



BOOK OF
GRATITUDE
★
HONOR



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



VETERANS DAY



ARMY • NAVY • MARINES • AIR FORCE • COAST GUARD



LISLE VETERANS MEMORIAL

DEDICATED TO ALL THE
MEN AND WOMEN
WHO HAVE
FAITHFULLY SERVED
IN THE ARMED FORCES
OF OUR
GREAT NATION

So Long As There Are Veterans.....We Will Never Forget



REMEMBER ★ & HONOR OUR VETERANS



“On Veterans Day we honor all,
Who answered to a service call.
Soldiers young, and soldiers old,
Fought for freedom, brave and bold.
Some have lived, while others died,
All of them deserve our pride.
We’re proud of all the soldiers who,
Kept thinking of red, white and blue.
They fought for us and all our rights,
They fought through many days and nights.
And though we may not know each name,
We thank ALL VETERANS just the same.”

On this Veterans Day, let us remember the service of our veterans, and let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free.



He used to say a Great American was born today....every year....on June 29th. He was born on that date in 1928 and he was right, a great American was born that day. Robert Paul Salamon Jr. was a great American that took so much pride in serving his country in the Army during the Korean War. He carried that honor and pride with him the rest of his life.

Robert was a great son to his parents, Robert Sr. and Mildred, and a fantastic brother to his 3 sisters. He was known as being a bit mischievous in his younger years, but he was always known as a great and dedicated student and agile athlete. He loved playing football at Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, PA. He later attended Pitt University.

When he was drafted he didn't hesitate for a second, he said goodbye to his parents and the love of his life, Dorothy, at Pittsburgh International Airport and flew off to Ft. Leonard Wood near St. Robert, MO, then Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, CO and finally Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks, Alaska. After completing training he returned home to marry Dorothy as he awaited his assignment. Shortly after returning from his honeymoon he received his orders, he was being sent to Germany. He said his goodbyes to his loved ones once again, including his mom and dad, but it was unknown to him at that time that he would never get to speak with his dad again. Robert Sr., passed away from a massive heart attack while his only son was stationed far from home. The government was unable to get Jay (the nickname his family gave him) home for his Dad's funeral but he received an honorable discharge from the Army and returned home shortly thereafter to become the man of the house. He also returned to school to further his academic knowledge and worked full time to take care of his wife, mother and his sisters while they attended and graduated from high school.

Bob and Dottie adopted two daughters, Connie and Nadine, and gave them an incredible childhood and life. In 1970 his company transferred their family from Pittsburgh to the Chicago area and they decided Lisle would be a great place to have their girl's spend their teenage years. They bought a home in Beau Bien and it remains a Salamon family home to this day as his daughter now owns it. Among the many, many things he achieved over the years he served as President of the Beau Bien Homeowners Association, owned the Convenient Food Mart on Hobson Road in Woodridge and then was proprietor of vending machines that were located in child care centers throughout DuPage County. Even though he suffered from many physical problems throughout the years he overcame the health issues and gave everything he did his all.

Robert had met Dorothy when he was in 1st grade and she in 2nd, they knew each other for almost their whole lives and adored each other. They had married on July 22, 1950 as he was being sent overseas. He lost his beloved Dottie Mae in November of 2010 and he passed in January of 2011. They were married for 60 years and they passed just 7 weeks from each other....they never spent a wedding anniversary apart. The Dr. at the VA said he passed away from a broken heart. They are buried together at the nearby Lisle Cemetery. I think Nicholas Sparks may have had them in mind when he wrote the story "The Notebook". I'm pretty sure they will be watching over the dedication of the memorial together.

I would like to thank everyone involved for all of your hard work in making this beautiful memorial happen and for giving our loved ones a place to be honored in Lisle. I hope you know that ALL of your efforts are greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank all of our Lisle Veteran's and also their families for all the sacrifices you had to make while serving our country and for bravely defending us against harm!

God Bless the United States of America!!!

Nadine Salamon



Robert Paul Salamon Jr.
1928-2011

Ron Bauman was an 18 year old enlistee from Rutland, Illinois. Today he is an 89 year old World War II veteran living in Decatur, Illinois. Over seventy years ago, he journeyed across the ocean ready for combat in Europe. By the time his ship landed, the war had ended. He spent the next two years traveling throughout Europe to help with the postwar rebuilding.

