

Park Association Mission Statement

Working together to provide a park to honor and remember those Veterans and individuals who served and defended their nation and community so well. To offer an educational opportunity for all members of the community to learn more about those that have defended and served their country and community.



Our 30' x 60' flag was carried in the August Railroad Days parade. In the forefront is Veteran Wayne Berry and behind him is Andrew Daniels. 12 members of MN Teen and Adult Challenge of Brainerd helped carry the flag along with Rotarians, Park Board members and many other local patriots.



2023 MEMORIALS

IN REMEMBRANCE OF:

Delmar Lindgren \$250	Jack Wilson . . . \$1,700
Charles Neal. . . . \$50	Russ Jenkins \$25
Bob Lee \$10	Jack Rengel \$30



**Staples Host Lions
donate \$500 towards
purchase of new
lawnmower**



Park Board Members

Bob Hamann	President	218-296-0677
Huck Holst	Vice President	218-296-2469
Kevin Jenkins	Secretary	218-820-2081
Char Daniels	Treasurer	218-894-3716

Directors

Mel Daniels, Mark Holper, Ken Klose, Penny Nelsen,
Milt Peterson, Dan Shaw, Brandon Sterriker

FIVE WINGS AWARDS \$5,000 GRANT



FIVE WINGS
ARTS COUNCIL

The Five Wings Arts Council has awarded The Staples Veterans Park \$5,000 towards the construction of the bell tower. The total cost of the project is estimated to be over \$15,000. We also have an additional \$4,000 in the tower fund balance.

\$17,000 RAISED DURING FUNDRAISING DRIVE

Thanks to the great supporters of the Veterans Park, who contributed \$17,000 during our annual fundraising drive.

MAJOR DONORS

- Gary & Karen Carpenter • Rita Stone
- Huck & Marilyn Holst • Kevin & Sue Jenkins • JDM Machining - Jeremiah & Sara Miller • Rose Hoernberg
- Jack Wilson - Kristy Jedinak • Ken & Lanie Klose
- Edward Johnson

THANK YOU



PARK PROJECTS

We are in need of donations to fund the following projects. Amounts collected so far:

WWII Wall of Honor	\$88,000
Civil War Tribute.	\$350
Korean War Tribute	\$1,755
WWI Tribute	\$1,405
Vietnam War Memorial	\$7,603
Learning Center Fund.	\$1,755
POW/MIA Tribute	\$4,144
Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial	\$2,250
Ship Anchor	\$1,516
Bell Tower	\$4,116
Flag Fund	\$400



Staples All Veterans Park NEWSLETTER

Fall 2023

Volume 7

Issue 2



PROGRAM NOVEMBER 9TH, 9:45AM SMHS GYM

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 the allied forces and Germany signed a peace treaty marking the end of World War 1. It was called Armistice Day until 1954 and then renamed Veterans Day. On this day we honor and thank all Veterans for their dedication and loyal service to the nation, including their patriotism, love of country and willingness to make sacrifices for us. This year's program start at 9:45am on Thursday, November 9th in the SMHS gym. All are welcome. Also, all veterans and spouses are invited to a special breakfast at the Elementary school at 8:15am. Veterans Park pavers dedications will honor local veterans. (See list below.)



PAVERS TO BE DEDICATED ON VETERANS DAY

Aviation
Storekeeper Chief
Charles W Crews Jr
US Navy Korea Vietnam
1947-1969

Storekeeper Seaman
Beatrice "Pat" Crews
US Navy Korea
Naval Air Station
Alameda, CA
1951-1954

Aviation
Storekeeper
2nd Class
Melvin L Morrison
US Navy WWII
1942-1945

E-5 SGT
Robert L Cheney
US Army Vietnam
Aug. 1965-Aug 1968

SGT
David Allen Tepley
US Army Vietnam
Nov 1965-Nov 1967

PVT E2
Ronald J Woods
US Army
Aug 1961-Nov 1964

Petty Officer 2nd Class
Edward A Herman
US Navy WWII Pearl Harbor
Aviation Machinist Mate
Oct 1941-Jan 1947

