

More than 60 years have passed since Kemper Memorial Park was created to honor the members of our community who perished in World War II. Those of us who weren't around at its inception can only imagine how impressive it must have looked with its elaborate landscaping and architectural details. Students attending MHS at that time could sit on granite benches to talk or to eat their lunches, or perhaps to contemplate the magnitude of the sacrifice represented by the ninety nine names inscribed on the monument, many of them being names of other MHS students whose photographs could be found in *Mahiscan* yearbooks from only a few years earlier. Surely, the care that was taken to create and to maintain Kemper Memorial Park affirmed to those students that a grateful community would never forget its veterans.

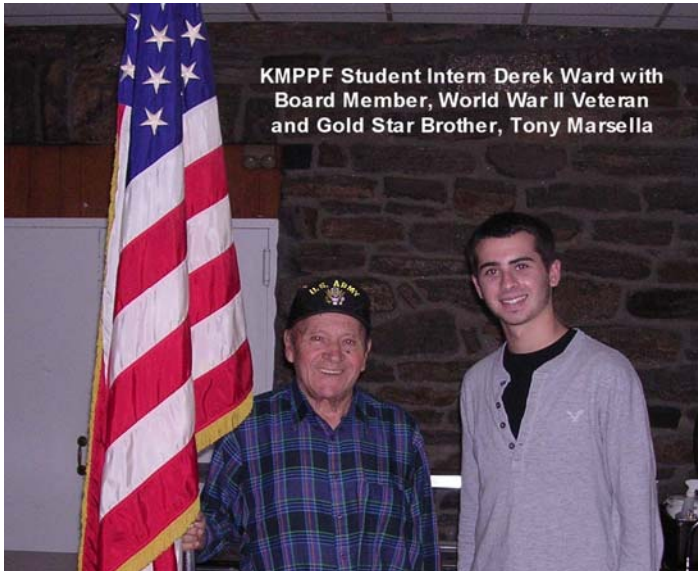
The passing years have taken their toll on Kemper Memorial Park. The granite benches are gone, the walkways are crumbling and the landscaping has lost some of its grandeur. But these are all things that can be repaired or replaced. Fortunately, the one thing that has remained unchanged is the commitment to preserve the Park and the memory of those to whom it is dedicated. This commitment is evident in the speeches delivered by school and community officials during the various public ceremonies held in Kemper Memorial Park throughout the year; it can be heard in the words written by students for the annual Richard M. Kemper Essay Contest; it is evidenced by the growing number of graduates who return to MHS to attend Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Wreaths Across America ceremonies each year; it is shown by the Board of Education's efforts to preserve the trees in Kemper Memorial Park and to plant the red, white and blue petunias at the monument and it is most certainly shown by the monetary contributions we have received thus far. It is this unswerving commitment that will enable the restoration and beautification of Kemper Memorial Park to continue.

Thus far, we have managed to raise slightly more than one third of the money that will be needed for all of the planned improvements to the Park. Although the School District has agreed to help us in any ways that it can, we know that the budget will be very tight again this year. Therefore, at least for now, we must rely solely on private donations as we continue to work toward our goal of restoring and enhancing the appearance of Kemper Memorial Park. We realize that the current economy is straining everyone's budget and we want to assure you that no donation should be considered too small. Regardless of whether you can help us to pay for only a single shrub, or only a portion of a bench, or only a few inches of the flagpole we hope to erect, your donation will be deeply appreciated.

We will keep you informed of the progress of our fund-raising effort through our newsletter and our website, and we look forward to the day that we can announce to you that we have reached our goal, which we estimate to be approximately \$40,000.

With your continued support, we know we can do it!

World War II Research Scholar - Derek Ward



Last June, eight outstanding applicants were interviewed for the Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund's World War II Scholar 2009, a paid summer internship. The internship consisted of 80 supervised hours of extensive historical research on the 99 individuals honored at the Richard M. Kemper Park, especially those for whom there was little or no information.

Derek's primary job was to locate the missing photos. This involved researching the individual's war service (where and when he served and how he died), his personal background (where he went to high school and/or college) and locating and contacting his surviving family members. It was not easy! Nonetheless, Derek persevered and made amazing progress. He searched local newspapers, contacted libraries across the United States, worked with historical societies, called potential family members that had been located through various data bases and managed to make significant progress in our search for more information (especially photos). As he gathered information, he recorded it on a comprehensive Excel spreadsheet that he helped develop so the information would be readily available.

We had high expectations for our intern this summer and Derek met those expectations. Thanks to Derek's efforts, we have now have photographs and biographical information for two additional Kemper honorees (shown below).

We are looking forward to continuing our research scholar program again next summer.



LT. IRVING JAY BROKAW, U.S. ARMY
8 Bonnett Aveue, Larchmont Age: 31

**Attended Chatsworth Avenue School
New York Military Academy, Class of 1929**

31st Infantry Regiment

Lt. Brokaw was reported missing with the surrender of Bataan on April 9, 1942, but was not officially declared killed in action until January of 1946. He was awarded the Silver Star posthumously for gallantry in action against the Japanese during the Battle of Bataan. He left behind a wife and young son.



LT. (CHARLES) DAVID HALL, US AAF
Hillside Rd., Town of Mamaroneck
Age: 23

**Attended Mamaroneck High School
Graduated New Trier High School,
Wilmette, Illinois Class of 1941
Attended Purdue University**

**12th Air Force
Pilot, US Attack Bomber (A-20 Havoc)**

Lt. Hall was based in Italy when he was killed in action on March 2, 1945.

2009 Veterans Day Ceremonies

[American Legion Post 90](#)

Wednesday, November 11—11 a.m.
Veterans Memorial on Prospect Avenue
(Between Mamaroneck Ave. and Mt. Pleasant Ave.)
Village of Mamaroneck
Flag Retirement Ceremony Afterwards

[American Legion Post 347](#)

Wednesday, November 11— 5 p.m.
American Legion Post 347 Hall
Flint Park
Village of Larchmont

[Richard M. Kemper Park](#)

There will be a brief ceremony in recognition of Veterans Day on **Tuesday, November 10, at 3:15 p.m.** at the Richard M. Kemper Park, Mamaroneck High School, Boston Post Road. Speakers will include Dr. Paul Fried, Superintendent of Schools, and representatives from the Board of Education and the MHS faculty. All are invited throughout the district and throughout the community.

Please join us!

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: kempermemorialpark.org

Last month, Mamaroneck teacher Ed Cofino was officially welcomed as the newest member of the KMPPF Board. Prior to joining the Board, Ed had already been working with us to improve and expand the Kemper Memorial Park website. Ed is also the technology coordinator for the Mamaroneck School District and his expertise will be invaluable to us in his new role as KMPPF webmaster.

We encourage you to visit the Kemper Memorial Park website to see what Ed has accomplished so far. Currently, you can connect to links that will enable you to: understand the history of Kemper Memorial Park; read individual biographies of the Kemper honorees; access our newsletter as well as newspaper articles concerning Kemper Memorial Park; learn about the educational activities related to Kemper Memorial Park and be informed of ceremonies that take place in the Park throughout the year. If you have already visited the website, you have noticed that certain links are still under construction. Obviously, it is still a work in progress. But as more and more information is added, it will only deepen our understanding of why Kemper Memorial Park is such a community treasure.

As previously stated, one of the things that we will be doing through our website is keeping you informed of the progress of our fundraising efforts for the beautification project. Ed tells us that the **beautification project** link will be ready soon. We hope that your contribution will be among those that will enable us to achieve our goal .

Remember, no contribution should be considered too small! Please help us in any way you can.

Tax-deductible contributions should be sent 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.