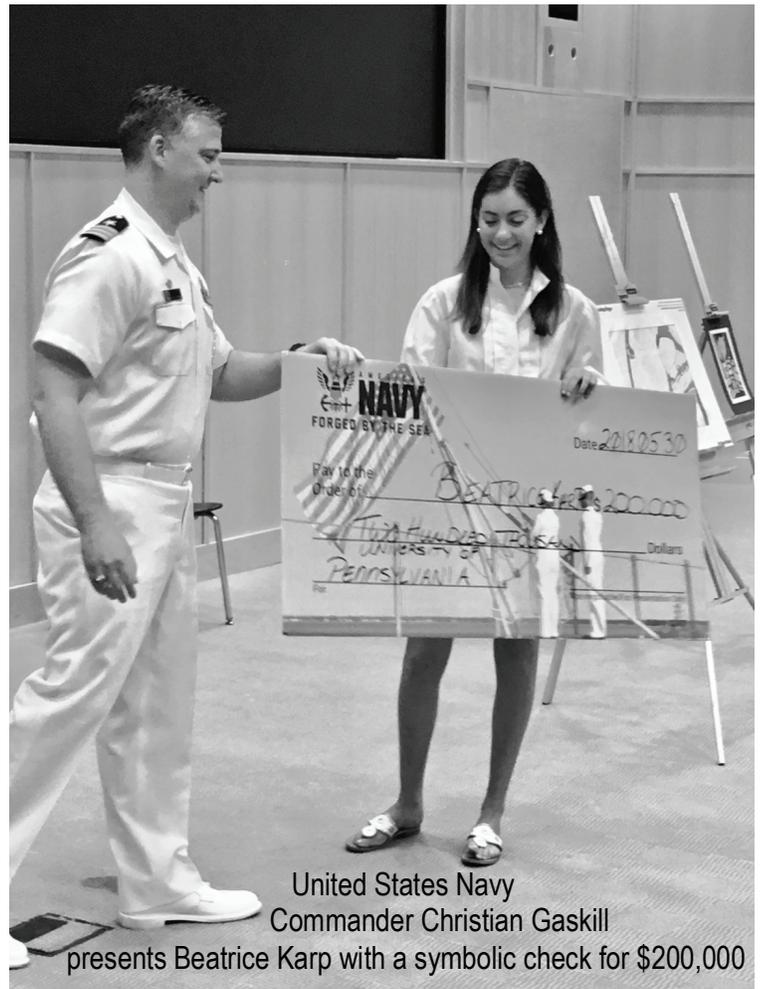
The work produced by each of the winners demonstrated thorough research as well as genuine respect for the women they had selected.

As a special addition to this year's awards ceremony, two MHS seniors were recognized for their commitment to join the ranks of other women who have served our country.

**Beatrice Karp** was presented with a symbolic check for \$200,000 by United States Navy Commander Christian Gaskill, representing the Navy's commitment to finance a full four-year scholarship for Beatrice at the University of Pennsylvania. Upon graduation, Beatrice will also receive her commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy.

Senior **Hannah Hanley** was also acknowledged for her acceptance into The United States Naval Academy, which she would be entering in the fall.

Both young women received resounding applause!



United States Navy  
 Commander Christian Gaskill  
 presents Beatrice Karp with a symbolic check for \$200,000

# Joy and Sorrow

World War II veterans **Tony Marsella** and **Sheldon Evans** have been loyal supporters of Kemper Memorial Park for decades.



Tony Marsella

Sadly, on **August 6, 2018**, Tony Marsella passed away at the age of 94. He was the last of the three Marsella brothers who went off to war and one of only two who returned. Tony's brother, John, was killed at Anzio and his brother, Gaetano, spent 40 years in the military, retiring from the New York State Air National Guard as a Brigadier General and the Air Force as a Colonel. Kemper Memorial Park is a special place for the Marsella family because John Marsella is one of its honorees. It has often been said that it was Tony Marsella who helped to awaken the community's conscience when the Park's future seemed uncertain. Thankfully, Tony lived long enough to see the Park's status restored and its preservation ensured. Tony will be greatly missed, but his inspiration will remain with us always.

On a much happier note, we were pleased to be among more than 125 guests who attended the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for Sheldon Evans on **June 21, 2018** at American Legion Post 347 in Flint Park.

