Staples All Veterans Park NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024 Volume 8 Issue 1

In a 1982 speech, President Reagan said; "Each died for a cause he considered more important than his own life. Well, they didn't volunteer to die. They volunteered to defend values for which men have always been willing to die if need be....As we honor their memory today, let us pledge that their lives, their sacrifices, their valor shall be justified and remembered for as long as God gives life to this nation."

Our Memorial Day event will be held at the Veterans Park located at 820 US Hwy 10 on Monday, May 27th at 10 am. Huck Holst will MC. Deb Otteson will sing the National Anthem Pastor Barry Klein will deliver the invocation. Phil Miller will be the guest speaker. His talk is titled "To Protect and Defend." The SMHS Choir will perform, directed by Cade Bestland. The Motley American Legion Color Guard will conduct a 21-gun salute followed by Taps. Staples DQ will provide Dilly Bars. Pease bring your lawn chairs. In case of rain, the event will be held at Faith Lutheran Church.

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WE HONOR THE FOLLOWING VETERANS WHO PASSED AWAY SINCE LAST MEMORIAL DAY

Nolan Bacon	Stan Edin	Adolph Rabe
Tom Bilek	Ray Garland	Stan Schuette
Dan Brown	Scott Meech	Gary Schwanke
Neil Dvorak	James Olsen	Jack Wilson

VETERAN PHIL MILLER TO SPEAK ON MEMORIAL DAY

Phil Miller attended the U of M for 3 years before enlisting in the Army in 1966. After 3 years (one in Vietnam), he returned to the U of M and earned a BS in agriculture. He worked several years (Kraft Foods and Northrup King) before starting a small ag business in SW Minnesota. In 1981 he reenlisted and joined the National Guard. In 1983 he went into active duty as a trainer in the ARNG. He retired in 1999. He and Ana moved to Browerville and built a home. He then attended CLC for Criminal Justice and graduated with honors. He worked for Wadena Police Dept. for 2 years and Todd County Sherrif's Dept. for 8 years. After retiring again, they moved to Staples and still reside there. Phil is active with a side business of 40+ years, Southwest Explosives. In the summer they live near the golf course and winters are spent in Port Aransas, TX.

BELL TOWER

The Bell Tower will be dedicated on Memorial Day. It was recently completed by metal sculptor Jeff Kreitz. The tower houses our 100+ year old bell from an NP steam locomotive. The design emphasizes our railroad history and the Railroad-Military linkage during WWII. A remote controlled electronic ringer was added.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR OUR FREEDOM!!

4th OF JULY CELEBRATION

Thursday at 11am at the Park

The 4th of July celebration at the Veterans Park will begin at 11 am. Jef Cichos will be the guest speaker and will talk about the Declaration of Independence. Huck Holst will MC the event. Pastor Barry Klein will deliver the invocation. The Motley American Legion Color Guard will conduct a 21-gun salute. Entertainment will be the **"Big City – Big Brass"** Brass Quintet. There will be a catered BBQ pulled pork dinner following the program (free will offering). Staples Dairy Queen will provide Dilly Bars. Bring your lawn chairs. In case of rain, the event will be held at Faith Luthern Church.

Staples All Veterans Park 11 am

BBQ pulled pork dinner, free will offering

Big City – Big Brass Brass Quintet

Motley American Legion Color Guard

JEF CICHOS WILL SPEAK AT 4TH OF JULY EVENT

Jef was born in Jamestown, ND graduating from the University of Jamestown in 1991. Jef has worked in the banking industry for 29 years, joining First International Bank & Trust in 2005. He has gained valuable experience over this time frame in areas ranging from Retail and Private Banking, Cash Management Services and Commercial Banking. He is active in Staples serving as Vice Chairman on the Lakewood Hospital Board, an active member of the Staples Fire Department and Staples Lions Club. Jef and his wife Rhonda have two grown children. Haley and Addisyn, both currently attending UND Grand Forks. For 15 years they have been residents of the Staples community.

11 PAVERS AND 3 BENCHES TO BE DEDICATED ON THE 4TH

STAFF SGT E6
CHAD CONVERSE
AK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
910th ENGINEERING CO COMBAT
SEP 1966 - SEP 1972

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
CLINT CONVERSE
US AIR FORCE
5040TH SUPPLY ELMENDORF AFB
1963 - 1967

HULL TECH CHIEF E-7
JAMES M KANESKI
US NAVY
NOV 1973 - SEP 1995

SP-E5
ERNEST C JOHNSON
US ARMY
MACHINE RECORDS UNIT
FEB 1958 - FEB 1960

SEAMAN FIRST CLASS
ROBERT C LEE
UNITED STATES NAVY WWII
USS SALERNO BAY
Sep 1944 - MAY 1946

PRIVATE
JOHN LYONS JR
US ARMY
COAST ARTILLERY CORPS
1940 - DEC 14 1945
P♥

CPL
HJALMER RANDGAARD
US ARMY WW1
1917 - 1918

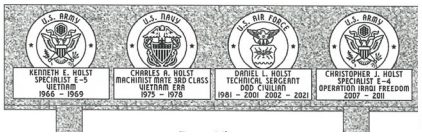
AIRMAN FIRST CLASS
RICHARD D RANDGAARD
USAF
2044TH AACS
APR 1962 - DEC 1965

A2C
ROGER RANDGAARD
USAF
KIMPO AIR BASE KOREA 1964-65
APR 1962 - DEC 1965

SFC
KENNETH J RINGLER
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
OCT 1962 - OCT 1966
MAR 1978 - MAR 1987

GUNNERY SGT
ROB WALTERS
USMC DESERT STORM
INDIA CO 3RD BAT 1ST MARINES
DEC 1984 - DEC 2004

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A COMMEMORATIVE GRANITE PAVER
ONLY $150



