Meeting Date: October 28, 2013
Agenda Item No:

Kitsap County Board of Commissioners		
Office/Department: Commissioners **Staff Contact & Phone Number:** Rebecca Pirtle (360) 337-4650 Lori Raymaker (360) 337-5372 **Agenda Item Title: PRESENTATION OF OUTSTANDING COUNTY GOVERNMENT VOLUNTEER AWARD TO MARION "MICK" HERSEY**		
Recommended Action: Present Outstanding County Government Volunteer Award to Mick Hersey.		
Summary:	Marion "Mick" Hersey has taken it upon himself to volunteer to refurbish Veterans' memorials at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds, Port Orchard Veterans Memorial Park and others throughout the county. He has solicited donations of supplies needed to complete the restorations and coordinated active military members to help in the effort. With over 35,000 veterans living in Kitsap County, cleaning up and restoring memorials brings honor and dignity again to these symbols that recognize their service and past generations of service men and women. Mr. Hersey was nominated for the Outstanding County Government Volunteer Award by Parks Stewardship Coordinator Lori Raymaker.	
Attachments:	Resolution Nomination form and supplemental narrative Information from Mick Hersey about Port Orchard Veterans Memorial Park Bofor gun restoration project he led	

Fiscal Impact for this Specific Action	
Expenditure required for this specific action:	NA
Related Revenue for this specific action:	NA
Cost Savings for this specific action:	NA
Net Fiscal Impact:	NA
Source of Funds:	NA
Fiscal Impact for Total Project	
Project Costs:	NA
Project Costs Savings:	NA
Project Related Revenue:	NA
Project Net Total:	NA

Fiscal Impact (DAS) Review

Departmental/Office Review & Coordination

Department/Office	Representative	Recommendation/Comments
Commissioners	Rebecca Pirtle	Approve

Outstanding County Government Volunteer Award Nomination Form

Name of Nominator Lori Raymaker

County Department/Division or Agency Kitsap County Parks

Phone # 5372 E-mail Address Lraymaker@co.kitsap.wa.us

Nominee - Tell us about your nominee:

Name of Volunteer/s: Marion (Mick) Hersey

Volunteer Program or Position: Historical Memorial Preservationist

Street Address: _____

City: Bremerton Zip Code __ Phone # _____

E-mail Address: _____

Nominee's Story:

Please share your nominee's volunteer story. In 500 words or less please answer the following questions (attach a separate page to this form, please):

ACTION: What does your nominee do?

NEED: What county goal or community need does your nominee address?

IMPACT: What is different as a result of your nominee's service?

INSPIRATION: What makes your nominee unique or special?

Submit your nomination:

Please e-mail or mail this completed form along with your nominee's story of service to Kitsap County Volunteer Services at rpirtle@co.kitsap.wa.us, 614 Division St. MS-4, Port Orchard, WA 98366 or call Rebecca Pirtle, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at (360) 337-4650 for more information.

Marion (Mick) Hersey, Retired U.S. Navy MSCS(AW)
Historical Memorial Preservationist

Nominated by Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Stewardship Coordinator Lori Raymaker

I was first introduced to Mick when he was working with refurbishing Veteran's memorials at the Fairgrounds. It only takes a couple of minutes talking to Mick to realize what an extraordinary and dedicated person he is. Mick has taken it upon himself to refurbish all of the Veteran's Memorials in Kitsap County. Along with refurbishing the memorials, Mick has developed a brochure on the Veteran's Memorials and Museums in Kitsap County. His goal: "to honor our Veterans by preserving the past and thanking those that are still serving, as we remember and honor our Patriots as well."

Mick began on this quest of honoring our Veterans three years ago, when on his days off from work he used to walk to the Manette Bridge and then down to the Marina. As he did so, he noticed a Monument on the Manette side that was completely covered by brush. It was a Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) monument to remember the first school and a Indian Lodge that used to be on the site. He assisted DAR in cleaning back the brush and then cleaned the Plaque and restored it. Then he also noticed all of the Memorial plaques that are on the Boardwalk that were faded and not legible. With the assistance of his niece they redid all 350 plaques. That was the start of his quest over the next 3 years to refurbish the memorials throughout Kitsap County. Not only did Mick seek out memorials to refurbish, he also solicited assistance from local hardware stores for supplies, active sailors from Naval Hospital Bremerton, USS Ronald Reagan and USS John C. Stennis to provide the labor, and restaurants for food and snacks to keep them all going!