Food was plentiful and the birthday cakes were beautiful, but the highlight of the event was the entertainment provided by **The Victory Belles**, a female trio performing music of the 1940's. No one enjoyed it more than the guest of honor himself. You could see it on his face as he swayed and clapped to the beat of each song. And the entertainers loved Sheldon as much as he loved them, as evidenced by the red lipstick kisses that adorned his face (also provided by The Victory Belles). Perhaps being born on the longest day of the year heralded Sheldon's subsequent longevity.



Sheldon Evans and  
The Victory Belles

We certainly hope it continues!

# The 12<sup>th</sup> Man Tradition at MHS

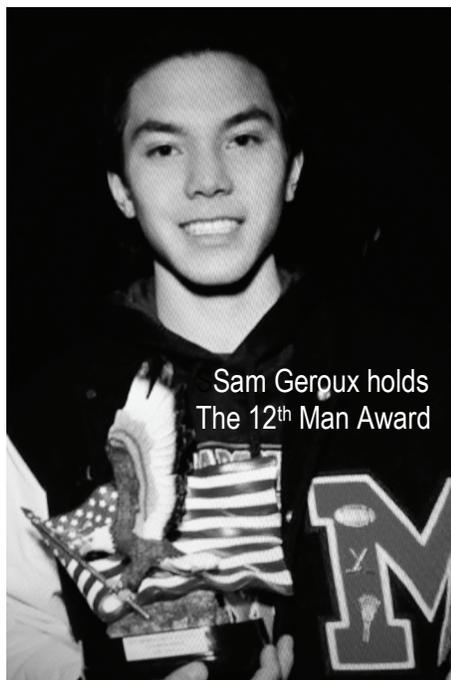
The bonds of friendship made in high school are often long lasting. This is especially true of those made on athletic teams. Such was the case with David Porterfield and Sal Ticli, who were members of the MHS class of 1964. The two friends played together on the varsity football team. Both also served as United States Marines in Vietnam. Sal lost his close friend on July 18, 1966, when Hospitalman David Porterfield was killed while providing medical aid to other Marines during Operation Hastings in Quang Tri Province.

Many years later, Sal was the catalyst for the Vietnam Memorial Showcases in Mamaroneck High School. Along with David Porterfield's Purple Heart and Silver Star Medals, the showcases display photographs of the twelve Mamaroneck and Larchmont residents who perished in Vietnam. Sal, a Purple Heart recipient himself, thought that it was important for future MHS students to know the sacrifices that had been made on their behalf and the showcases are one way of doing that.

But Sal also had something else in mind. Toward that end, he had twelve black bracelets made, each bearing the name of one of the servicemen killed in action; the date he was killed and the location of his name on the Vietnam Wall. Then, with the help of varsity football coach Anthony Vitti, he initiated the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Tradition at MHS. On the Monday prior to the Mamaroneck/Port Chester Game, Coach Vitti distributes the bracelets to the four team captains and players rotate wearing them throughout the season. At the end of the season, the coaches decide which player should receive the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Award for having shown outstanding team spirit. The bracelets are then returned to the showcases until next season.

The Vietnam showcases were dedicated at a very moving ceremony in 2012. Among the large number of attendees were many Vietnam veterans who were grateful for this long overdue acknowledgment of the debt we owe to those who made the supreme sacrifice in Vietnam. Also present was a talented professional photographer named Sandra Geroux, who volunteered her time to take dozens of photographs of the event. Ironically, six years later, a Mamaroneck High School football player named Sam Geroux received the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Award. He is Sandra's son.

The Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund continually seeks ways to link students to past generations and one more way to do that is through **The 12<sup>th</sup> Man Tradition**.



Sam Geroux holds  
The 12<sup>th</sup> Man Award



**KEMPER MEMORIAL PARK PRESERVATION FUND**  
*Preserve Our Memorial* *Preserve Our Community*

80 North Chatsworth Avenue

<http://kempermemorialpark.org/>

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## 2018 Veterans Day Ceremonies



**American Legion Post 90**  
**Sunday, November 11 – 11 a.m.**  
Veterans Memorial  
Prospect Avenue

**American Legion Post 347**  
**Sunday, November 11 – 1 p.m.**  
American Legion Post 347 Hall  
Flint Park – Village of Larchmont

**Mamaroneck High School**  
Ceremony in recognition of  
Veterans Day on  
**Thursday, November 8, at 3 p.m.**  
at the Vietnam showcase -  
main concourse of  
Mamaroneck High School.