HONORING OUR VETERANS

SERGEANT ROGER D. JENSEN

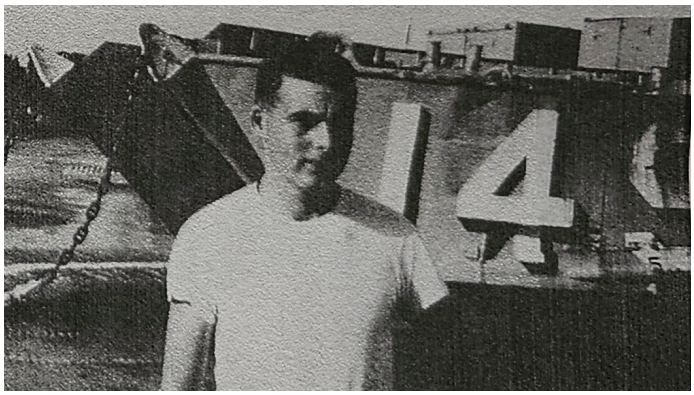
Roger Dale Jensen was born in Staples, August 7, 1948. He graduated from Staples High School in 1967. He was drafted in the Army in May 1968 and received basic training in Fort Campbell, KY. From there he was assigned to Fort Lewis, WA. In October he was sent to Vietnam as an infantryman. He served with D Co, 2nd BN 1st Infantry, 196th Infantry BDE, Americal Div. On June 28, 1968 he died as a result of wounds received in action in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam. He was wounded while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered. He expired shortly after being admitted to a military medical facility. He was only 20 years old and had only 115 days remaining in his tour. Roger was posthumously promoted to E5 Sergeant. He received the Purple Heart, Viet Nam Campaign Medal, Viet Nam Service, National Defense Service Medal, Americal Division Unit Patch and the Combat Infantry Badge. His name is forever engraved on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington DC.

SERGEANT E5 GARRY CARPENTER

Garry grew up in Staples and graduated from Staples High School in 1964. He enlisted with John Greig, Huck Holst, Bob Blessing and Boone Smith. This guaranteed they would go through basic training together and then on to San Diego, CA. Garry reported to Camp Pendelton, CA for advanced training and then on to Hawaii assigned to the first Marine Brigade Amphibious Tractor Battalion, which was sent to Vietnam. The LVT he was driving, was struck by an anti-tank landmine on the beach south of Chu Lia. Garry went in to aid an unconscious Marine when a second explosion occurred. Garry received severe burns and was treated at the Army hospital in Okinawa. Garry earned a Bronze Star, combat "V" medal and a Purple Heart for his heroism.

He finished his enlistment in Camp Lejeune NC. and then moved back to Minnesota and worked for 3M in Hutchinson. He and his wife Karen returned to Staples. He completed Machine Trades program at the vocational school. For several years he had a career in machine maintenance at Stern Rubber.

They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren and a 3 great grandchildren. Garry continues to deal with the effects of war. He has PTSD and Agent Orange cancer and a stroke syndrome due to vasculitis phenomena. Garry has sacrificed much, and is still very proud to have served his country.



CHARLIE & KATHY CREWS DONATE $10,000 FOR 'LONE SAILOR'

It is a life-size bronze statue of "The Lone Sailor" in the park. The lone sailor signifies the men and women who have served, are serving, or will serve in the Navy. He is never alone. He is about 25 years old, a senior second-class petty officer who is fast becoming a seagoing veteran. *Additional funding is needed for this tribute.*

Mel Daniels, Kallie Baxter Todd-Wadena Coop & Milt Peterson

Todd-Wadena ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Receive a check for *$1,183.57*

MASONIC CRESCENT

Lodge 207 has awarded the Park a $2,500 donation for the Bell Tower

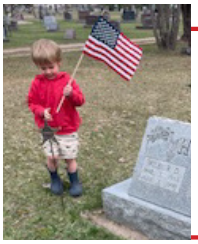
WWII Veteran 98 year old **Harry Meyer** honored as 70 yr member of American Legion

Staples Host Lions donate $500 towards WORLD WAR II WALL OF HONOR

Tim Rice, Retired President of Lakewood Health Joins Veterans Park Board

ANONYMOUS DONOR

gives **$1,000 RMD** to park to help pay for new PA system



Grave Flags go out Monday, May 20th

At Evergreen Cemetery

Meet at the Mausoleum on 4th Street NE at 5pm

Sourcewell has awarded the Veterans Park a $5,000 grant to be used for a ringing mechanism for the Bell Tower.

Please ***tell us*** if you have a winter address or if you have recently moved.

Park Board Members

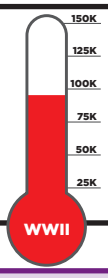
Bob Hamann
Huck Holst
Kevin Jenkins
Penny Nelsen
Milt Peterson
Ken Klose
Char Daniels
Mel Daniels
Dan Shaw
Brandon Sterriker
Tim Rice

PARK PROJECTS

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

WWII Wall of Honor	$90,000
Civil War Tribute	$300
Korean War Tribute	$1,610
WWI Tribute	$1,005
Vietnam War Memorial	$5,743
Learning Center Fund	$1,755
POW/MIA Tribute	$4,144
Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial	$1,900
Ship Anchor	$1,516
Bronze Statue	$10,000
Bell Tower	$14,116

WWII WALL OF HONOR FUND Exceeds $90,000



2024 PARK EVENTS

Memorial Day
May 27, 10 am

4th of July Event
July 4, 11 am

Railroad Days Parade
August 17, 10 am

Veterans Day at SMHS
November 11, 9:45 am

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