SGT
Jacob L Esterl
US Army Air Corp
WWII
July 1942-Jan 1946

SGT
Thomas G Esterl
USAF Germany
Oct 1970-Jan 1974

SGT
William Wilson
US Army
Grand Army of the Republic
151st Regiment of Ohio
Civil War 1964

SP-E5
Bruce R Johnson
US Army Vietnam
Sept 1961-Sept 1964
MN National Guard
1973-1975

SGT
Everett N Manning
US Army
France
WWII 1919

SGT
Arlen D Johnson
Army National Guard
Iraq
Jan 2003-Apr 2004

COL
Robert P Manning
USAF
Enduring Freedom
Afghanistan 2012
May 1987-Aug 2023

Corporal
Clarence Smith
USMC
Pacific Theater
Jan 1942-Dec 1945

★ 425 4th Street NE Staples, MN 56479 Call Huck: 218-296-2469

★ WEBSITE: staplesmnveteranspark.org

Please make
checks
payable to:

STAPLES
ALL VETERANS
& Community Park Association





4th of July Celebration



Due to rain, we gathered at the Faith Lutheran Church. Over 250 in attendance. About 50 were veterans. The church was packed. Everyone enjoyed the great entertainment, food, socializing and an inspirational talk from Dr. Ryan Kroll.



Count your Blessings



Char Daniels
serving ribs



50 local Veterans

Honored on the 4th of July



Motley American
Legion Color Guard

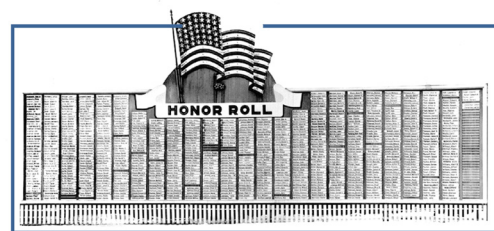
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Special thanks to the Spot Café, Dairy Queen, Lions Club, Staples Bakery, Faith Lutheran Church, Motley American Legion Color Guard, Pastor Jim Johnson, Graeme Badger, Wayne Berry & Family, Andrew Daniels, Rick Otteson, Denny & Rayma Miller, Katie Zeigler, Jim Vollegraaf, Gary & Dawn Timbs, Brian Sterriker & Emily Ann Dueck, Tristan Jenkins, Cheryl & Bob Koll, Staples Methodist Church-Ruby's Pantry, Staples True Value and Lakewood Health System.

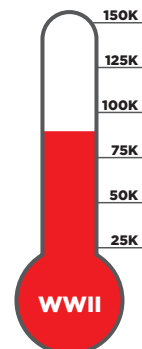


Granite Podium Installed

Northland Monument installed a granite podium last July. The podium will house our PA system.



World War II Wall of Honor
has reached \$88,000



Huck Holst & Family Bench

Located on the upper level of the park. The formal dedication is scheduled for July 4, 2024.



THANK YOU VETERANS

These words are inscribed on the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met."

Those words apply equally to many of our World War I, World War II, Vietnam War and Gulf War veterans as well. They apply to today's active duty service members - Tomorrow's veterans - who are helping to maintain peace throughout the world.

Today, it is our privilege to say "thank you" to all of America's veterans, to let them know that we appreciate them for their service and honor them for their sacrifices.

The price of freedom is high. We cannot afford to forget those willing to pay it.

Today, we celebrate America's Veterans for keeping this Nation "the land of the free and the home of the brave".

HONORING OUR VETERANS

CHARLES W CREWS, JR.



