

War dead monument ready for Veterans Park anniversary

Cheney Seeks Families of Martinez Fallen Military Heroes

By **DONNA BETH WEILENMAN**
Martinez News-Gazette Reporter

MARTINEZ, Calif. – A new monument acknowledging Martinez’s fallen military heroes is being readied for the 30th anniversary of the Martinez Veterans Memorial Park at the corner of Berrellesa Street and Alhambra Avenue in June.

Richard Cheney said he is hoping surviving relatives of the memorialized war dead will attend the celebration.

“We’re looking for next of kin of all the fallen who live in the area so they may be invited to attend the public unveiling,” he said.

Cheney, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1351, has been spearheading the monument project, speaking about it last year to city panels, starting with the Martinez Veterans Commission.

He also addressed the Park, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission (PRMCC) and the City Council, seeking permission to add the granite monument the small park.

The memorial is being completed for a June ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park, which was dedicated June 14, 1988.

“With its 30th anniversary in June 2018, it is appropriate to improve the existing park by placing a memorial to the Martinez service men and women who have died in battle during the world wars, Korea, Vietnam and GWOT (Global War on Terror),” Cheney said in a statement about the project.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1351 and American Legion Post 29, also of Martinez, have united to get the monument made. They undertook the fundraising internally to pay for the black granite engraved on one side, which came in at approximately \$7,000.

Meanwhile, a Veterans of Foreign Wars team began seeking out the names of those who had lived in Martinez at the time they entered the military and died while in service.

In his presentation to the PRMCC, Cheney said that for World War I and II, he used United States Census data and newspaper articles to confirm the accuracy of the names, he said.

But for conflicts from Korea on, he couldn’t use U.S. Census data, because the specific information he needed won’t be released until 2022.

“We didn’t want to wait,” he told the Commission.

MONUMENT

Continued from Page 1

On the other hand, Korean War websites and members of Congress have been helpful in verifying names of those who lost their lives in latter military actions, he said.

Since the military services changed procedures for those who fought in Vietnam, Cheney was able to use an existing database to find those names.

“It’s an interesting search itself,” he told the Commission last year.

He reached out to the public for names, too, closing that search last December. Two submitted names, Frank Roman and James Knutson, were added to Cheney’s own findings.

The names that will go on the monument are Hazel Brandon, Caesar DelZotto, Walter Gatt, Henry McNamara, Roy Flynn, Harry Merrel and Sidney Severns from World War I; Harry Drew Atherton Jr., Dwight Boynton, William Campbell, Frank Chak,

Gerald Cott, James Duncan, Tony Fazzini, Jarold Guyon, Herman Hofmeyer, Alan McFarland, Rudolf Rohlfing, Gilman Shelly, Hayward Slack, Frank Sparacino, James Sutton, Robert Turner, Charlie Wilcox, Jack Williams, Dean Wiseman and William Zitzmann from World War II; George Edwards and Frank Roman from the Korean War; Ronald Breshears, Michael Collins, Harrison Halley, James Knutson, Craig Pettit, Jerry Robbins and Dennis Tuller of the Vietnam War; and Patrick Magnani died in the Global War on Terror.

Space has been left to add other names, Cheney said.

The monument was ordered Nov. 17, 2017, from Art Monument in Hayward, and should arrive in Martinez in April. Martinez Public Works employees will install the monument in the park in time for its unveiling in June.

Those who believe they are related to the Martinez war dead may email richard.s.cheney at richard.s.cheney@googlemail.com.



IN HONOR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF MARTINEZ WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN DEFENSE OF OUR NATION IN TIMES OF WAR

WORLD WAR I

Brandon, Hazel L. USA Nurse	Flynn, Roy E.
DelZotto, Caesar USA, PVY	Merrel, Harry D. USA, SGT
Gatt, Walter E.	Severns, Sidney USMC, Pvt
McNamara, Henry	

WORLD WAR II

Atherton, Harry Drew Jr. USN, Seaman 2c	Rohlfing, Rudolf Frederick USMC, SMS
Boynton, Dwight Eugene USN, Seaman 2c	Shelly, Gilman F. USA, 2LT
Campbell, William J. USA, PFC	Slack, Hayward USN, Seaman 3c
Chak, Frank S. USA, PVT	Sparacino, Frank J. USA, Tech 5
Cott, Gerald Francis USN, Fireman 1c	Sutton, James R. USMC, PFC
Duncan, James Neil USN, Seaman 2c	Turner, Robert S. USA, Tech 4
Fazzini, Tony M. USA, Yac 4	Wilcox, Charles L. USA, PFC
Guyon, Jarold Alfred USN, Av Mech 3c	Williams, Jack C. USA, PVT
Hofmeyer, Herman J. USAF, PVT	Wiseman, Dean Frederick USN, Seaman 1c
McFarland, Alan D. USA, AV Cdt	Zitzmann, William F. USN, Machinist

KOREAN WAR

Edwards, George Neil USMC, PFC	Roman, Frank M. USA, PFC
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VIETNAM WAR

Breshears, Ronald C. USA, SGT	Pettit, Craig S. USN, Corporal
Collins, Michael R. USN, LT	Robbins, Jerry C. USA, SSG
Kelley, Harrison L. USMC, Capt	Tuller, Dennis J. USA, PFC
Knutson, James Keith USA, SPC 6	

GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

Magnani, Patrick D. USAF, MSGT

ONCE IN OUR LIVES - FOREVER IN OUR MEMORIES



Dedicated by VFW Post 1351 and American Legion Post 29

