

Project Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Niagara River Greenway Commission  
Consultation and Review Form**

Type of Review Required:

Mandatory Consultation

Voluntary Review and/or Endorsement

**PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION**

Name: Town of Grand Island  
Mailing Address: 2255 Baseline Road  
State: New York Zip Code: 14072  
Federal ID# 16-6002263 Charities Registration # \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT TYPE**

Check all that apply:  Environmental  Cultural/Heritage  Land or Water Public Access  
 Cultural  Trail  Educational/Interpretive  
 Waterfront or Land Based Development  Signage  
 Recreational  Other

Project Name: The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project  
Location: DeGlopper Memorial Park  
Site Address: the intersection of Grand Island Blvd and Baseline Road  
State: New York Zip Code: 14072  
Minor Civil Division(s): Town of Grand Island  
County: Erie County

Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other): other

**AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL**

Name: Nathan McMurray Title: Town Supervisor  
Business Address: 2255 Baseline Road, Grand Island  
New York 14072  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: (716) 773-9600 Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(716) 773-9618  
Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: nmcmurray@grand-island.ny.us

**PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT**

Name: Nathan McMurray Title: Town Supervisor  
Organization/Firm: Town of Grand Island  
Business Address: 2255 Baseline Road, Grand Island  
New York 14072  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: (716) 773-9600 Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(716) 773-9618  
Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: nmcmurray@grand-island.ny.us

## PROJECT NARRATIVE

Please attach material which responds to the following five items in the order that they are presented.

1. In a brief paragraph, describe the project and its purpose, how and when it will be accomplished, and why it is important.

The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project is a \$474,760.00 complete park beautification project, which will result in a fully realized veterans memorial park at the intersection of Grand Island Blvd and Baseline Road. This project will also include a 6" 7" life-size bronze statue of Grand Island native and local war hero Charles Neilans DeGlopper, which will act as a focal point of the park.

Charles Neilans DeGlopper (November 30, 1921–June 9, 1944) was a soldier of the United States Army who posthumously received the Medal of Honor, the highest award of the U.S. military, for his heroic actions and sacrifice of life during the early stages of the Battle of Normandy in World War II. A Grand Island, New York native, DeGlopper was the only soldier from the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment to receive the Medal of Honor. He was also the only World War II soldier from the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army to receive the award for action during the Normandy Campaign. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Private DeGlopper was awarded the Bronze Star for "meritorious achievements in ground operations against the enemy" during the Sicily Campaign. He was also awarded the Purple Heart for "military merit and wounds received in action resulting in his death."

Charles N. DeGlopper entered the United States Army in November 1942. He trained at Camp Croft, South Carolina. He was deployed overseas in April 1943, where he served in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and France. He was ultimately killed in action on June 9, 1944 in La Fièvre, Manche, Normandy, France. He was a member of Company C, 325th Glider Infantry. On June 9, 1944, while advancing with the forward platoon to secure a bridgehead across the Merderet River at La Fièvre, France, the platoon penetrated an outer line of machineguns and riflemen, but in so doing had become cut off from the rest of the company. Vastly superior forces began a decimation of the stricken unit and put in motion a flanking maneuver, which would have completely exposed the American platoon in a shallow roadside ditch where it had taken cover. Detecting this danger, Pfc. DeGlopper volunteered to support his comrades by fire from his automatic rifle while they attempted a withdrawal through a break in a hedgerow 40 yards to the rear. Scorning a concentration of enemy automatic weapons and rifle fire, he walked from the ditch onto the road in full view of the Germans, and sprayed the hostile positions with assault fire. He was wounded, but he continued firing.

Struck again, he started to fall and yet his grim determination and valiant fighting spirit could not be broken. Kneeling in the roadway, weakened by his grievous wounds, he leveled his heavy weapon against the enemy and fired burst after burst until he was finally killed. He was successful in drawing the enemy action away from his fellow soldiers, who continued the fight from a more advantageous position and established the first bridgehead over the Merderet. In the area where he made his intrepid stand his comrades later found the ground strewn with dead Germans and many machineguns and automatic weapons which he had knocked out of action. Pfc. DeGlopper's gallant sacrifice and unflinching heroism while facing insurmountable odds were in great measure responsible for a highly important tactical victory in the Normandy Campaign.

On June 9, 2002, The Charles DeGlopper VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Post #9249 on Grand Island NY dedicated a new headstone on the grave of the Island's native son, Charles N. DeGlopper, Company C, 325th Glider Infantry. The marker recognized the fact that Charles DeGlopper was awarded the Medal of Honor after his death during the Normandy invasion. As time has passed the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Post #9249, along with the Town of Grand Island, has desired a more fitting marker to recognize DeGlopper's sacrifice. In June 2016, on the 72nd anniversary of DeGlopper's death, members of the DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee held a ceremonial groundbreaking to launch an estimated \$750,000 expansion of the original parkland to include land that was once a gas station. The expansion committee includes members of the Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9249, Grand Island American Legion Post No. 1346, and Grand Island Moose Lodge No. 180. Their project is to honor DeGlopper, the other 13 Island soldiers killed in action, as well as servicemen and women from the community who have served their country.