Charles (Charlie) W. Crews Jr enlisted in the U.S. Navy on 27 September 1947 on his 17th birthday, with his mother's consent at Augusta, GA. Following his physical and swearing-in, Charlie was sent to Boot Camp in San Diego, CA. Upon the completion of Boot Camp he was sent to the USNS, Philadelphia, PA. for further transfer. He was offered three (3) duty assignments and he picked the USS Greenwich Bay (AVP-41). What Charlie didn't know, is that he was going to have an experience of a lifetime on this little ship (317 feet long with a crew of 128, nicknamed GB). Charlie arrived aboard the GB at 0300 on 2/8/1948 and was allowed to sleep in until 1000. When he went topside, there was no land to be seen. He later learned that the GB was escorting the Williamsburg (Presidential Yacht) to San Juan, Puerto Rico to pick up President Truman and tour the Virgin Isles. At the conclusion of the Virgin Isle tour, the GB and Williamsburg, with President Truman went to the USNS, Key West, FL, which was often used as the Little White House by the President. The GB was tied up at the head of the dock, close to the road that led to the enlisted beach. Charlie was chipping rust under the ships anchor when a civilian walked up and started pointing at him. Shortly, a group with President Truman appeared. The President looked up at Charlie and said, "How's it going son." and Charlie responded with "Fine Mr. President." There were many high level meetings held during the GB's stay at Key West that included the GB Skipper, Captain W. S. Butts. At the conclusion of these meetings, the GB and Williamsburg were allowed to visit Havana, Cuba before returning to their Home Ports. Several days after returning to USNS, Norfolk, VA, a courier came aboard the GB and the next morning the skipper came on the PA system and announced that the GB was going on an Around-the-World Goodwill Cruise. The GB departed the U.S. on June 8, 1948, with an itinerary for Gibraltar (with visit to Spain), Naples Italy, Port Said Egypt, Suez Canal, Aden Yemen, Muscat Oman and all of the navigable ports in the Persian Gulf, Karachi Pakistan, Bombay India, Trincomalee Ceylon, Perth/Fremantle/Sydney Australia, Pago Pago Samoa, Papeete Tahiti, Panama Canal and Norfolk VA. The GB was placed in dry dock shortly after it's World Cruise and refitted with air conditioning and painted white. The crew of the GB were soon to discover that they

were part of a three (3) AVP group that each would spend four (4) months a year in the Persian Gulf and they had the summer months and a new nickname would be, "The Galloping Ghost Of The Arabian Coast." These three (3) little ships were in the Persian Gulf from 1948 until 1962 and received no recognition for their service. June 1950, transferred to FASRON 102, NAS Norfolk, VA. February 1953, transferred to NAS Alameda, CA. March 1955, transferred to PATRON 22, NAS Barbers Point, HI (with a 6 month deployment to NAS Naha, Okinawa, Japan. August 1956, transferred to AIRTRANSRON 3, NAS Moffett Field, CA. July 1958, transferred to AIRTRANSRON 6, McGuire AFB, NJ. September 1959, transferred to NS Midway Island. March 1962, transferred to MCAS El Toro, CA. April 1966, transferred to NAS Barbers Point, HI. March 1969, transferred to NS Long Beach, CA for retirement on April 11, 1969. Eleven (11) days after retirement, 3M offered Charlie a job as a Microfilm Equipment Technician. During his 17 year employment with 3M, he held positions as National Service Center Manager, National Tech Service Manager and National Sales Manager. He now lives in Staples, MN.



USS Greenwich Bay



Retirement Ceremony



JACK WILSON

Jack Wilson was born in 1932. He attended UCONN and enlisted in the USAF in 1951. Graduated from Florida State Univ. In 1957, while in Alaska, he married Louise Anderson. He graduated from Aviation Cadet

Program in 1954 as a 2nd Lieutenant. As a pilot he served in Vietnam, Delaware, Washington, Massachusetts, and Texas. He was awarded the Air Force Commendation with Metal Cluster, the Vietnam Service Medal, retiring in 1971 as a Major. He operated DJ's Men's Wear until 1991 and served as mayor of Staples for 18 years. Jack served his country and community honorably. He generously supported the Veterans Park. He lived a full life, until dying at the age of 91 in July of 2023. He was a good man.



You can donate your IRA RMD (Required Minimum Distributing) directly to the Veterans Park (a 501c3 non profit), tax free. Talk to your investment specialist about it.