Ron has four grandchildren and three great grandchildren living in this area. We hope to make visiting his brick and honoring our Veterans a recurring family event. Thank you for the opportunity to lend our support.

Judy Bauman



Captain Dean A. Bitner, United States Air Force

When my family and I found out the Lisle Park District's Partner for Parks was building a Veteran's Memorial we couldn't pass up this wonderful opportunity to share our thoughts regarding my dad, as well as grandfather to Taylor and Matt.

Captain Dean A. Bitner served in the United States Air Force flying C-130 Hercules from May 1959 through August 1966. His outstanding service for our country, as with all military families, is one of the hardest to live yet the most rewarding one could ever know. We are forever grateful for the sacrifices he made for our country, and still makes today as a loving father and grandfather.

Dean is an outstanding member of his community, a loving and giving father to myself and my family. His generosity as a grandfather (Papa) far surpasses anyone I know. Along with his quick wit, endearing charm, and contagious personality he truly is one of a kind. We're blessed to have him around to this day to give us all a run for our money.

God Bless you, Dad and Papa! We love you!

Debbie & Tim Dunne

Taylor & Jeff Calaway

Matt Dunne

American Heroes

1st Generation Americans, born to Italian immigrant parents, Frank and Rose Volpe.
Three brothers all served in WWII.

Nicholas: U.S. Army

Joseph: U.S. Air Force

James: U.S. Navy

An excerpt from a letter home...

Friday Night
18 August 44

"Hi Gang,"

Guess your all wondering what's happened to me by this time. Well I've left Calif. again and this time I've wound up in Nevada.

Tonight, I was assigned to a crew as a "nose gunner."

a bunch of swell guys and each crew stuck together like a bunch of brothers. That's from the pilot down to the last gunner. Why if a man gets in a fight here his whole crew from pilot down, gets in on it. That's how close a crew sticks together. It's one of the swellest experiences in a guys life. One that a guys will never forget! It's rather hard to explain, so I just won't try to attempt it any further.

Well, I'll have to close for now because it's almost time for lights out. I'll write more later. My address is:

Cpl. Joseph Volpe - 20607152
422nd A.A.F. BU.
Squad. T - II
T.A.A.F.
Tonopah, Nevada

Good - bye now and don't worry.

(Joe)

The Family of Joseph Volpe, our Beloved Father & Hero



On behalf of the family of John A. Cook, Sr. and his son, John A. Cook, we would like to express our gratitude to the Lisle Park District and the Lisle Veterans Memorial Committee for creating a new memorial for the Lisle military veterans. This new memorial is fittingly located near the Lisle Cemetery and the Lisle Museum Campus, but also easily accessible to seniors and the disabled.

John A. Cook, Sr., was a Tech Sgt. in World War II and served with the 96th Division in the Pacific Region. Growing up, dad told us stories of his leaving his mother and siblings in his "old neighborhood" in Chicago to join the Army. The stories of hardships, war, and the friendships he made during his time in the Army were never far from what Dad was made of. His patriotism was ingrained in each of us four kids and passed on to dad's five grandchildren.

Dad was actively involved in the Lisle VFW Post 5696 and served as Commander for a number of years. He ordered the rifles from the U.S. Government and helped form the first Honor Guard for the Lisle VFW Post. Dad also joined the Lisle Volunteer Fire Department and was an active member, responding to calls and helping start a cadet program for young firefighters. John A. Cook, Sr. was born to serve his family, his country and his community.

Our brother, John, served as a Specialist 4th Class, 25th Infantry Division Artillery in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. After basic training in Ft. Leonard Wood, MO., John went to Ft. Sill, OK., for artillery training and then to Vietnam for 16 months. It was a turbulent time in American history and John's return home was quite different from returning WWII vets, but our pride in John's military service is unmatched.

On behalf of our Mom, Gladys Cook, thank you to Don Cook, president of the Lisle Park District, and the Lisle Veterans Memorial Committee for the new, prominent memorial to Lisle's Veterans.

Dick & Janet (Cook) Wilmoth

John A. Cook

Donald & Tracey (Wolf) Cook

Daniel Cook

GRANDCHILDREN:

Jannine & Jori Wilmoth

Heather (Cook) Bland & Allie Bland

Carla & D.J. Cook



On behalf of the family of Timothy W. Cook and his son, Timothy J., I would like to express gratitude to the Lisle Park District and the Lisle Veteran Memorial Committee for creating a new memorial to Lisle military veterans. I notice this new memorial will be located with easy access for all.

