



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

March 11, 2021

Dear Mayor Bramson and Members of the City Council:

For several years we have been closely following the City of New Rochelle's plans for the New Rochelle Naval Armory. We were pleased to hear that plans were underway to develop the site in a way that would benefit the City of New Rochelle as well as highlight the role the Armory played in our greater community during World War II and help to tell the stories of the individuals who trained there. Now, we are saddened to hear of another controversy regarding this issue.

Over a decade ago, Mamaroneck faced a similar dilemma regarding Kemper Memorial Park, a property that had been donated to the school district with provisions that were agreed to by the district and the donor. New architectural plans were being proposed that would require the district to renege on its promise to maintain the property in its original location. Fortunately, we eventually found a way to meet everyone's needs and still keep the promise to maintain Kemper Memorial Park as the donor had desired. Hence, we now share the pride of ownership of a cherished historic site and a valuable school/community resource. Moreover, we have the satisfaction of knowing that we did the right thing for our veterans and our community.

A historic landmark that should be a source of city pride and a venue for community activities should not be sacrificed solely for profit or for anyone's personal interests.

In this case, as in ours, the original intent of the deed is crucial and adherence to it must be paramount. This should also be obvious to everyone and not clouded by vague promises.

If the opportunity for compromise still exists, we urge New Rochelle to take it so the entire community can reap its benefits.

Sincerely,

Jan Northrup, President  
Kemper Memorial Park Preservation Fund