Due to DeGlopper' legacy, the Town of Grand Island would like to memorialize him with the creation and installation of a bronze statue at DeGlopper Memorial Park as well as honoring all veterans of the armed service with this park beautification project, which will result in a fully realized veterans memorial park. The Town has contacted accomplished artist Susan Geissler who has created countless sculptures, most notable three previously funded Greenway projects: the Tuscarora Heroes Monument, Morgan Lewis Bust and the Freedom Crossing Monument, and Geissler quickly agreed to the project and has provided concept art, photos and budget for the project (see attached)

The tentative date for completion for this project is September 2018. The status will be mounted on a five-foot granite stone base and include descriptive bronze plaque. The over all project will also include a concrete pad, foundation for statue, concrete sidewalks, concrete piers for the veterans memorial wall, site work, excavation, gas lights, eternal flames, piping, drainage, landscaping,

electrical work, streetlights, statue and flag lights, paver stones for walkway, serviceman wall, entrance sign, road work, blacktop and striping, signage & 10 flags and flagpoles. (See attached for more information).

2. Referring to the Niagara River Greenway Plan, clearly document and describe how the proposed project will advance the Niagara River Greenway vision including the goals, principles, and criteria that define that vision.

The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project will promote the vision of the Niagara River Greenway by supporting historic nature of this project and local significance along the Niagara River to serve as a historic gateway for visitors to the Greenway Corridor.

The Town of Grand Island's DeGlopper Memorial Park is at the intersection of Grand Island Blvd and Baseline Road and is the site of the proposed DeGlopper Memorial Statue, which is located within three miles of the Niagara River and within 15 miles of the aforementioned previously funded Greenway projects of the Tuscarora Heroes Monument, Morgan Lewis Bust and the Freedom Crossing Monument (also created by Susan Geissler).

This project incorporates the principles, goals and criteria set forth by the Niagara River Greenway, and the project will support an accessible, unified, environmentally friendly, and revitalized corridor that highlights the natural beauty, cultural diversity, and historic significance of the Niagara River.

### ***PRINCIPALS***

***The implementation of the DeGlopper Memorial Statue Project will meet the guiding principles of the Niagara Greenway Commission as follows:***

#### ***Excellence***

The Town of Grand Island is committed to this project and the excellence of its historic significance. The Town of Grand Island's DeGlopper Memorial Park at the intersection of Grand Island Blvd and Baseline Road is already the site of a stone and bronze monument that bears the names of Grand Island servicemen who have been killed in action during U.S. wars. (see map, site plan and photos) the project will capitalize on the Town's surrounding area's historic knowledge base, thus contributing to the Greenway Commission's first-class standards.

#### ***Sustainability***

The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project will promote the historic sustainability for long-term viability and effectiveness. The DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee along with the Town of Grand Island, Pfc. Charles N.

DeGlopper Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9249, Grand Island American Legion Post No. 1346, Grand Island Moose Lodge No. 180 and even DeGlopper family will conscientiously maintain, promote and protect this project.

### ***Accessibility***

The Town of Grand Island's DeGlopper Memorial Park is at the intersection of Grand Island Blvd and Baseline Road within three miles of the Niagara River. The proposed project is designed to provide a focal point for all who visit the area and provide historic iconography and a descriptive bronze plaque. The park is open daily, 365 days a year with no set hours. DeGlopper Memorial Park is host to a wide array of memorial events and specifically a Memorial Day ceremony. The site offers ADA accessibility and additional ADA accommodation will be made as the park is further developed. These events are typically hosted by Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9249, Grand Island American Legion Post No. 1346, and Grand Island Moose Lodge No. 180.

### ***Ecological Integrity***

The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project will support parkland that is used, and will improve the health, vitality, and integrity of natural resources within DeGlopper Memorial Park with an emphasis placed on restoring and retaining the natural landscapes that border this park. The creation of this statue will not have any negative impact on the ecological integrity of the park, and will be created in an environmentally responsible manner. In fact the creation and expansion of this park has included a joint effort from Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9249, Grand Island American Legion Post No. 1346, Grand Island Moose Lodge No. 180, and local Boy Scout Troops to expansion of the original parkland to include land that was once a gas station.

### ***Connectivity***

The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project will facilitate the connectivity to the Niagara River Greenway as well as the connectivity to three other historic sculptures created with Greenway funds; Tuscarora Heroes Monument, Morgan Lewis Bust and the Freedom Crossing Monument, located with 15 miles of this site.

### ***Authenticity***

The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project will support the already established clear sense of "place" as well as identity that reflects the traditional spirit and heritage of all the groups involved in championing this project. As stated previously Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9249, Grand Island American Legion Post No. 1346, Grand Island

Moose Lodge No. 180, and local Boy Scout Troops all worked together to raise money and to prepare the site for all the site renovations to come.

### ***Celebration***

The heart of this project will be designed to celebrate local history, diversity, cultural resources, and the natural and built environments, and will seek to share this diverse tradition with local residents and visitors to the region. The expanded DeGlopper Memorial site will not only honor Charles N. DeGlopper, but all Grand Island residents, past, present, and future, who have proudly served the United States as a member of the military. The site will include a memorial to all branches of our Armed Forces and to further honor and celebrate all that have served; pavers will be installed. Veterans and families of veterans can download the DeGlopper Memorial Paver Application found the DeGlopper Memorial (see attached)

The park will also be a learning experience for kids and their families to see their family members' names on a wall or pavers. It will be a place to learn more about Charles N. DeGlopper and a list of others who gave their lives for our freedom, but also a place for members of the Grand Island community to return gratitude.