Timothy W. Cook was married, with a son, when he was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II. He was released with a medical discharge and received a purple heart. He never talked about those days in the Army, yet even as children we saw a change in him around the Fourth of July when firecrackers were going off. It was obvious to us that he was reminded of his time in the war. We were raised to have respect for all veterans and military regardless of branch, as well as respect for the American flag.

I am extremely pleased with the attention to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder provided by the military today, as I believe it is crucial to our veterans.

Dad worked for a company affected by a strike and during that time he took those three months to begin building our home in Lisle. He and his two brothers built our entire new home on Front Street.

My brother, Timothy J. Cook, was drafted into the U.S. Army, was sent to Germany and worked in a post office. His children often mention that he talked about his time in the military with a sense of pride.

On behalf of the family members that have already passed, as well as myself and the children of Timothy J., I want to thank the Lisle Park District and the Lisle Veterans Memorial Committee for this new memorial to Lisle Veterans.

La Verne V. Cook (daughter to Timothy W. & sister to Timothy J.)

Timothy J.'s Children: Angela (Cook) & Al Grisse

Shannon & Ann (McCormick) Cook

Joel Cook & his Grandchildren: Christian Cook, Briana Cook & Will Grisse



- Edward J Burris, Jr.: Army WWII
- Robert Derdzinski: US Navy, WWII – South Pacific
- Lucy Johnson (Derdzinski): US Navy, WWII - WAVE
- Oscar “Ozzie” Kremer: US Navy, WWII – Plank Holder, USS Cleveland
- Robert Newman: Army Staff Sergeant, WWII – Bronze Star Recipient
- Nello “Leo” Rotelli: US Navy, WWII
- David Sewing: Army T5, WWII - 640th Combat EN
- Robert Lubek: US Navy, USS Hollister
- Edward J. Burris, III: Army, Vietnam – 2 Purple Hearts
- Daniel Burris: Army Sergeant, 1973 – 1976
- Paul Derdzinski: Army Staff Sergeant, Iraq Afghanistan War
- Ryan Daniel Burris: US Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class, OEF – ET2/Seal Team 7
- Steve Derdzinski: US Navy, Present Day – Corpsman

We come from a rich history of men and women who are dedicated to ensuring the right of freedom for our country. You will find listed above members of our family who have served, or are currently serving, in the US Military for our Great Nation.

Several of our older family members have passed away over the years, but recently we have lost an important member of our family while he was in service for our country. We are proud, humbled and grateful to call these brave heroes family, remembering that each and every one of them signed the figurative blank check that said they would be willing to do whatever they could to guarantee our freedom, up to and including giving up their life.

Our hope is that through Veteran Memorials like the one in our town of Lisle, others will be made aware of, taught and encouraged to stand up for what the United States of America is all about, and be ready to do the same for our future generations to keep our country free.

Dan and Karen Burris & Family

In Loving Memory of Ryan Daniel Burris: 6/8/91 – 5/21/15



At age 17, Fair received a congressional appointment to enter the Naval Academy Preparatory School to begin his Coast Guard career. Over the next twenty years he proudly served his country participating in multiple drug interdictions, search and rescues and securing of maritime borders including a tour of duty in Bahrain as part of defense readiness. He received his Juris Doctor Degree and served as legislative counsel in the office of congressional affairs representing the U.S. Coast Guard. He achieved Commander ranking before retiring in 2016. We are extremely proud of all of Fair's achievements and contributions to our country.

Soo, Bruce & Ty Howell

Richard & Grace Kim



The children of Tom and Bob Vodicka chose to support the Lisle Veterans Memorial because we wanted to honor our fathers' service to the country as navy veterans. But, we also wanted to honor them for their service and involvement in the local community. The Vodicka brothers came to Lisle in 1948 with their parents, Anton and Marie. They settled and raised their families here. Both brothers were active in St. Joan of Arc parish activities for many years. They were also members of the Loyal Order of the Moose and leaders in the Boy Scouts of America. Bob is still involved in the Lisle Heritage Society!

