



## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020



Seventy-five years ago, my father mailed this copy of *The Stars and Stripes* home. Next to the headline, you can see his brief note asking my mother to save it for him. Although the war in Europe had ended, the future was still uncertain and Dad's unit was already being prepared for the possible invasion of Japan. Fortunately, World War II finally ended when Japan surrendered on August 15, 1945. Throughout the country, Americans celebrated the fact that we had pulled together and won.

Now, seventy-five years later, our nation faces another daunting challenge that will only be overcome by pulling together. That won't be easy because there seem to be more things dividing us than ever before and the future, once again, seems uncertain. It may be time for some reflection and Kemper Memorial Park might be the place to do it. Perhaps it will remind us that the 101 individuals whose names are inscribed on the monument undoubtedly had differing opinions on many things but it was their unified effort that made the difference. Perhaps when we complain about the "hardships" of not being able to eat in a restaurant or attend a sporting event we will be reminded of the real hardships that others endured on our behalf. And maybe the small sacrifices we are being asked to make will seem rather trivial compared to the supreme sacrifices they made. Most of all, some reflection may enable us to see more clearly that, when pulling together is a necessary burden, it may not always be an equal one. Nevertheless, we must all do our part while being forever grateful to those who do even more to achieve our common goal.



MHS student Andrew Sachs and U.S. Navy Veteran Anthony Leuzzi at Veterans Day ceremonies in Kemper Memorial Park last November

For the past two years, our Veterans Day ceremonies have included the opportunity for students to meet and converse with local veterans. The positive feedback we received from those events assured us that they should be continued and we have every intention of doing so as soon as we think it can be done safely. In the meantime, we are considering alternatives that will still enable students and veterans to connect. Toward that end, it has been suggested that video-taped interviews of local veterans could be made available to students and eventually linked to our website. MHS Social Studies teacher Pedro Vega, who recently joined the KMPPF Board, feels that some of his students might be interested in editing these videos. Last year, some of Pedro's students organized a club for today's veterans so he feels their interest is apparent.

We don't always realize the long-lasting impact that visiting Kemper Memorial might have on young people. Recently, Jan Northrop received this letter from two MHS students:

Hi - we're Samantha Moore and Erin Jaeger,

We have been in Girl Scouts since kindergarten and will be going into 9th grade this year at Mamaroneck High School. When we were in kindergarten we planted flowers with our Daisy troop at Kemper memorial. Just this year we went to Kemper Memorial with our whole grade to talk and mostly listen to the veterans tell stories about their time in battle. Our social studies teacher, Mr. Darcy, reminded us of how brave and kind the soldiers were. It was a little different being at Kemper Memorial this year because, instead of planting plants, we cut out and colored poppy flowers. The poppy flowers symbolize remembrance and the sacrifice of the soldiers who fought and died in the war.

We would like to do our silver award based on something special to us by honoring and recognizing names of those on the Kemper Memorial and we think that this is something that can be passed on to younger troops. So, after thinking and taking notes, we have decided to do our silver award to honor those that protected our country. For the past seven years, our troop has visited Veterans in our neighborhoods on Veteran's Day. After discussing what our project was going to be about, we decided to create an activity to deliver to current homeowners of gold star homes. This is a home of a soldier that died in war who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Years ago, the Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund had distributed placards with a gold star to those homes (Samantha lives in a gold star home). We would like to have girl scouts deliver a flower that could be planted in the garden at that home as a remembrance so girl scouts who deliver would be aware of the significance of that house each Memorial Day.

Our plan is to get flats of flowers, put one flower in a cardboard box of sorts, then paint a gold star on the box and write the name of the soldier who lived in that house. Then there will be a letter or note tucked near the flower explaining why we sent them this and explaining who the soldier was so that the current homeowner will know about our community history.