### ***Partnerships***

This project and DeGlopper Memorial Park has been a partnership endeavor since its inception. The DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee along with the Town of Grand Island, Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9249, Grand Island American Legion Post No. 1346, Grand Island Moose Lodge No. 180 and even DeGlopper family, especially Ray DeGlopper the nephew of Charles, have created joint efforts to create an area to be proud of honor this local hero and all that have served this great nation. Also this group has also been responsible for raising over \$10,000 to support this project through fundraising events and sponsorship.

### ***Community Based***

The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project has been in the planning stages since June 2016 with several comprehensive YouTube videos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOliBJTWzs8&feature=youtu.be> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHxM7vLVHVs> and an active website <http://degloppermemorial.org>. As stated previously DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee has spent a great deal of time creating a fully realized project and has created fund raising campaigns, comprehensive plans (see attached), held events onsite and has been in constant contact with the media to create community outreach to engage residents in what this project means to the community, the armed forces, veterans and the DeGlopper family. Most recently, with support provided by the Town Supervisor (Nathan McMurray) and the Town Board, the Town of Grand Island will submit to the Niagara River

Greenway Commission a proposal for recommendation of the Town of Grand Island's DeGlopper Memorial grant funding request.

## **GOALS**

***The implementation of the DeGlopper Memorial Statue Project will meet the goals of the Niagara River Greenway as follows:***

### ***Make Connections***

This project will facilitate increased access for residents and visitors to the Town of Grand Island's DeGlopper Memorial and will serve as a historical destination for residents and the surrounding community. This project will connect visitors to the previously funded Greenway projects the Tuscarora Heroes Monument, Morgan Lewis Bust and the Freedom Crossing Monument.

### ***Promote Long Term Sustainability***

The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project will be maintained and protected by the DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee along with the Town of Grand Island, Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9249, Grand Island American Legion Post No. 1346, Grand Island Moose Lodge No. 180 and even DeGlopper family to remain an attractive destination along the Niagara River Greenway. This statue will be conscientiously maintained well into the future, the connection between this site and Grand Island's other monuments will contribute to the vitality of the area as it continues to serve as an attractive and essential gateway and stopover along the Niagara River Greenway.

### ***Celebrate History and Heritage***

The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project and the creation and installation of the DeGlopper Memorial Statue will become a visual representation of Charles DeGlopper's accomplishments and his act of heroism in World War II. DeGlopper, a member of the Glider Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division, was killed in battle on June 9, 1944, during the D-Day invasion. He died as he drew enemy fire away from his battalion by firing his automatic rifle at the German soldiers. His courageous act of self-sacrifice saved the lives of his fellow soldiers and is considered a critical point in the Battle of Normandy. It is an important, longstanding tradition for Grand Islanders to honor its history and heritage in physical representations. This project will allow the community to uphold those traditions and to preserve historic knowledge for all who visit the area.

## **CRITERIA**

***Through the DeGlopper Memorial Statue Project, the Town of Grand Island meets criteria of the Niagara River Greenway Plan:***

### ***Consistency with Niagara River Greenway Principles***

The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project makes a significant contribution towards all the principles set forth by the Niagara River Greenway. This project encourages the vision for the Greenway to be explicitly considered for project development, at the basic vision, to see developed the space around and near the Niagara River to attract residents and visitors to utilize this space and experience the natural resource provided by the Niagara River.

### ***Priority Status***

The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project has been in the planning phase since June 2016 and enhances the historic significance of the park namesake. DeGlopper Memorial Statue supports the pride of Grand Island's history and will enhance the sense of place.

### ***Focus Area***

The implementation of the proposed project will visually improve the aesthetics of the DeGlopper Memorial property as it is within three miles of the Niagara River focus area. The addition of the DeGlopper Memorial Statue will have a local and regional impact at the heart of the Greenway.

### ***Implementable***

Susan Geissler will complete the project. Based on her vast experience and her successful track record of creating several historic statues in Western New York she was an obvious choice. Geissler has created a concept model of Charles DeGlopper holding his Browning automatic rifle used in that fateful battle. Also the attached Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project budget, and site plan was donated from the engineering firm of Clark Patterson Lee.

### ***Economic Viability and Local Sponsor***

The DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee along with the Town of Grand Island, Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9249, Grand Island American Legion Post No. 1346, Grand Island Moose Lodge No. 180 and even the DeGlopper family will continue to provide stewardship for this project, and provide the necessary money, equipment, and manpower to further this project along from the design phase to its completion and beyond.

### ***Availability of Local Sponsor or Partner***

The DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee along with the Town of Grand Island, Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9249, Grand Island American Legion Post No. 1346, Grand Island Moose Lodge No. 180 and even DeGlopper family is committed to this project and thus will assume the long-term responsibility for continued operation and maintenance. The Town will ensure that the DeGlopper Memorial Statue does not fall into disrepair and will continue to champion the project after it is completed.

**Ability to Match or Leverage Funds**

The Town of Grand Island will not be providing any matching or leveraging funds for this project.

**Clear Benefits**

The DeGlopper Memorial Statue will serve as both an historic marker, and enhance the visitor experience for those visiting Grand Island, DeGlopper Memorial Park and the Niagara River Greenway.

- 3. Define the budget for the proposed project and include costs for the following:

Planning	\$ _____
Construction	<u>\$474,760.00</u>
Acquisition	\$ _____
Administration	\$ _____
Operation and Maintenance / Year	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$474,760.00</b>

Identify all sources of funding and the amount of funding expected from each source. Identify and quantify funds that are already on hand or have been allocated for the proposed project. Explain how the project will be operated and maintained.

DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee along with the Town of Grand Island, Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9249, Grand Island American Legion Post No. 1346, Grand Island Moose Lodge No. 180 and even the DeGlopper family, will continue to provide stewardship for this project once it's complete. The Town of Grand Island will provide the necessary equipment and manpower to protect this project beyond completion. Accomplished artist Susan Geissler, who has completed several Greenway Funded sculptures and is familiar with the grant process, provided the quote for the statue and Clark Patterson Lee (a major architecture, engineering and planning firm) created the over all park expansion site plan and quote. Clark Patterson Lee has years of experience with park planning and development. The attached site plan is complete and has an itemized list of every element the project needs to account for the creation of this vision. The requested

\$474,760.00 consists of the construction, site work and materials needed to complete the park renovation and creation of the statue.

4. Describe the measures taken at the local level to gain community and government support for this project (hearings, petitions, public surveys, resolutions of support or other methods). If this project has been cited or described in a local planning document or some equivalent thereof, attach copies of that documentation highlighting the sections that are relevant to the proposed project. Describe the role of municipal agencies, stakeholder groups, consultants, volunteers or others who will be involved in the proposed project.

Support for the Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project is coming DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee along with the Town of Grand Island, Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9249, Grand Island American Legion Post No. 1346, Grand Island Moose Lodge No. 180 and even the DeGlopper family. The Town of Grand Island unanimously supported the project and Greenway funding on September 5, 2017; as seen in the attached resolution. As stated previously the DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee held a ceremonial groundbreaking to launch an estimated \$750,000 expansion of the original parkland to include land that was once a gas station. This group has created a comprehensive website, several YouTube videos, coordinated on site events (see attached photos of the Deed Signing and Ground Breaking events), site plans and fundraising events (next event is Scheduled for October 1, 2017). This group has also chosen Youngstown sculptor Susan Geissler to create the statue of Medal of Honor recipient Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper (see attached work plan).

5. Describe and document the environmental setting and existing conditions at the proposed project site. If you are not the owner of the property include a letter(s) or resolution(s) evidencing support for the project by the owner. Provide photographs, conceptual plans and drawings that show the site as it presently exists and how the site will change with the addition of the proposed project. Describe how your project will comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The existence of wetlands, significant upland and aquatic habitats, and plant or animals species that are classified as rare, threatened, or endangered should be noted. Explain how such natural resources will be protected and/or enhanced. Cite any relevant project-related studies.

Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project is located at the intersection of Grand Island Blvd and Baseline Road, Grand Island, NY. The DeGlopper Memorial site and its expansion will not only honor Charles N. DeGlopper, but all

Grand Island residents (past, present, and future) who have proudly served the United States as a member of the military. Design (provided by Clark Patterson Lee) features will include a Gold Star for mothers of the fallen, personalized memorial pavers, flagpoles with the flags from each arm of the military, black granite walls with engravings of the names of Grand Island residents who have served, benches for visitors, parking, and much more. Currently the site plays host to a variety of memorial events for veterans as the site is currently home to simple stone monument with a bronze plaque. This proposed full size statue of Charles N. DeGlopper will become the focal point of the park and will spark the continuation of the parks development and support well into the future. The proposed project will allow the Town to continue its tradition of providing its residents and the surrounding community with interpretive historical monuments and markers. There were no relevant studies necessary for this project, as the area has been developed and has undergone previous ground disturbance, all SEQR documentation has already been filed for this area.

## **Resolution**



STATE OF NEW YORK     )  
TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND ) ss.  
COUNTY OF ERIE        )

To Whom It May Concern:

**I, HEREBY CERTIFY**, *That at a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Grand Island, held on the **Fifth of September, 2017** the following resolution was adopted, and is incorporated in the original minutes of said meeting, and that said resolution has not been altered, amended or revoked and is in full force and effect:*

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
SUPERVISOR NATHAN D. McMURRAY  
COUNCILMEMBERS:  
RAYMOND A. BILICA, CHRISTOPHER K. ARONICA,  
BEVERLY A. KINNEY, MICHAEL H. MADIGAN

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kinney, seconded by Councilman Billica to adopt the following resolution:

Therefore, be it Resolved: That the Town of Grand Island will submit to the Niagara River Greenway Commission a proposal for recommendation of the Town of Grand Island's DeGlopper Memorial grant funding request.