The Vodicka Children

Tom: Tom, Tony, Ted, Anna Marie, & Frank

Bob: Theresa, Bob, Joe, Chuck, Chris, Mary & Denise



When, we first heard about the opportunity to have a brick placed in a monument for our father, we were all for it. Our father has been a resident of Lisle for 43 years, after living in at least 7 different locations. He is still an active member of United Methodist Church and goes to the Park District Fitness Center. Three of his five children graduated from Lisle High School and three grandkids have also graduated from Lisle High School. He has taught us the meaning of honor and duty to our country. We want to have a permanent memorial for the next generations to visit and remember what our dad has done for them.

***Thank you,
The Fultz Family***

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

RESPECT THE FLAG – LOVE THE FLAG – FLY THE FLAG

Our beautiful flag represents:

Red – For the blood we shed in foreign lands

White – For the peace we helped other countries attain

Blue – For the beautiful blue sky that surrounds us all and brings us together

As a resident of Lisle, I choose to participate in this memorial because I believe everyone in our community should be aware of the sacrifices that our military brothers and sisters have made.

I am a very patriotic man. I love this great country. I fly the flag everyday. I believe every household in America should be flying the American flag in honor of all the men and women who served and sacrificed for this country.

It was my honor to have served in Korea from 1953 – 1955. I have many sad memories of those times. I will never forget seeing the fields of crosses representing the heroes that never came home. But, I also have many fond and funny memories of the men and women I served with.

PFC. ITALO A. BOVE



The men, women, sons and daughters who are named at this memorial represent courage, love and commitment to country, family and all who reside in the United States.

This visual display is an everlasting dedication; we have brought to fruition, as a testament and reminder of their selflessness.

The generations to come will visit and reflect. My father and all who are here in memory serve, as a reminder freedom is not free.

I am so glad to be a part of this dedication.

Joanne Lazarski

Robert F. Decoste

David A. Decoste

Supporting the VFW and helping to create a Memorial to our vets is easy. I honor those who served and I want to do something that will insure we don't ever forget their sacrifice or that of their loved ones. My cousin David and I share a brick at this memorial.

My cousin and I had a lot a fun as boys, mischief was one of our many talents. You can imagine the time we shared at family reunions and especially wedding receptions. You're much funnier when you're all dressed-up. Those were the days.

Soon the days turned to night, the boys to men and then veterans. By the time I was 20, David just 19 he had made the ultimate sacrifice - he was killed in action in Vietnam, January 20, 1968. I'm grateful for being allowed to call him "cousin", I honor his service to country and I know I will never forget David for his namesake is my son.

Robert F. Decoste



My family is an immigrant family. Our children are first generation in this country. We are very thankful for all that we have accomplished and are able to enjoy by living in this country. We have taught our children to be grateful and respectful of their life and freedoms, as well as humble and charitable. 9-11 changed lot of peoples lives in many ways, including my oldest son's life. After that day, at the young age of 7, our son Jorge told us that one day he was going to join the military to make sure that those things wouldn't happen anymore. As parents we worried for his safety and we tried to persuade him not to go, although we understood his motivation. In time he did join the Marines. Now he is a VETERAN. His military story had a good ending; unfortunately that is not the case for many. Having lived this military experience with our son, it was filled with sacrifice and emotional moments for him and our family. For all men and women far and near, including our son CORPORAL JORGE L. ORTIZ-REMIGIO who wrote a blank check of service made payable to "The United States of America" for an amount of "up to and including THEIR LIFE" deserves to be thanked, remembered and honored. This is why we decided to support and participate in making the memorial a reality.

In honor of all Veterans and their families, Thank you for your service!

Abigail, Maria Julio, Angie Remigio, & Jorge Ortiz

Robert E. Munson Jr.

Heroically served in the Air Force. Bravely fought in Desert Storm. Proudly Serves the Lisle Police Department. Loved by Brai, MaKenzie, Noah, and Addylin.

"There are not words big enough. There is not a hug strong enough. There is not a smile wide enough. All I can offer is thank you. You are my hero. You are in my thoughts. You are in my prayers. For all you've done, thank you!"

Brai Munson



As new Lisle residents, we were very excited to learn about the plans to construct the Lisle Veterans Memorial. We are so glad we got here in time to publicly share our deep gratitude to all who have, do, and will serve our great country and guarantee us the many freedoms that we enjoy each day.

