

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.



CHARLIE CREWS VIDEO COMING TO THE WEB

Mike and Burl Ives have passed away.

We are deeply sorry about the passing of Mike and Burl Ives. They were great friends and supporters of the Veterans Park and the City of Staples. They were amazing people that lived remarkable lives. We are all grateful we had the chance to get to know them.

Vision Statement: To build the very best Veterans Park possible, using only made in the USA materials such as granite, stainless steel and bronze, created by quality artists and craftsmen. We are committed to building the very best Veterans Park in Minnesota.



Penny Nelsen holding a cut out replica of the Bronze Navy Sailor on the 4th of July

\$26,000+ RAISED DURING MARCH FUNDRAISING DRIVE

Thanks to all of our great Park supporters for contributed over \$26,000 during our annual fundraising drive.

MAJOR DONORS \$250+

Gary & Karen Carpenter • Rita Stone • Huck & Marilyn Holst • Kevin & Sue Jenkins - JDM Machining • Jeremiah & Sara Miller • Rose Hoemberg • Ken & Lanie Klose • Virginia Chenoweth • Lakeland Dental • Marv & Mary Giza • Lakewood Health Systems • Tom Cross • Ken Holst • Rich Products • Freddie Huebner • Milt Peterson • Roger Donovan • 1st International Bank • Sonja Neftstad

MIKE & LINDA HEIER DONATE A CAR TO THE PARK

LOREN MOREY DONATES \$1,000 for the Bronze Sailor Statue



Vietnam Battle Cross
Coming to Park in May

MEMORIALS FOR VETERANS
We often receive donations to the Veterans Park in memory of a Veteran who has recently passed. It is an excellent way to honor them and memorialize their life. Checks should be made out to the Staples Veterans Park.

2024 MEMORIALS In Remembrance of	
Ray Garland	\$25
Jack Wilson	\$250
Bob Blessing	\$25

MIKE & LINDA HEIER DONATES \$800 for the purchase of a new 20' x 30' Park Flag



- Park Board Members**
- Bob Hamann
 - Huck Holst
 - Kevin Jenkins
 - Penny Nelsen
 - Milt Peterson
 - Ken Klose
 - Char Daniels
 - Mel Daniels
 - Dan Shaw
 - Brandon Sterriker
 - Tim Rice

PARK PROJECTS	
We are in need of donations to fund the following projects. Amounts collected so far:	
WWII Wall of Honor	...\$100,000
Civil War Tribute	\$425
Korean War Tribute	\$1,870
WWI Tribute	\$1,670
Vietnam War Memorial	... \$9,883
Learning Center Fund	 \$1,755
POW/MIA Tribute	 \$4,649
Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial	\$2,270
Ship Anchor	 \$1,516
Bronze Sailor Statue	\$30,000

Sourcewell
Sourcewell has awarded \$3,500 towards the Bronze Sailor Statue

FIVE WINGS AWARDS \$5,000 GRANT TO PARK
The Five Wings Art Council has awarded the Staples Veterans Park \$5,000 to go towards the Bronze Navy Sailor Statue.

FIVE WINGS ARTS COUNCIL



Staples All Veterans Park NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024 Volume 8 Issue 2



PROGRAM NOVEMBER 11th 10am SMHS GYM

On November 11th we honor all veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and thank them for their service. This day we are reminded of their sacrifices and we recognize them for their courage and dedication. This year's program starts at 9:45am on Monday, November 11th in the SMHS gym. U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran Larry Knosalla will be our guest speaker. His talk is entitled "Veteran Brotherhood". All are welcome.

Veteran paver dedications will follow to honor our local veterans. (see list below) Also, all veterans and their spouses are invited to a special program at the Elementary school at 2pm.

"AMERICA WITHOUT HER SOLDIERS WOULD BE LIKE GOD WITHOUT HIS ANGELS"
- Claudia Pemberton

STAFF SERGEANT E5 LARRY KNOSALLA TO SPEAK AT VETERANS DAY EVENT

Larry Knosalla was born in Brainerd in 1945 and grew up in Staples, graduating in 1963. He was drafted in June of 1967 and attended basic training at Fort Campbell, KY. He then reported for Artillery Fire Direction Control, Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill, OK. Following AIT, he was assigned as an instructor, and shortly after, was enrolled in Drill Sergeant training. He served as a Drill Sergeant until getting orders for Vietnam. Upon returning from Vietnam in 1969, he attended St. Cloud State College, met and married Judy, and graduated with a degree in Engineering and Business. He was employed at Dezurik Inc. (a valve manufacturer in Sartell). After several good years at DeZurik, he decided to venture into private business. He obtained a license for a dealership of Manufactured Homes. At that time his service-related injuries, and PTSD were taking a toll on him and his family. He consulted a VA doctor and was told to accept a 50% disability rating and fight to increase that rating, which he accepted. With help from the DAV, VFW and several Veteran Service Officers, he learned to deal with the complicated Government paperwork. Over the years Larry has helped numerous other Veterans, struggling to increase their much deserved disability rating, after coming home from serving their country.