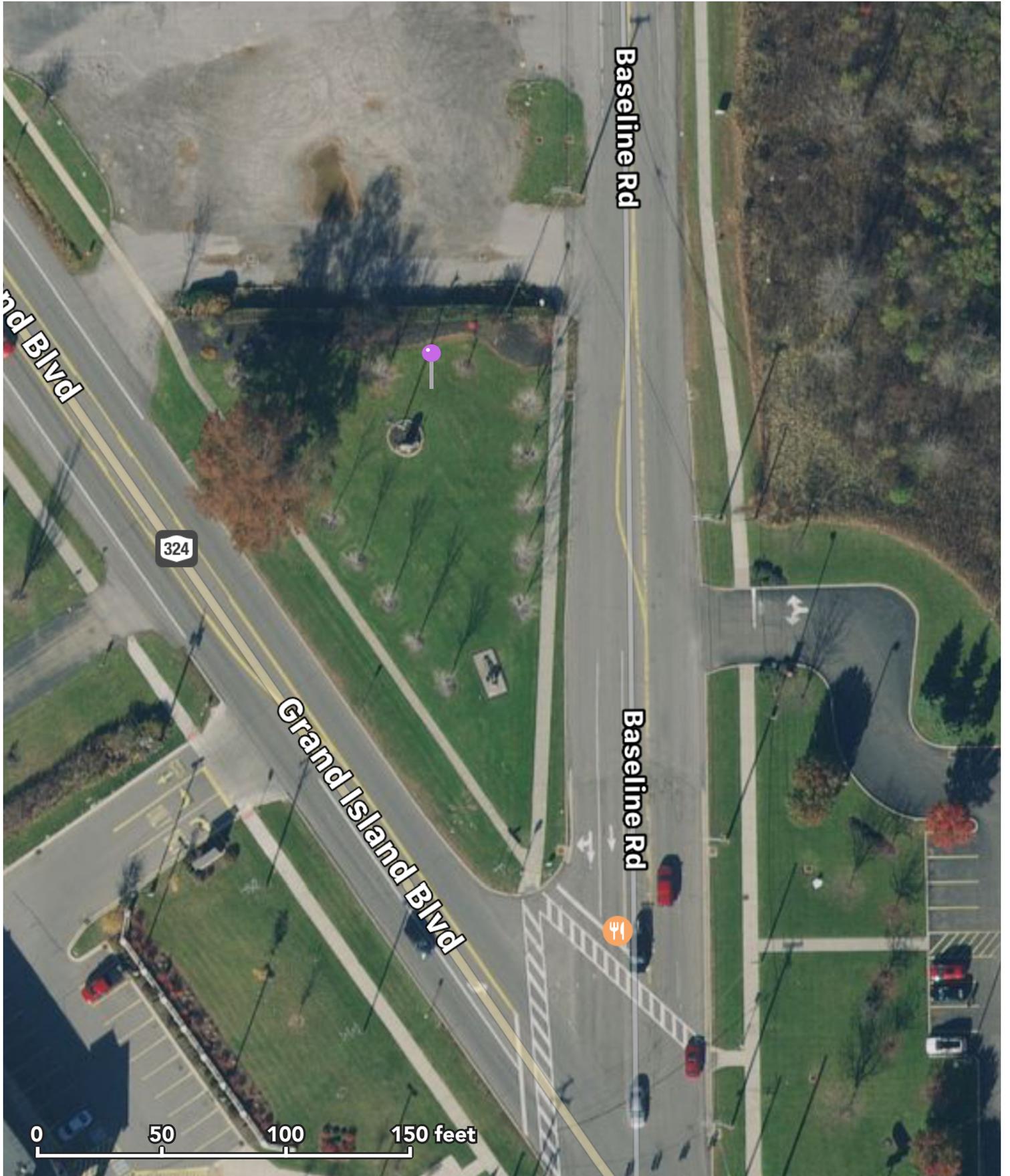
*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the Seal of the Town of Grand Island, Erie County, New York the **Fifth of September, 2017.***