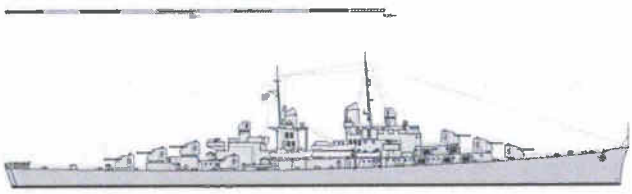
Along with refurbishing our memorials, Mick, as the Sons of the American Revolution flag chairman, thanks those in our community for flying their flags properly. During one of his presentations to a proper flag flyer, John Druse (Bud) Hawk, he discovered that Bud was one of the nine remaining World War II Medal of Honor recipients. To listen to Mick's story of that encounter will bring tears to your eyes as you realize the honor that Mick's passion bestows on our local Veterans and Patriots.

Port Orchard Veterans Memorial Park

40 MM Bofors Guns

A set of 40MM Bofors guns get refurbished by the USS Stennis and CSG-3 FCPOs and CPOs during their CPO/365 program. The project was coordinated by Lori Raymaker, Kitsap Parks Steward, Mick Hersey, Veteran's Memorial Preservationist and AOC (AW/SW) John Clark USS Stennis CVN-74 CPO/365 COMREL projects coordinator.

During refurbishment, a retired sailor and shipyard worker stopped by and gave us a little history of the area. The Park was once Navy and Shipyard Housing area for the workers in WWII. After the area was torn down in the early 1980s the area was turned into a park and this set of guns once belonging to the USS Flint CL-97 were brought here and placed as a Memorial to Veterans. The USS Flint was decommissioned here in Bremerton in 1947.



USS Flint reported to the 3rd Fleet for duty at Ulithi on 27 December 1944, and six days later, sailed with Task Force 38 (TF 38) for a month-long cruise in support of the invasion of Luzon. She screened aircraft carriers as they launched strikes on Luzon, Taiwan, and the China coast, and fired protective anti-aircraft cover during a Japanese *kamikaze* attack on 21 January 1945. Replenishing at Ulithi from 26 January to 10 February, *Flint* then sailed with newly designated TF 38 for air strikes on Tokyo preceding the attack on Iwo Jima. Her force arrived off Iwo Jima on 21 February to fly air support for the Marines who had landed two days previously, and *Flint* returned to Ulithi 12 March for a brief 2 days of replenishment.

Putting to sea with TF 58 for strikes against Kyūshū in preparation for the invasion of Okinawa, *Flint* aided in bringing down several airplanes in heavy attacks on the task force from 18 to 22 March. The task force then closed Okinawa, and *Flint* with other cruisers bombarded beach installations in preparation for the landings on 1 April. Aside from the period of 14–24 May, when she was at Ulithi for upkeep, *Flint* operated off Okinawa until 13 June, when she anchored in Leyte Gulf.

Flint sortied from Leyte on 1 July to screen the final air attacks on the Japanese home islands and to join the bombardment of the east coast of Honshū until the cessation of hostilities. On 24 August, she took station off Nii Shima to serve as rescue ship and homing station for transport planes carrying occupation troops to Japan. From 10 to 15 September, she lay in Tokyo Bay, then sailed with a carrier task force to provide air and sea surveillance of Central Honshū until 21 September.

The cruiser made a voyage from Japan to Eniwetok, then loaded homeward bound servicemen at Yokosuka on 13 October, bringing them into San Francisco Bay on 28 November. After sailing to Kwajalein to bring home more servicemen eligible for discharge, *Flint* reported at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington on 11 January 1946, and there was placed out of commission in reserve at Bremerton on 6 May 1947.

A big Navy BZ for our Sponsors and company's that donated Goods and Materials

East Bremerton Lowe's Hardware
Port Orchard McClendon's Hardware
Buck's A & W Restaurant
Port Orchard KFC Restaurant
Port Orchard VFW Fred Needham Post 2669

To the crewmembers of the USS Stennis and their families that helped make the restoration a reality to restore these guns to honor and dignity, I say thank you from this Retired Navy Veteran.