We will pass the memorial daily, visit it frequently, and each time be reminded to thank all our American heroes.

John and Cindi Aber (10/1/16)



I chose to participate in the memorial for two reasons. I am thrilled at the opportunity to honor my Dad. He died when I was 12; I never had the chance to let him know how proud I am of him for serving our country during World War II. This gives me such a wonderful feeling of connection to my Dad and that important part of his life.

As a Lisle resident, I am very pleased that our community has put the extensive efforts and plans to create such an honorable memorial. This memorial will function as a key landmark in Lisle for many generations to come - I am fortunate to be a small part in that.

Thank you to everyone that is making the Lisle Veterans Memorial a reality.

Pat Coughlin

My daughter and I purchased a brick for Thomas J. Rockney (née Szachnitowski) in honor of his service to our country in the United States Marine Corps. Tom joined the Marines when he was 18 years old and was stationed at Pearl Harbor. Tom was an expert rifleman and graduated at the top of his school of infantry class and was meritoriously promoted twice. Tom is a proud Lisle resident, husband of Erin and father of Samantha ("Sam").

Erin K. Rockney



I first heard about the Lisle Veterans Memorial in the town newsletter. There was a meeting to be held at the Village Hall to discuss the project and the fundraising that would be required. I just knew I needed to be involved with this. While never in the military myself, I come from a long line of proud Marine Corp men. My grandfather, PFC Gerald O'Toole, served in WWII. My father, SGT James O'Toole and my uncle, LCPL Patrick O'Toole, both served in the Vietnam War.

My father, James O'Toole, is currently suffering from health issues as a result of exposure to agent orange while in Vietnam. I purchased a memorial brick to forever commemorate his service. This would also allow me and my children, and future generations to always remember the sacrifices he made for his country. We are and always will be so very proud of him and all of those men and women who have selflessly given their lives in service to our country.

Rachel Bradley



As a kid you don't realize magnitude of the sacrifices that members of our military make to serve our country. My Grandfather and his five brothers all proudly served to fight for the freedoms that we have today. While it's too late for me to say thank you to them for their service and what they meant to our family, this is one way our family can say thank you for your service and everything you have done for this family by honoring them with a brick with their names so all who visit the memorial can see that.

Doug Bradley II

We moved to Lisle in June 2016. We are a veteran family ourselves, and as new residents in Lisle, we were very interested to know about community efforts. We were very excited to hear about the plans for Lisle's first Veterans Memorial. Mir served for seven years on active duty and commanded a Special Forces detachment during two combat deployments to Afghanistan.

The Army was a close community, and we have already experienced firsthand the closeness of the Lisle community. We are happy to donate to the Lisle Veterans Memorial and are proud to be joining a community that values the service and sacrifice of our veterans.

Mir Ali & Huma Khan



Ryan's grandfather on his dad's side of the family, Gerald (Gerry) Kramer was in WWII. He witnessed Ryan's birth in 1989. They had a close bond because of this, which remained throughout his boyhood years up to age 9 when Grandpa Kramer passed away.

Another tie to Lisle, Gerry's youngest daughter (Ryan's Aunt) Beverly Peters-Kramer resides in this beautiful west suburb of Chicago.

Ryan's middle name is after his mom's dad, Grandpa Joe and now he lives on St. Joseph Creek in Lisle, IL.

Joseph Samatowic was in WWII at the ranking of corporal. Ryan's grandma Nancy Pierce-Samatowic was a nurse in WWII. As the story goes of how Joe and Nancy met, she cared for him in the military hospital after he sustained a knee injury at Camp Adair, OR.

Ryan was 11 years old when his grandma passed away and 13 years old when his grandpa Joe passed away.

He chose to honor all three of his grandparents at the Lisle Veterans Memorial since they each served our country and had influences on his life. He keeps memories of each near and dear to his heart.

Kramer / Samatowic Families

No one should ever forget what a honor and sacrifice it is to be in the military. We owe them a lot. One way is to never forget.

Our brick is for my dad, Richard J. Clementi. I always appreciated my dad and had great respect for all he accomplished in his life. He was the best dad. It wasn't until after he died when I found out what a silent navy man he was. He never talked about the war he was in, the Korean War. No one did he serve, I found his medals. I can now say he is also my hero. This brick for me will represent my love and appreciation for my hero, my dad.