ATTEST

PATRICIA A. FRENTZEL  
TOWN CLERK



**Map**



Baseline Rd

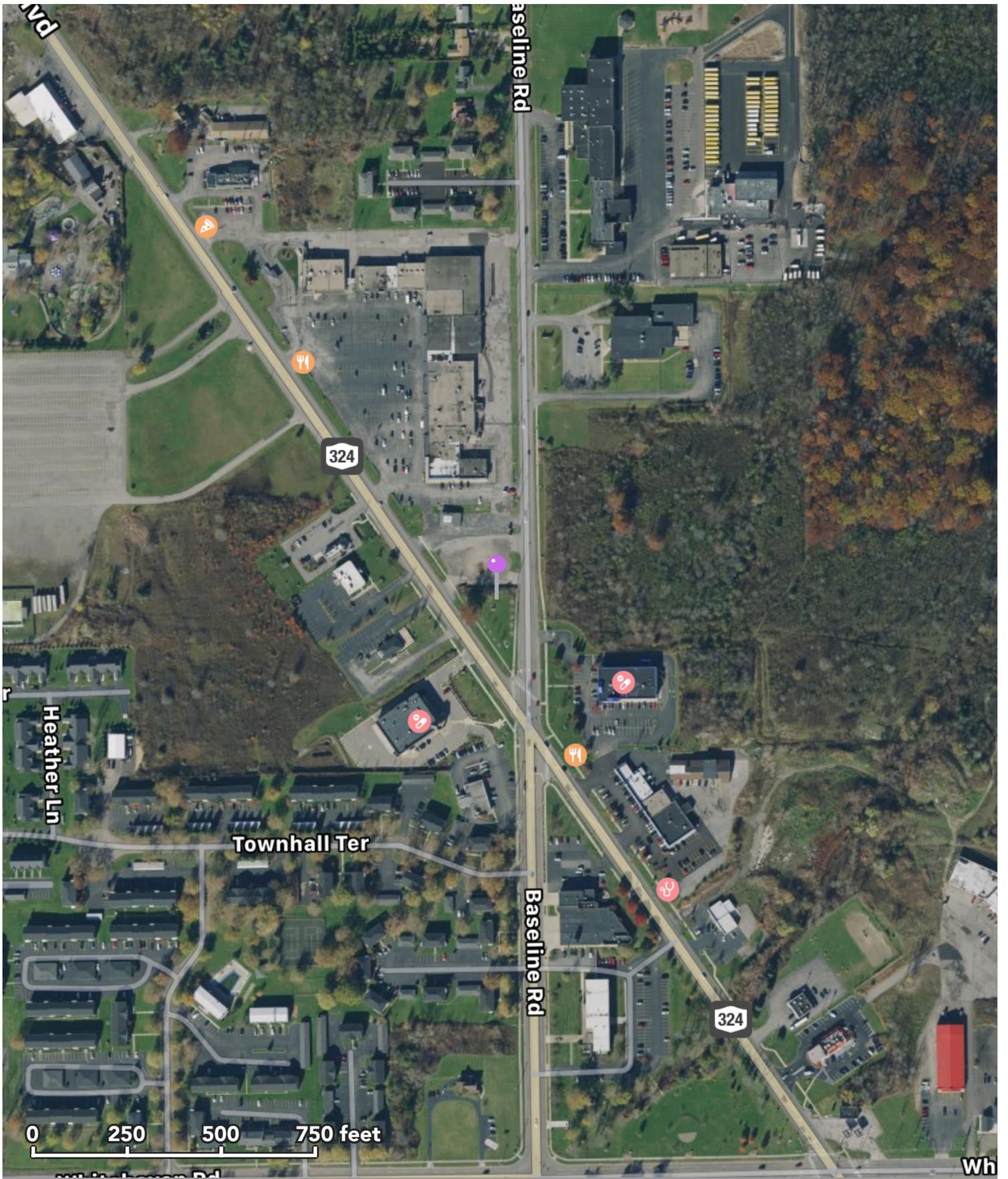
Baseline Rd

Grand Island Blvd

nd Blvd

324

0 50 100 150 feet



## **Letters of Support**



# ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. KEVIN R. HARDWICK

LEGISLATOR

September 18, 2017

Supervisor Nathan McMurray  
Town of Grand Island  
2255 Baseline Road  
Grand Island, NY 14072

Dear Supervisor McMurray:

I am writing to lend my support to the Grand Island application for its DeGlopper Memorial Project. Remembering and celebrating our war heroes is our duty to respect the service of our military and respect those that have given their life for our freedom.

Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9249, Grand Island American Legion Post No. 1346, and the Grand Island Moose Lodge No. 180 honors Charles N. DeGlopper, and the other 13 Island soldiers killed in action, as well as servicemen and women from the community who have served their country.

Due to DeGlopper's legacy, the Town of Grand Island's effort to memorialize him with the creation and installation of a bronze statue at DeGlopper Memorial Park at the intersection of Grand Island Blvd and Baseline Road, Grand Island, NY is an important project to the region. This is why I whole heartedly support the Niagara River Greenway application from the Town of Grand Island for the installation of a statue to Mr. DeGlopper's heroism and let it be a testimony for the Town of Grand Island's military veterans who have served our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Kevin R. Hardwick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin R. Hardwick  
Erie County Legislator – 4<sup>th</sup> District

## **Paver Application for Veterans**

**Application for Veterans to be Honored at The DeGlopper Memorial**

**\*A SEPARATE APPLICATION MUST BE FILLED OUT FOR EACH VETERAN**

**\*\*A COPY OF HONORABLE DISCHARGE FORM DD-214 OR EQUIVALENT AND PROOF OF RESIDENCY MUST BE ATTACHED OR APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED**

Please read the instructions on the reverse side of this application for clarification in completing this application. Instructions for each question on this application are explained fully.

1. FULL NAME OF VETERAN: (please Print or Type)


2. In the squares above, place the name of the Veteran, EXACTLY as you would like it to appear on the memorial. (22 CHARACTER MAXIMUM)

3. Is the veteran currently: (circle one) Living Deceased Died in Conflict

4. If living does the veteran currently live in the Town of Grand Island: YES NO

5. Grand Island address where veteran currently resides

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of years at this address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Property owner's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. If living or deceased, list any other Town of Grand Island address(s) where the veteran resided, the property owner's name and number of years at each address:

Address	Property owner	# years there
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

7. If any of the above property owners' names differ from the veteran's please explain the veteran's relationship to the property owner: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. During which War or Conflict did the Veteran serve in: (if none mark N/A)

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Name, Address and phone number of person submitting the application:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Your relationship to this veteran: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*The donation for placing the name of a United States Veteran on the wall of honor is \$100.00\*\*\*  
Inscriptions will be added to the wall once each year**

Should you have questions concerning completion of the form please email David Castiglia at [Castiglia@roadrunner.com](mailto:Castiglia@roadrunner.com)

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING MEMORIAL APPLICATION

APPLICATIONS MUST HAVE A COPY OF SEPARATION PAPERS (FORM DD-214 OR EQUIVALENT) AND PROOF OF RESIDENCY ATTACHED AT THE TIME OF SUBMITTAL

### Question Number Instructions

1. Full name of the Veteran. Complete first name, middle name or initial, and last name, spelled correctly. If a name is misspelled or incomplete and verification of the name cannot be made, the Veteran's name may be held until the following year.
2. You have a maximum of twenty (22) characters for each name. In the squares that are provided, please put one letter per square. Please print clearly or type the letters. **You must use a square for the spaces between first name, middle initial and last name. Also, the period after a middle initial also counts as a square.** See the examples below:  
JOSEPH P. SMITH  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
3. Please circle one.
4. Please circle one.
5. If you answered "YES" to number #4, give the current address, the number of years at that address and the name of the individual(s) whose name appears as the property owner.
6. If the Veteran lived at several different Grand Island addresses, you must list all addresses and the number of years at that address. Also, list the property owner of each location for verification purposes.
7. If the Veteran was not the property owner at any location where he/she lived, explain his/her relationship to the property owner. Perhaps the property owner was a grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc. that the Veteran lived with for a period of time.
8. Please indicate the conflict or war during which time the Veteran served.
9. We need your name, address and phone to contact you should we need clarification of any of the information contained in the application.
10. If you are completing the form for someone other than yourself, please state your relationship to the Veteran for whom you are applying.