Kitsap County Veterans Memorials and Museums

Written and researched by Marion T, (Mick) Hersey, MSCS(AW) USN Retired, Historical Memorial Preservationist
Layout assistance and editing by Leif Bentsen

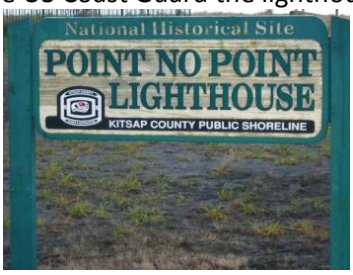
I would like to cordially invite you to view the Memorials and Museums to Veterans throughout Kitsap County. Over the past year I have led groups in refurbishing and cleaning up a lot of these sites. When I started this project I did not realize there were so many memorials and museums in our county.

We will start in the northern area of our County:

North Kitsap County

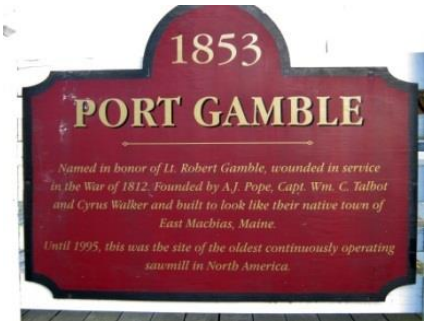
Hansville

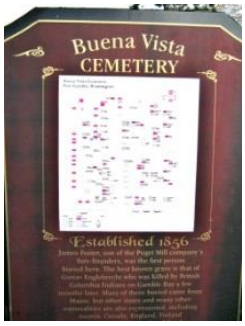
The most northern memorial is at Kitsap County Point No Point Lighthouse & Park near Hansville. Originally staffed by the US Coast Guard the lighthouse is now a museum and the home of the US Lighthouse Society.



Port Gamble

Port Gamble is named after Lt. Robert Gamble wounded in the War of 1812. A memorial in the cemetery here lists Gustave Englebrecht of the USS Massachusetts being killed in the French & Indian War in Port Gamble. The cemetery is located at NE Walker and Pacific.





Suquamish

A few miles sound in the center of Suquamish you will find the Suquamish Veterans Memorial, dedicated on Veterans Day, 2010.

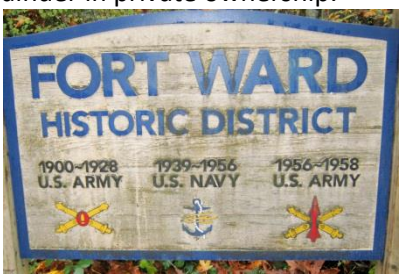
Bainbridge Island

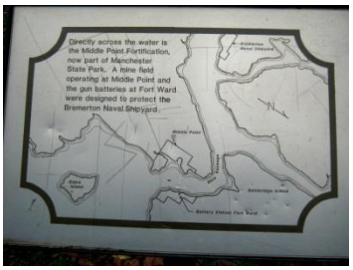
Bainbridge Island is named after Commodore William Bainbridge. On Bainbridge Island you will find three items of interest when following our tribute to Veterans.

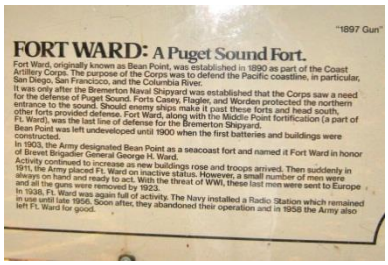
The first memorial to our Veterans is at Bainbridge Memorial Field located at Bainbridge High School at 9330 NE High School Road.

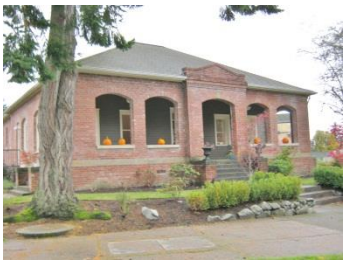
Next on the island is a memorial to one of the most controversial events to happen in the US during World War II. Located at Pritchard Park, 4192 Eagle Harbor Drive, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial is dedicated to all of the Bainbridge citizens who were forcibly sent to internment camps due to their Japanese descent.