Doris Marquez



"Never Forget, Never Forget"

All who served in the United States Military, "Freedom is not free."

Robert C. Greening

U.S. Air Force Veteran

Occupation Germany 1951-1954



By the time my husband Lewis and I met, he had already been discharged from the Army for a while, so we had only casually discussed his time in the service.

He was stationed state-side at Camp Wolter in Mineral Wells, Texas and worked on the base from 1957-1959, with a rank of SP4 E4.

My husband passed away almost 25 years ago. I moved to Lisle to be near to my children and grandchildren.

When I read that a Veterans Memorial was being planned, I knew I wanted to support it, and purchase a memorial paver in memory of my husband.

I hope once the memorial has been dedicated, I will be able to go there and reflect on his life, and the lives of all those who have served our great nation.

Elsie Triplett

When we first heard about the Lisle Veteran's Memorial we decided as a family that this was something we wanted to support. Our family moved to Lisle in 1964 from New York. My parents carefully considered all the towns and school districts in the area before choosing Lisle as the place they wanted to raise their four children. My parents never regretted their decision and even today at the age of 94, my father speaks about what a wonderful choice Lisle was for his family. Because of this, Lisle has become our hometown. My father is a veteran of World War II (1st Lt Army Air Corp.) and so when we had the chance to support a memorial for all war veterans in Lisle we jumped at the chance to honor our dad and support our hometown. We are grateful for the service of my father and all other veterans and are proud to support this memorial in the name of my father, Frederick Fellendorf.

The Fellendorf Family



Upon seeing the opportunity to support the Lisle Veterans Memorial, I knew that I wanted to honor and memorialize both of my grandfathers who served for this great country during World War II.

As a Sergeant in the United States Army, William Reinke served in a Cannon Company and fought battles in France, Belgium and Germany. In March of 1945 in Germany, he was shot. The enemy fire hit him in his stomach, broke apart in his abdomen and some of the bullet fragments exited his body out of his back. He remained in multiple hospitals in Europe and the US for over 2 years. My grandfather was awarded a Purple Heart. He lived to be 89 years old.

As an Electrician's Mate in the United States Navy, Harold Ulbricht served on the USS Incredible, an Admirable-class minesweeper. His journeys took him to both the European and Pacific theaters, carrying out mine sweeping duties in the Mediterranean Sea for the invasion of southern France, the Black Sea for the Yalta Conference and the East China Sea post-war.

I am grateful and proud of their bravery, service to our country and commitment to world peace.

Greg Ulbricht

Our dad was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, during the US occupation, as World War II ended. He was very proud of his army service and told stories of it often. He wore his field hat with pleasure at parades, picnics and veterans' group meetings, and every now and again put on his aged and slightly-too-tight field jacket. Dad recently passed away and when we heard news of the Lisle Veterans Memorial it seemed a perfect accolade, to thank him, and all of our veterans, for their service and sacrifice. Although Dad was born and raised in Chicago, as the three of us were, one of us has been a resident of Lisle since 1978 proudly calling this village "home." Benjamin Fullett, our dad, would be honored by this tribute and thrilled to pay homage to his Lisle veteran brothers and sisters.

Susan Fullett Camasta

Ken Fullett

Karen Fullett Christensen



I was very touched and excited to read that our little community of Lisle was planning to build a Memorial Wall to honor our brave men and women who served in the armed forces. I was even more excited to learn that we were offered the option to personalize the wall with the names of our own brave family members who served. Thus, my children and I decided to purchase a brick and surprise my husband and their father. My husband's father, Raymond, his twin brother, Bob, and their older brother Glenn all served at the same time in World War II. I can't even begin to imagine having three sons deployed at the same time and the agony of waiting everyday for their safe return. My husband's family was very lucky and blessed to have all three sons return safe and sound. For their commitment and sacrifice, as well as all our service men and women I feel very grateful to be a part of this Memorial Wall. This brick is one of many that will give a small token of our appreciation owed to these honorable men and women. God Bless Them All!

Rick & Julia Uster

Kellie Uster Laibl

Brai Uster Munson

Joshua Uster

Samantha Uster Salvato

Elmer Edward Smith, World War II Veteran
Army Air Force Technical Sergeant

Somehow, we drew Elmer Smith as our Dad in the Parent Lottery. We consider ourselves lucky lottery winners and in all ways blessed each and every day. How can we ever thank him enough?