**I M P O R T A N T:** IF ANY INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS OMITTED OR CANNOT BE VERIFIED, THE APPLICATION MAY BE HELD. AFTER ALL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN VERIFIED, IF TIME REMAINS BEFORE OUR DEADLINE, CALLS MAY BE MADE BY DEGLOPPER MEMORIAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES TO THE APPLICANTS FOR CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION INFORMATION. IF WE CANNOT MAKE VERIFICATION, THE APPLICATION WILL BE HELD UNTIL THE FOLLOWING YEAR. IN ADDITION, ANY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DEGLOPPER BOARD WITHOUT THE REQUIRED HONORABLE DISCHARGE SEPARATION PAPERS (FORM DD-214 OR EQUIVALENT), CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AND WILL BE RETURNED TO THE APPLICANT.

If you can't find your DD-214 you may visit the below web stie and request it:  
<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

Payable to: Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial VFW Post 9249

Please mail to: Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial VFW Post 9249  
Attn.: Memorial – Honor Wall  
2121 Grand Island Blvd.  
Grand Island, NY 14072

# DeGlopper Memorial Paver

**Order Forms**


Paver size: 8" X 14"

\_\_\_\_\_

Name Phone Email address

\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/City/State/Zip Code

\$175.00 Donation Per Paver Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Payable to: Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial VFW Post 9249

**\*\*Price includes All Sales Tax\*\***

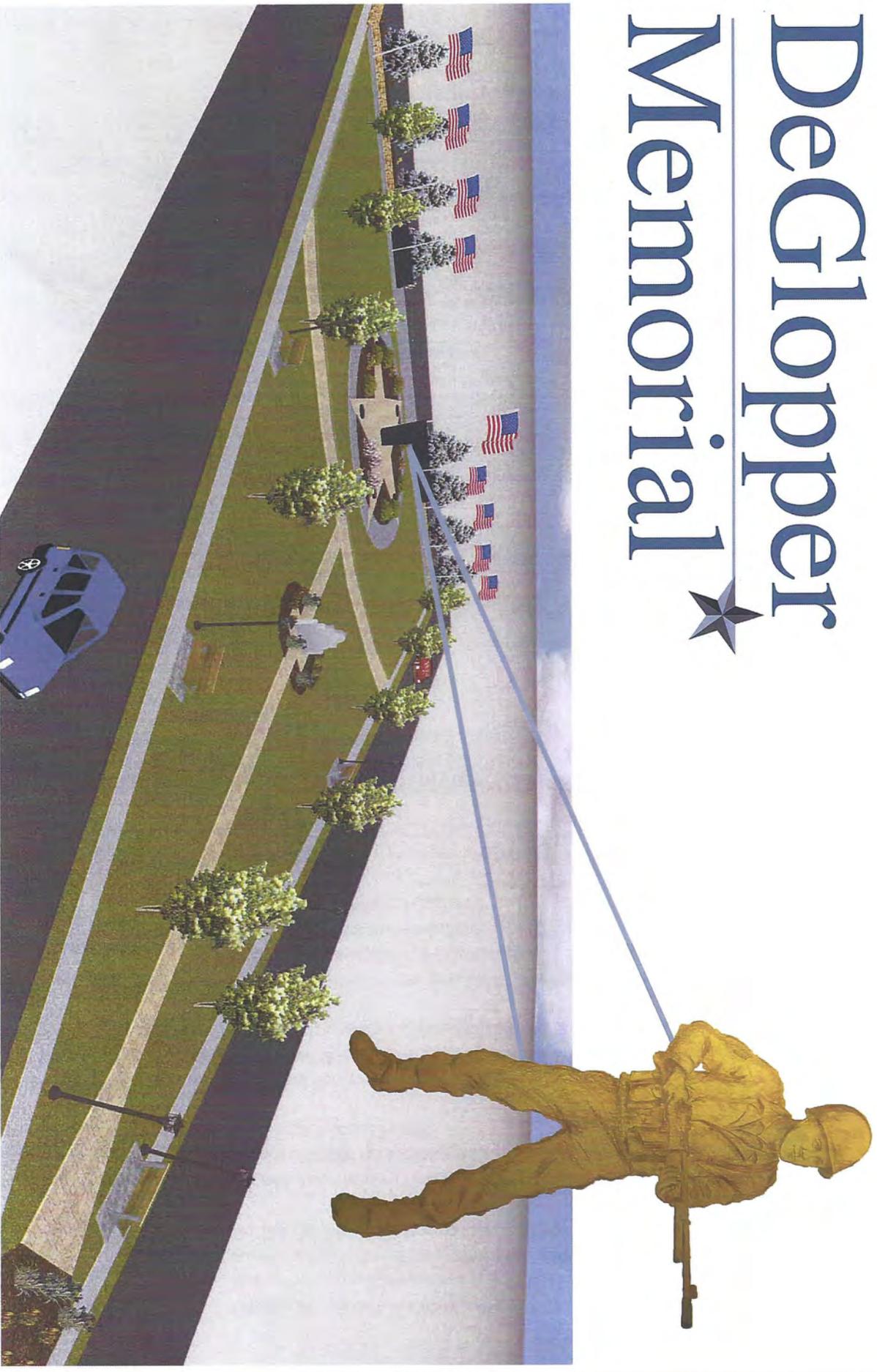
Donor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

