

NEWS RELEASE

County of Warren, New Jersey



Warren County Freeholders Proclaim Veterans' Awareness Week as County Prepares to Mark Two Important Anniversaries

(WHITE TWP., NJ – October 24, 2018) – Warren County will mark “Veterans’ Awareness Week” November 11-17, starting with a Veterans Day ceremony that will commemorate both the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, and the 20th anniversary of the Warren County War Memorial.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders issued a proclamation for Veterans’ Awareness Week and presented it to representatives of the Warren County War Memorial Corporation Milly Rice and Leo Becker, whose organization will be hosting the County’s Veterans Day Ceremony on Sunday, November 11, at 1 p.m.

The event will take place at the Warren County War Memorial, which was dedicated on Veterans Day 1998, when hundreds of people gathered to witness the unveiling of the monument and to see the names engraved on its stones of Warren County residents who died during wartime.

The three large, black granite stones at the center of the memorial plaza bear the names of those lost during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Two additional stones were dedicated in November 2006 for those lost in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Freeholder Director Edward J. Smith said he found it “particularly fitting” that the 20th anniversary of the County’s war memorial will be marked on the centennial anniversary of the end of a conflict which “at that time was, quote, ‘the war to end all wars.’ Unfortunately, we can show by the names inscribed on that how many more people did pass away.”

Freeholder Richard D. Gardner noted, “Many a time we think about the great memorials in our nation’s capital ... sometimes we also forget how many folks from our little county have served and sacrificed.”

The Warren County War Memorial is located next to the Warren County Courthouse at the corner of Second and Mansfield Streets in Belvidere. The memorial stones are set on a brick plaza,



Freeholder Jason J. Sarnoski, Freeholder Richard D. Gardner, and Freeholder Director Edward J. Smith presented the Veterans’ Awareness Week proclamation to Warren County War Memorial Corporation representatives Leo Becker and Milly Rice,

surrounded by the nation's flag and the flags of all the branches of the military, landscape plantings and stone benches, and the County's Purple Heart Memorial nearby.

"It's a beautiful site, and it's really a great memorial to our veterans who have given their lives for our country," said Freeholder Jason J. Sarnoski. To the War Memorial Corporation representatives, Sarnoski said, "I thank you for all you do."

The Veterans Day Ceremony is free and open to the public, and attendees are invited to bring a chair if they wish.

**20th ANNIVERSARY WC WAR MEMORIAL
VETERANS' AWARENESS WEEK
NOVEMBER 11-17 2018**

WHEREAS, on November 11, 1998, the dedication of the Warren County War Memorial marked the presentation of the memorial to the people of Warren County; and

WHEREAS, the story of the Warren County War Memorial goes back several years as a concept in the mind of Leo Becker, historian of Belvidere American Legion Post 131, presently historian for Post 528 of White Township. There had not been a county memorial to Warren County's veterans since 1910, when the Civil War Memorial was removed from Garret D. Wall Park, in Belvidere and was replaced by a lighted drinking fountain by the Women's Temperance League; and

WHEREAS, the construction of state and federal monuments and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Sussex County had generated discussion about a Warren County memorial. In 1996, Becker talked with veterans' groups and by June 1997, a war memorial committee was formed. Architects Jim/Dorothy Constantin volunteered to work on some proposed designs for the memorial; and

WHEREAS, once a design was approved by the committee and the Warren County Freeholders gave permission to build on county property. The name certification subcommittee set out on the monumental task of searching local, state and federal records to determine whose names would be inscribed on the monument stones. It had been decided that the names of men and women who died while on active duty in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and Viet-Nam War would be inscribed on the stones since those records were available. As of November, 2018 there are 307 men and women's names inscribed on the stones; and

WHEREAS, on September 19, 1998, a ground breaking ceremony was held at the monument site. The nine black stones were quarried and polished in India. Construction began in October with committee members working on weekends and some members using vacation days to work on week days. The stones arrived in the U.S. approximately one week before the dedication; and

WHEREAS, on Veteran's Day 1998, hundreds of people gathered to witness the unveiling of the monument and to see names engraved on its stones.

WHEREAS, in November of 2006 two additional stones were dedicated for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom with names of fallen soldiers engraved on them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of the important work done by the WARREN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL CORPORATION MEMBERS, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren does hereby join the members and all citizens in remembering the personal sacrifices made by war veterans so that generations of American citizens may continue to enjoy our country's freedoms and join in celebrating the 20th Anniversary since the dedication of the WC War Memorial on November 11, 1998 and hereby proclaim the week of November 11-17, 2018 as Veterans' Awareness Week and we urge all citizens to visit this Memorial as a place to pause, reflect and remember.

Edward J. Smith, Director *Jason J. Sarnoski*, Deputy Director *Richard D. Gardner*, Freeholder