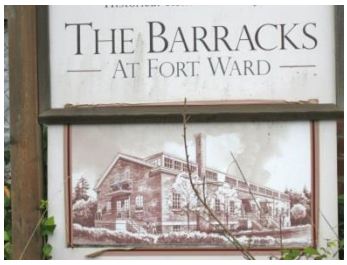
Finally, on the island's southern end at 2241Pleasant Beach Drive NE are the remnants of Fort Ward, an Army fort from the late 1800s and then a Navy installation during WWII. Most of the grounds have been turned into Fort Ward Park, with the remainder in private ownership.

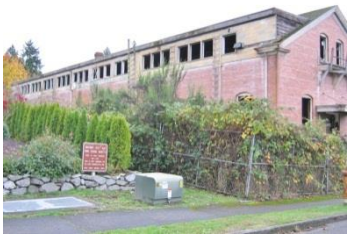












Poulsbo

On the Poulsbo waterfront in Liberty Bay Park is a WWI & WWII Memorial that used to be in front of the National Guard Armory, which was torn down. Next to it is a large anchor and plaque honoring all Veterans.

Keyport

Heading south on Hwy 3, take the Keyport exit. To your right is the main gate to Naval Base Kitsap/Bangor Submarine base where eight of our nation's submarines are homeported. But don't turn right unless you have a pass! Turn left and head west towards Keyport and you will arrive at the Naval Undersea Museum. (Admission is free.) Explore the museum and learn about life under the sea, torpedoes and underwater exploration. Just across the street as you leave you will see an anchor at Saltwater Park. I am still researching this one from 1942.

Central Kitsap County

Silverdale

Next down the highway to the south is the unincorporated area called Silverdale. Just off Hwy 3, enter on Silverdale Way and go through the retail/commercial area. At the last stop light where Silverdale Way becomes two lanes turn left onto Byron. At the end of the road in Waterfront Park is the Kitsap County Veterans Memorial dedicated in 2004 and a WWI Memorial Obelisk.

On the outskirts of Silverdale you will find a memorial to the Veterans at the Legend Harley Davidson Dealership at 9625 Provost Road.

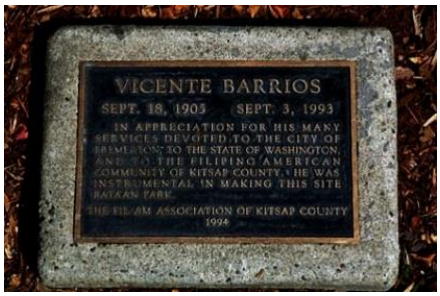
Fairgrounds area

Blue Star Highway Memorial Marker is just before you turn to go to the Kitsap County Fairgrounds at 7601 Tracyton Blvd. It was placed in 1988 to honor our Veterans by the Garden Club and is adjacent to the J.A. & Anna F. Smith Park.

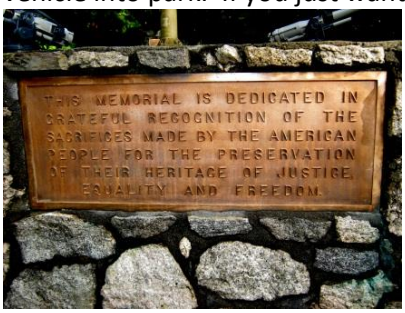
On the County Fairgrounds, 1200 Fairgrounds Road, you will find the Korean War Memorial as you turn into the Presidents Hall parking area.

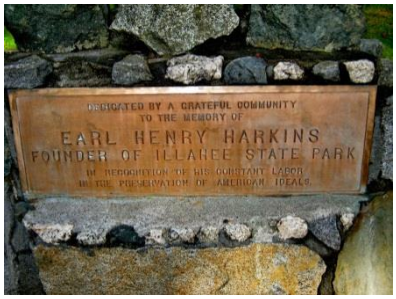
Bremerton

Leaving the Korean War Memorial, head east on Fairgrounds Road to HWY 303 and turn right. Proceed south for about 2.5 miles, turn left onto Sylvan Way and head up the hill. On the corner of Sylvan Way and Olympus Blvd is Bataan Park in honor of the survivors of the Bataan Death March.