13 PAVERS TO BE DEDICATED ON VETERANS DAY				
Tec 5 Louis C Overby Company 713th Railway Operations Battalion WWII Army	GS2 Duane J Overby USN 3rd Division Korea USS Norton Sound Mar 1954 - Dec 1958	E4 Troy T Houde US Army Gulf War Diesel Mechanic Dec 1988 - Dec 1995	A/2C Harlan F Killian USAF Korea July 1955 - July 1959	
E3 Tamara L Mack USN Gulf War Jet Mechanic Sept 1987 - Sept 1991	ADR3 Robert Lyle Case Jr US Navy Vietnam USS Ranger July 1969 - July 1973	DT Milton Peterson Navy Commendation Medal USN Vietnam MACV MILPHAP Team 1 May 1966 - May 1970	Private E2 Eugene Dennemeyer US Army Reserves CO-D 1st BN 5th USA CBT Dec 1966 - Nov 1972	HENRY R DOLEZAL US ARMY WWII Jan 1942 - Jan 1946
E7 Francis A Dolezal USAF 1965 - 1969 USAF Reserve 1979 - 1996	E6 Christopher Dolezal USAF 1994 - 2014	E6 Anthony J Dolezal USAF 1992 - 1996 Army National Guard 2007 - 2013	Corporal James (Toedter) Tater US Army Aug 1952 - Aug 1954 Reserves - July 1960	HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A COMMEMORATIVE GRANITE PAVER ONLY \$150

Veterans Day - in memory of many, in honor of all. Thank you.

★ ★ ★ ★ 4th of July Event ★ ★ ★ ★

Over 250 in attendance, of which more than 50 were veterans, 11 commemorative pavers and 3 benches were dedicated. Everyone enjoyed the great entertainment from the Brass Quintet, the food, socializing and an inspirational talk from Jef Cichos.



Bell Tower Dedication



Big City - Big Brass
Brass Quintet



Catered Buffet



Cashier Huck having
fun at the Mega Sale

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Special thanks to the Dairy Queen, Lions Club, Motley American Legion Color Guard, Pastor Barry Klien, Wayne Berry & Family, Denny & Rayma Miller, Brian Sterriker, Methodist Church-Ruby's Pantry, Staples True Value, Lakewood Health Systems and Creative Steelworks.



\$7,000 RAISED AT RAILROAD DAYS MEGA SALE



for your donations, purchases and support of the
RAILROAD DAYS VETERANS PARK MEGA SALE
also special thanks to:

**Chad and Lani for allowing us to use Longbella Drug for
the sale, and all those who volunteered to help with the
sale, Discover Staples,**

**We received many donations including
a \$500 anonymous one**

30' X 60' FLAG IN RR DAYS PARADE



Our flag was carried in the August
Railroad Days parade. Members of
MN Teen Challenge of Brainerd helped
carry along with Rotarians, Park Board
members and SMHS Cheerleaders.

**We need 30 carriers next year, Reserve
your name or group now!**

Thank you to all our Veterans for your courage, strength and dedication to keep us safe!

HONORING OUR VETERANS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANA MARIE MILLER



Ana was born in Guatemala. In 1968 she moved to New York. She was recruited into the Army and commissioned as 2LT in 1986 as an RN and CPR instructor she served in the 395th Combat Support Hospital in Gary IN, focusing on working as a nurse in a field hospital and setting up deployable Medical System. In 1993 joined MN State Medical Command as a RN in Roseville and Camp Ripley, MN In 1994 she married Phil Miller and joined Task Force: "Timber Wolf Fuertes Caminos 95" and was deployed to Guatemala as an RN and linguistic caring for soldiers. As OIC of Medical Overseas Deployment Readiness Exercises and OIC of the Physical Exam Facility at Camp

Ripley ensuring soldiers were fit for overseas duty. While in the Reserves and Nat. Guard she completed active-duty in Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, Korea and Norway. She joined Community Based Health Care Org as a case manager for 25 soldiers returning from field duty. Attended ARMY schools such as Command and General Staff, Advance Officer, Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Defense, Personal Management, C4 Combat Casualty. She started the Wound and Ostomy department at LHS and was a medic on the 2012 Honor Flight to DC from Staples. She was honorably discharged as a Lieutenant Colonel (with 23 years of service) after participating in Operation Enduring Freedom(OEF) and Iraqi Freedom (OIF).



MARINE MASTER SERGEANT BOB BLESSING



Bob's life as a career Marine is one marked by courage, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to serving both the country and the Corps. Bob enlisted in 1964 and served four tours in Vietnam. In his first tour, he was a motor transport operator, responsible for delivering troops and ammo to the front lines. Under constant threat of enemy fire, he bravely transported supplies and returned with the wounded. In his second tour he served as a wrecker driver, recovering damaged vehicles and equipment. Bob was always dedicated to the mission. As the conflict progressed, he became involved in strategic operations beyond the battlefield. In the later stages of the war he helped facilitate the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam. He continued his career with numerous leadership and instructional roles.

While at Camp Lejeune and MCAS Cherry Point, he trained and mentored new generations of Marines. Bob served as a Marine Corps Recruiter in Dodge City, KS, inspiring young men and women to join the Corps. During the Cold War he became a Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Warfare instructor helping to prepare marines to face any challenge on the battlefield, no matter how extreme. He was twice stationed in Okinawa. Frequent deployments often took him to the Philippines and back to Vietnam. After 22 years of dedicated service he retired in 1986 and returned to Staples to be with his wife Kathy and his devoted family.

Bob was recognized for his significant contribution to the Corps, especially during the Vietnam War. Bob received numerous awards, medals and citations. His instructional and leadership roles have had a lasting impact on the Marines who served under him. Bob passed away in May of 2024. He will be missed.

"I have long believed that sacrifice is in the pinnacle of patriotism." - Bob Riley