We would like to do this before Veteran's Day this year. We plan to purchase the flowers ourselves, and then deliver with others in our troop. Afterwards, we would give a list to our girl scout community so that troops can sign up and continue with deliveries in time for Memorial Day each year. We plan to create route lists so that troops will deliver within a certain area of town and then they will be responsible for bringing a flower to each house.

If we create a pamphlet, would you be able to display it for your members to see? Might you consider being a project advisor, if we have questions as we work through the project?

Thank you for any help you can offer us.

Samantha and Erin

An unsolicited outreach like this is further evidence that one of our most important goals is being realized. Such a sincere offer can only come from young people who truly appreciate the sacrifices made by veterans of past generations and is extremely satisfying for us to see it.

# Sheldon Evans

Seventy-five years ago, Sheldon Evans returned home after fifty-four months of service with the United States Army. Sheldon joined the Army in May of 1941 and, before being shipped to England in March of 1944, he had become a Sharpshooter, participated in the Army Specialized Training Program and achieved the rank of Sergeant First Class. His overseas duties included service with the Red Ball Express shuttling supplies, fuel and ammunition to Patton's army and servicing trucks during the Battle of the Bulge. He served in Germany until the end of the War. From May until October he remained with his trucking unit, which was utilized to return stolen artwork to Northern Europe. Soon after, he sailed home from Le Havre on a Liberty Ship and was honorably discharged from the Army on November 15, 1945.



From 1954 until 1970, Dr. Sheldon J. Evans was employed by the Mamaroneck School District as Assistant Superintendent for Business Management, handling his duties and responsibilities with the same dedication and efficiency he had shown in the military. Like many who had seen war firsthand, Sheldon never forgot those who made the ultimate sacrifice and Kemper Memorial Park was always a very special place for him. He faithfully attended Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, even in his final years when health issues made it increasingly more difficult. His warm and friendly personality were always evident by his smile. It was impossible to find anyone who didn't like Sheldon and it will be impossible for us to ever forget him.



It is fitting that the plaque honoring Sheldon's military service and his service to the Mamaroneck School District has been placed adjacent to the White Pine Grove and between two newly-planted white pine trees. The grove symbolizes those veterans who returned to our community and continued to grow and thrive here and Sheldon Evans was one of them.



First Sergeant Sheldon Evans and his mother, Minnie Yeager Evans

# New Newsletter Format

The year 2020 has caused us to adjust to different ways of doing things. Among them are the new ways we communicate with each other. Henceforth, one of them will be the way we communicate with our supporters. Rather than keeping you informed through our November and May newsletters, we are transitioning to a streaming format, utilizing our website <https://kempermemorialpark.org>. This will enable us to keep you continually updated about events and activities related to Kemper Memorial Park as well as the ongoing work of the Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund. We encourage you to log in often as new information will constantly be added. In time, the site will even enable you to make virtual visits to the Park.

So, this will be the 25<sup>th</sup> and final edition of our original newsletter format. The first edition debuted in November, 2008 and all of them are now archived on our website. The collection offers a chronological perspective on the Park's evolution and the work that the Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund has done over the years. It's an interesting story and one that we are proud of. We hope you will continue to help us write it.

Sadly, we lost another one of our biggest supporters this year when Sal Ticli passed away on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Sal served as a United States Marine in Vietnam and was awarded a Purple Heart. But the medals that meant most to him were the Silver Star and Purple Heart that were awarded to his best friend and fellow MHS graduate, David Porterfield, who was killed during the Vietnam War. Thanks to Sal's efforts, Mamaroneck High School now has a permanent memorial to the 12 young men from our community who perished in Vietnam. Additionally, Sal created the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Tradition in which Varsity football players honor these young men by wearing bracelets bearing their names, the dates they were killed and the locations of their names on the Vietnam Wall. Part of Sal's legacy will always be that he helped us to REMEMBER. And for that, we will always remember him. Thanks, Sal.



Sal Ticli

# Veterans Day 2020

Honoring all  
our veterans



*Thanks for  
your service*