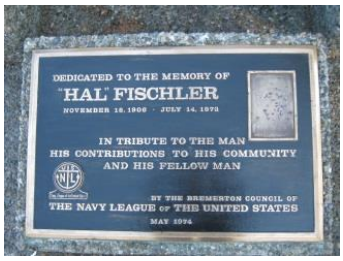


About one mile east on Sylvan Way you will arrive at Illahee Park. At the park entrance there is a set of 5"/51 guns off of the USS West Virginia, (BB-48).There are two plaques, one honors of all who have served this country; the other plaque is to Mr. Earle Henry Harkins, shipyard worker and first caretaker of the park. A state park pass is required to drive your vehicle into park. If you just want to view the memorial, park on an adjacent street and walk in.

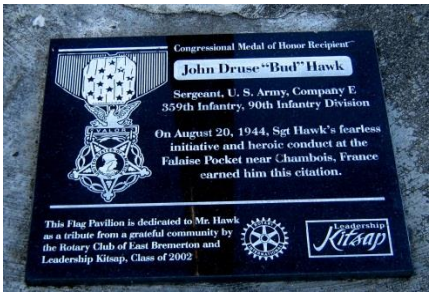




Leaving the park, take Sylvan back to HWY 303 (Wheaton Way), turn left and go to the next traffic light. Turn left (don't go over the bridge) onto Sheridan Ave and then an immediate right to Hal's Corner. There are two sets of 40MM Bofors guns off of the USS West Virginia and an anchor from USS Bremerton. The park is in honor of Hal Fischler founding father of the Navy League in Bremerton.



After you view Hal's Corner continue down Old Wheaton Way (not over the bridge) about eight blocks and turn right onto Lebo Blvd. Passing under the bridge, a couple of blocks down you will see Lent's Landing Park. During World War II, a barge-type ferry would pull up to the dock to shuttle residents of Sheridan Park housing to the shipyard. Lent Landing was named for the family of Ernest B. Lent. It is in this pocket park that a flag pavilion and plaque have been dedicated to our living Medal of Honor recipient, John Druse (Bud) Hawk.



Proceed back on Lebo Blvd, just before the bridge, turn left onto Juniper and follow the signs that take you across the bridge. Immediately get in the left lane, and take the first left at the end of the bridge onto 17th street. Go two blocks and turn right onto Park Ave. At 1400 Park Avenue is Evergreen Rotary Park. In the park next to the boat launch is a World War I Memorial with 40MM saluting guns (Mark V & Mark 11) off of USS West Virginia and bronze plaques listing Bremerton service members who lost their lives in the Great War.

Return to Park Ave. and head south to 11th Street. Turn right; go two blocks and up the small hill. Just past the crest of the hill, turn right onto Ohio Street. Proceed past the next stop sign to the corner of 15th and Ohio. On your left is Bremerton High School Memorial Stadium dedicated to all who have served; and entrance to the Path of Freedom Memorial. This memorial chronicles all Kitsap County citizens who have lost their lives in combat during World War I through contemporary times.

From the Path of Freedom, reverse your direction on Ohio and turn right on 13th Street. Go about eight blocks on 13th and turn right onto Naval Ave and the entrance to the Ivy Green Cemetery. Located here is a replica of the Tomb of the Unknown with Remembrance Ribbon path and reflecting wall. Also interned here is Medal of Honor recipient and Civil War veteran, QM John Nibbe. Many Veterans are buried throughout this cemetery; group plots include veterans from the Spanish-American War, Grand Army of the Republic (Union Army, Civil War) and those Missing in Action from the USS Saratoga.

Leaving Ivy Green on Naval Avenue, proceed south to 11th and turn right, go to Kitsap Way and head west, pass under Hwy 3 and on the hillside to your left is Miller-Woodlawn Memorial Park. The Mast and Yardarm from USS Bremerton is located near the funeral chapel. Several Veterans are buried here.

Just past the cemetery on the right side at 6002 Kitsap Way is NAD Soroptomists Park. Here you will find Boy Scout headquarters and an F-8H Crusader jet from the Viet Nam Era.

When we started on this 2 years ago it was in a very distressed condition and as of this August 2013 it has been preserved and repainted in its last flying colors of VF-111 from the USS Shangri-la CV-38.

