

# AVM Expands Site With Veterans Remembrance Wall and Poppies Galore

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**MOUNT OLIVE TWP.** – While Veteran’s Day and Memorial Day are the two designated days to honor those who have served in the U.S. military and our country’s fallen soldiers, any day is a good day for those near and far to visit the All Veterans Memorial at Turkey Brook Park in Budd Lake to learn, remember and reflect.

The AVM has been expanding every year to be an all-inclusive memorial site with a dozen elements. The latest addition to the growing park is the Veterans Remembrance Wall, which will provide veterans a place to hold vigils for fallen comrade and/or to honor our nation’s POWs and MIAs which is typically held in September.

Wharton American Legion 91 plans to host an Inaugural 24 hour POW/MIA vigil around September 21/22, 2018.

## *Veterans Remembrance Wall*

On one side of the 60 foot wide and 4.5 feet high “Liberty Wall” is a display of ten tablets that are inscribed with the first ratified Bill of Rights Amendments; one through ten. Two regal five-foot tall American Bald Eagle statues with fixed wings sit on opposite ends protecting the sanctity of equality, life and liberty.

On the other side of the wall will be newest addition to the All Veterans Memorial Park, the Veterans Remembrance Wall. A narrow stone walkway will lead you from the Presidential Preamble Stage to the Remembrance Wall.

The Veteran’s Remembrance Wall was designed by Uhrmann in the summer of 2017 and is being sponsored by the Meier Stone Company, Sparta Redi-Mix Concrete and General Electric. The prep-work began the first week of October with the help of several MOHS JROTC cadets. Phase I includes leveling the groundwork, setting indigenous rock along the asphalt public walkway, creating a berms, pouring concrete for the pedestal for the world globe and install the aluminum poppy vines,” says Uhrmann.

A war torn setting will set the overall landscape of the memorial. Indigenous material will be used to blend the memorial with the existing Seward Mansion, which can be seen from the memorial site. Replica period items carried by warriors from each period war will be imbedded into the ruins. A 36” diameter world globe will denote the geographic area of each war fought and will also serve as a burn unit for vigil ceremonies.

Poppy vines will emerge from the rubble; more than 5,000 handmade poppies will creep up the wall through the Bill of Rights tablets and drape down the front of the Liberty Wall. Each poppy symbolizes a life lived and a life lost, all in an effort to preserve the freedoms of our great nation.

The community is being invited to craft handmade ceramic poppies to help fill up the wall. Workshops are being held at Michaels at the IT in Budd Lake. Groups are also invited to host their own workshops once they learn how to make the poppies. 100 LBS of polymer clay was donated by the Sculpey Clay Company located in Elk Grove, Ill. The poppies will be permanently attached to the vine/wall one week before Memorial Day 2018; just in time for the projected completion date of the wall. “We are working on securing a Rear Admiral and past Generals to dedicate the area” Uhrmann explained.

Like all the elements at the AVM, each serves a distinct purpose. “While the Liberty ~ Bill of Rights Wall and the Veterans Remembrance Wall may appear to be two separate and distinct elements on their face, it becomes one as the poppy vine emerges from the very ground our warriors perished,” explains Uhrmann. While so many forget that freedom is not free, the poppies creeping up and through the People’s Bill of Rights is a gentle reminder that the very freedom we enjoy as a nation, is paid for by someone who does not even know their name.

Once this element is complete, the AVM plans to work on its final phase which is called the Healing Garden. Work on the Healing Garden will begin after Memorial Day 2018. The Healing Garden will be an extension of the North Star Seating Area. Beside several other healing elements, a Nurses Memorial is planned for the middle of the garden.

Other elements at the AVM include: The All Veterans Memorial Ceremonial Complex / Mount Olive War Monument, the Presidential Preamble Stage, the Charlie Johnson Memorial Gazebo, the Path to Enduring Freedom walkway, the War Dog Memorial, the North Star Seating Area, the On-Behalf of a Grateful Nation Monument, the Liberty ~ Bill of Rights Wall, the Spiritual Cenotaph, and the Warrior Obelisk.

The Poppy workshops will be held every Thursday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and is open to the public. Community organizations, church groups, teachers, American Legions, VFW and others are invited to host their own workshops after a brief tutorial is provided. Anyone interested in attending or hosting a workshop may contact the All Veterans Memorial by emailing [info@allveteransmemorial.org](mailto:info@allveteransmemorial.org) or calling 908.684.0057.