A huge part of what makes Elmer Smith unique is his time in the Army Air Force during World War II. He served as top gunner on a B29. Like so many others who served, he recognizes that experience changed his life. Elmer saw the world beyond Chicago. He made friends, sadly lost friends, and saw the aftermath of war.

Elmer went to college courtesy of his VA benefits - the first in his family to do so. Elmer met Fran, the love of his life, on the college intramural bowling team. Elmer and Fran had three daughters named Pat, Nancy and Jenn, aka the lucky Parent Lottery winners.

Our participation in the Lisle Veterans Memorial memorializes Elmer Smith's World War II service. He will be greatly honored to be part of the Memorial with so many of his fellow soldiers.

It is our honor as well. Thank you, Dad, for everything.

Love,
Pat, Nancy & Jenn



Little do we realize, in our early life, how much it means to give up years of our precious time, helping another country and its people to live in freedom as we do.

Fritz, my husband shared two years with the people of Korea and Eric, our granddaughter's husband did tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

When Fritz came home, no one even noticed, except we who loved him - and now FINALLY the Veterans are being thanked. It's a good thing!!

Agnes R. Geyer

Since the early 80's I have been a resident of Lisle and a member of Faith United Methodist Church. From the start I was welcomed and have always felt at home here. I have been blessed by our church family and learned to know many wonderful veterans in our congregation and around the area. Some 8 years ago our Faith Church started a military ministry partnership with the 416th Army Reserve unit in Darien comprised of civil engineers. We have been meeting with and praying for them, their families and leaders and their safety and well-being (along with veterans) ever since, as they have deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and other places. Now as we start another relationship with our respected and honored first responders, we have grown to love our country all the more and everyone who has fought for and protected it as well as those who continue to do so today.

So when our church learned of this wonderful opportunity to support, honor, and recognize our veterans through our Lisle Partners for Parks Foundation, the Lisle Park District, and the local VFW, I wanted to lift up our Faith UM Church veterans and current actives in the military now, by purchasing a brick for the Lisle Veteran Memorial and dedicating it to these beloved Christian patriot blessed by the Lord and a blessing to us here in Lisle, the greater U.S. and the world – thanks so much for this opportunity!

Gratefully,
Jim Rendel-Lay
Leader of Faith UM Church, Lisle - October 2016



I know military families have a very different outlook on life than many of us who are too hurried to appreciate the freedom, safety and security we enjoy. Building the Lisle Veterans Memorial demonstrates we are a village that appreciates the sacrifices of those who have courageously served our country. Furthermore, it's very important that we have a place of honor where future generations can contemplate what life could have been like without the efforts of our brave men and women.

James J. Renn
President & CEO, Lisle Savings Bank



In August of 2015 a committee of faculty members from Tate Woods discussed the idea of the student body supporting the new memorial. We decided we would collect coins for reading.

On Veterans Day of 2015, local servicemen were guest readers in the classrooms. We also shared our White Table and read the book with the same title to the entire student body. The coin collection began. Our Readers with Heart, local Fire Department, and Lisle Education Foundation also contributed.

Members of our faculty bought bricks and participated in the Memorial Run.

In May, school board members and district officials joined Marines at our school assembly. We unveiled our total contribution at that time. We wondered which group would earn the most money: teachers who ran or students who read.





We were very proud to unveil that the teachers gathered \$900.00 while the students had earned \$1,188.73!



Members of Partners for Parks accepted the check.

It was a wonderful year of opportunity for Tate Woods in Lisle District #202 to connect with our community.

Memorial Committee Members from Tate Woods
Angie Remigio, Lisle Veterans Memorial Committee Member
Judy Bauman, LRC Director
Wesley Gosselink, Principal

An American flag is draped to form a heart shape in the center of the image. The top of the heart is a white space containing the text 'THANK YOU'. The bottom of the heart is a solid red shape. The background of the entire page is a solid red color.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU to all the people and businesses who supported the Lisle Veterans Memorial through a monetary or in-kind donation or purchase of a memorial brick.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU is extended to the dedication and tireless efforts of Dan & Karen Burris, Larry & Kim Carlson, Dave & Daphnee Gleason, Jorge Ortiz & Maria A. Remigio and Don Cook who made the Lisle Veterans Memorial a reality.