Returning to downtown Bremerton, take Kitsap Way to the Washington State Ferry Terminal. At the foot of Pacific Ave, next to the terminal you will find Harborside Fountain Park, which includes the Puget Sound Navy Museum,(Admission is free) and the sail from USS Parche. Adjacent to the park is the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Memorial Plaza dedicated to shipyard workers and shipyard founder, Lt. Ambrose Wycoff. On the other side of the ferry terminal is the Louis B. Mentor Boardwalk. The boardwalk includes the memorial for the USS Franklin CV-13, the Vietnam icon USS Turner Joy, and at the end of the marina stands the Lone Sailor Statue.

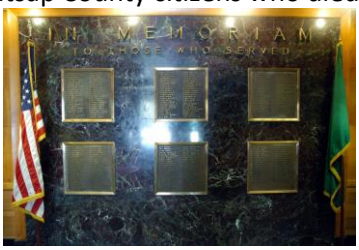
As you leave Bremerton heading to Port Orchard, on the left side of the road is 4 Vietnam era aircraft carriers. USS Ranger, USS Independence, USS Kitty Hawk and USS Constellation. Just before you get on Highway 3 on the right is View Point Park. It is at the end of McCall Blvd. It was developed by the Westside Improvement Club in1976. The Anchor from the USS Norton Sound is the centerpiece overlooking Puget Sound Nava Shipyard and Dyes Inlet.

South Kitsap County

Port Orchard

As you drive into Port Orchard, you will see a flagpole in the center of the traffic triangle in front of City Hall. It has a Veterans plaque dedicated to those who have served. Across the street is a MK 48 Torpedo next to the boat launch.

At the flag pole, head up the steep hill. At the top you will come to the Kitsap County Courthouse. The Courthouse foyer wall has a memorial with plaques honoring individual Kitsap County citizens who died during WWII.



In Downtown Port Orchard at 825 Bay Street is the Veterans Living History Museum. It is one man's collection of all the prior wars and conflicts. He also has a display of many of the County's Medal of Honor recipients. Admission is free.

A block away from the museum, located in the park along the waterfront is the Veterans Wall. Dedicated on July 4, 2012, the wall has the names of living and deceased veterans.

Retsil

Just outside of Port Orchard, At 985 Retsil Road SE, is the Kitsap County Veterans Memorial Park with a marker honoring South Kitsap residents who Lost their lives in Vietnam and another set of 40 MM Bofors guns.

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Bofars guns getting repainted, refurbished

Sailors from the USS Stennis will repaint and refurbish a set of Bofors guns at the Veterans Memorial Park on Retsil Drive. It is part of the COMREL (community relations) project.

The sailors will begin at 9:30 p.m. and work until the project is completed.

This is the first memorial being accomplished by CPO/365 program in the U.S. Navy in the area.

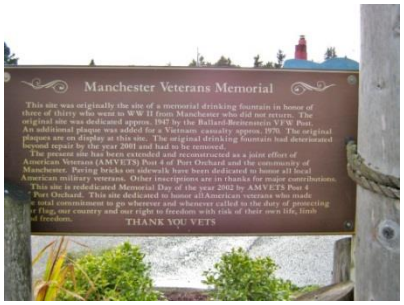
Meals for the sailors will be provided by Buck's A&W, Kentucky Fried Chicken, VFW and Vlist Motors. Paint and materials are being provided by Lowe's and McClendon Hardware of Port Orchard.

The Bofors was a 40-mm anantiaircraft/multi-purpose auto-cannon designed in the 1930s by the Swedisharms manufacturer AB Bofors.

A short distance away at 1141 Beach Drive, Retsil, is the Washington Veterans Home dedicating to helping our elderly and disabled veterans. In addition to the veterans home 0n the31 acre campus Are two obelisks honoring veterans from Civil War and Spanish-American wars, transitional housing for homeless veterans, and a Washington St Veteran Service Center which helps all veterans.

The Veterans Home Cemetery is to the east on both sides of 900 Olney Dr SE. An Army Medal of Honor recipient Gotfred Jensen from the Spanish-American War is buried here. There are three obelisks located in this cemetery honoring veterans of the Spanish American War, the Civil War, And Veterans from all Wars.

Farther southeast in Manchester is another Veterans memorial on the corner of Colchester and Main honoring WWII and Vietnam Veterans. Across the street is a flagpole in honor of CDR Joseph Robert Bow.



So you can see that we need to honor our Veterans by preserving the past and thanking those that are still serving as we remember and honor our Patriots as well.