



Ricky Flores/The Journal News

Retired Army Col. Roland Tiso, the keynote speaker at the Memorial Day ceremony at Kemper Memorial Park in Mamaroneck, places a flag to honor the fallen.

'Shared sacrifice' focus of memorial

Speaker, residents say community support is vital

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MAMARONECK — People shouldn't forget the contributions veterans and active duty personnel have made for this country, retired Col. Roland Tiso said during the community's annual Memorial Day ceremony.

"I would remind each and every one of you in the audience today that you sleep peacefully at night because trained, tough and brave men with guns do not," he said.

The ceremony took place at Richard M. Kemper Memorial Park — a World War II memorial on the grounds of Mamaroneck High School that honors the 99 men and women from Mamaroneck who died during World War II. The park is named after



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Kemper, a Mamaroneck High School graduate killed in action during World War II.

Forty to 50 people attended the event, around a dozen of whom were veterans.

Scarsdale resident Richard Cantor, Kemper's nephew, praised the audience at the event and said more people should have attended.

"One cannot help but notice that there are far too few of us here," he said. "We are at the Mamaroneck High School, in one of the most privileged communities in our nation. But where are all the students? Where are their parents? Where are the teachers? In fact, where are the overwhelming number of residents in our community?"

A common theme the speakers during the event emphasized was "shared sacrifice," asking residents to show stronger support for veterans in the armed servic-

es and those on active duty.

Tiso was the event's keynote speaker and is a former Pelham resident. He retired in 2004 after 31 years of service in the Army.

Others speaking during the event included Richard Marsico, vice president of the school district's Board of Education.

Marsico described the high school as the "perfect setting" for the ceremony.

"Many of the honored people on this monument attended Mamaroneck High School," he said. "As we all know, many of them were star athletes at the high school. ... The public education system that these honored men fought for is here to help the children of our society learn to become productive citizens."

Elected officials speaking during the ceremony included village Mayor Norm Rosenblum, town Supervisor Valerie O'Keeffe and Larchmont Mayor Josh Mandell.