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## Weekend event pays respect to yesteryear's battles ...hope for the future.

By Evelyn Candor@publius.publications.com 11:32 a.m. September 7, 2017

**NEW JERSEY** – When it comes to organizing an event, the All Veterans Memorial leaves no man behind. Last May, the organizers produced not one, but two extraordinary ceremonies to dedicate new monuments to the veteran's park and, to remember and honor our Nation's fallen warriors. During the Dedication, organizer Charlie Uhrmann recruited eight World War II Veterans to raise the flags during the opening ceremony. Each Veteran was supported by a family member, who also served in the U.S. Armed Forces. To play an active role in a monument dedication is considered one of the highest honors for a veteran, especially for WWII veterans since many of their comrades have long passed. "I am the lone survivor. As I raised the flag, I thought about guys I haven't thought about in years", said Bill Wynne, a WWII Air Force veteran who served 18 continuous months in the jungles of New Guinea and Biak Islands. "I am honored to be a part of the ceremony, which will probably be my last", he added.

After ten years, inclusiveness and community participation appears to be the common theme when it comes to the introduction and dedication of new additions to the AVM. As the anticipation for the unveiling of the Veterans Remembrance Wall grows, The AVM and the Second NJ Civil War Brigade have join forces to make the unveiling one of the most memorable moments in history. On October 21, 2017 re-enactors from across New Jersey and Pennsylvania will be setting up four eras of battlefield encampments throughout the veterans park . The community will be given the opportunity to learn and interact with Revolutionary, Civil, WWII and Vietnam War re-enactors. Each encampment will provide an accurate portrayal of the soldiers' period speech and uniforms, meal preparation, preparation for battle and even a couple fireside chats and sing-a-longs. Area Boys Scouts will be given a unique opportunity to join the re-enactors and even bring their own gear.

As the Second Brigade prepares for battle, the All Veterans Memorial will be focused on the long awaited unveiling of the Veterans Remembrance Wall. "We have had a tremendous response from area veterans and residents", said Charlie Uhrmann. The Wall will replicate the ruins of a war torn building. Similar to the War Dog Memorial, we will create a blend several different mediums of ground to represent various theaters of where wars were fought and warriors have fallen. Replicas of items used and lost during each battle will be embedded into the rubble. Amidst the rubble, two massive poppy vines will creep their way up the wall, making their way onto and through the Bill of Rights, draping down Liberty Wall. Each poppy will represent a warrior's life lived and life lost. The ultimate price of freedom. Situated between the two poppy vines will stand a world globe monument that denotes all U.S. battles. The globe will double as the formal burn pit for POW/MIA & fallen warrior vigils.

As part of the AVM's educational outreach efforts, they will be encouraging the community to take part in Project Poppy. Similar to the London Tower campaign, each poppy will be handmade. Unlike the London Tower project, who commissioned a team of artists to make the poppies, the AVM Project Poppy will be setting up workshops throughout Morris County to allow the citizenry to participate. The brilliantly red poppies are made from polymer clay, simple to make and will allow the participant an opportunity to scribe their family's name onto it before it reaches the kiln. There will be white clay available to those who lost a loved one during battle. The event will launch the first poppy workshop. Visitors who tour the encampments will receive a voucher to make their own free poppy.

“I can’t think of a better way to unveil this amazing project than to invite the NJ Second Brigade re-enactors. Though it was a tremendous effort to coordinate everyone’s schedule, it was well worth it” Uhrmann said. “I believe it was very important to get their support. Their presence will give the community a clearer understanding of not only the sacrifice of someone’s life, but the difficulties and challenges leading up to their sacrifice. Having obtained a better understanding will hopefully add more meaning when making the poppies” Uhrmann explained. . Life...as it was on the battlefield will be bringing their best of the best to Mount Olive. Like the AVM, they are all volunteers who believe in their cause. To learn more about the NJ Second Brigade please visit their website at [www.2dnjbrigade.org/](http://www.2dnjbrigade.org/) .