DeGlopper Committee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: Charles N DeGlopper Memorial VFW Post 9249  
 Attn.: Memorial Fund – Paver  
 2121 Grand Island Blvd.  
 Grand Island, NY 14072

Should you have questions concerning completion of the form please email Dan Robillard at [dantlc@roadrunner.com](mailto:dantlc@roadrunner.com)

# DeGlopper Memorial



[gofundme.com/DeGlopperMemorial](http://gofundme.com/DeGlopperMemorial)

[facebook.com/DeGlopperMemorial](https://facebook.com/DeGlopperMemorial)

Printing services donated by **TOSHIBA** & **Green Island**  
BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

# DeGlopper Memorial

Charles N. DeGlopper is a Grand Island, New York native and U.S. Army soldier who posthumously received the Medal of Honor, the highest award given by the U.S. military, after giving his life for his country on June 9, 1944 during the Battle of Normandy.

The expansion of the DeGlopper Memorial site will not only honor Charles N. DeGlopper, but all Grand Island residents, past, present, and future, who have proudly served the United States as a member of the military. The site will include a memorial to all branches of our Armed Forces.

You can help to honor Charles N. DeGlopper, and the many Grand Island residents that have unselfishly risked their lives to keep our home safe by giving to help fund this expansion project. For more information visit [www.facebook.com/DeGlopperMemorial](http://www.facebook.com/DeGlopperMemorial) or to make general donations go to [gofundme.com/DeGlopperMemorial](http://gofundme.com/DeGlopperMemorial).

Tax deductible donations for this project may be mailed to the Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial VFW Post 9249:  
Attn.: Memorial Fund - Donation  
2121 Grand Island Blvd.  
Grand Island, NY 14072

The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial VFW Post 9249 is a registered 501(c)(19). For more information on the memorial expansion, or making a tax deductible donation, please visit [www.degloppermemorial.org](http://www.degloppermemorial.org).

## Giving Opportunities

### Gold Star \$50,000

Each \$50,000 donation will assist with:

- Granite Memorial Entrance Walls
- Charles N. DeGlopper Statue
- Paving of Parking Lot
- Retaining Wall
- AstroTurf

### Silver Star \$10,000

Each \$10,000 donation will assist with:

- Gold Star Mothers Pavers
- Plants and Vegetation

### Bronze Star \$5,000

Each \$5,000 donation will assist with:

- 82nd Airborne Emblem Paver
- Statue Lighting

### Red Star \$2,500

Each \$2,500 donation will assist with:

- Park Benches
- Light Posts

### White Star \$1,000

Each \$1,000 donation will assist with:

- Posts honoring Killed in Action heroes
- Planters & Top Soil

### Blue Star \$500

Each \$500 donation will assist with:

- Crests for Each Arm of the Service
- Canvas for a Summer Time Canopy Cover

### Personalized Paver - \$175

Become a permanent part of the DeGlopper Memorial by purchasing engraved pavers to be placed in the memorial in honor of military service members. With your engraved inscription, you may choose to memorialize a fallen soldier or honor a friend or family member who served our country.

Donations of any dollar amount are greatly welcomed and appreciated. Support of any kind will help to advance efforts to complete the creation of the DeGlopper Memorial expansion project. To make a general donation please visit [www.degloppermemorial.org](http://www.degloppermemorial.org).

## **Event Photos**



THEY GAVE THEIR ALL FOR US. HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THANKS!

**CALLING ALL VETS**  
**WE NEED YOUR HELP**  
**ON APRIL 29TH @ 9AM**

We're looking for a few good men and women to help build the veterans memorial!

**QUESTIONS?: (716) 725-5750**

**DeGlopper Memorial**  
 A Joint Initiative of Grand Island Blvd & Brantford Rd

All are welcome to help build the veterans memorial! We want you all! Interested? Email us in action.




## **Clark Patterson Lee Quote and Site Plan**

## Charles N. DeGlopper Expansion Project - Grand Island, NY

### Statue

Statue of Charles N. DeGlopper	\$95,000.00
--------------------------------	-------------

### Concrete Work

Concrete pad	
Foundation for statue	
Concrete sidewalk 6' x 145'	
Concrete piers for vet memorial wall	\$16,500.00

### Site Work

Site work, excavation trucking	\$23,000.00
Stone	\$5,000.00
Post and glass KIA	\$15,400.00
Gas lights, 2 eternal flames	
All piping, all materials	\$12,000.00
Drainage 700 feet	\$14,000.00
Landscaping	\$12,200.00

### Electrical Work

Streetlights, Statue lights Flagpole lighting Electrical Panel	\$84,000.00
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### Paving Work

Paver stones for walkway Granite base for statue, Serviceman wall Entrance sign	\$78,000.00
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### Road Work

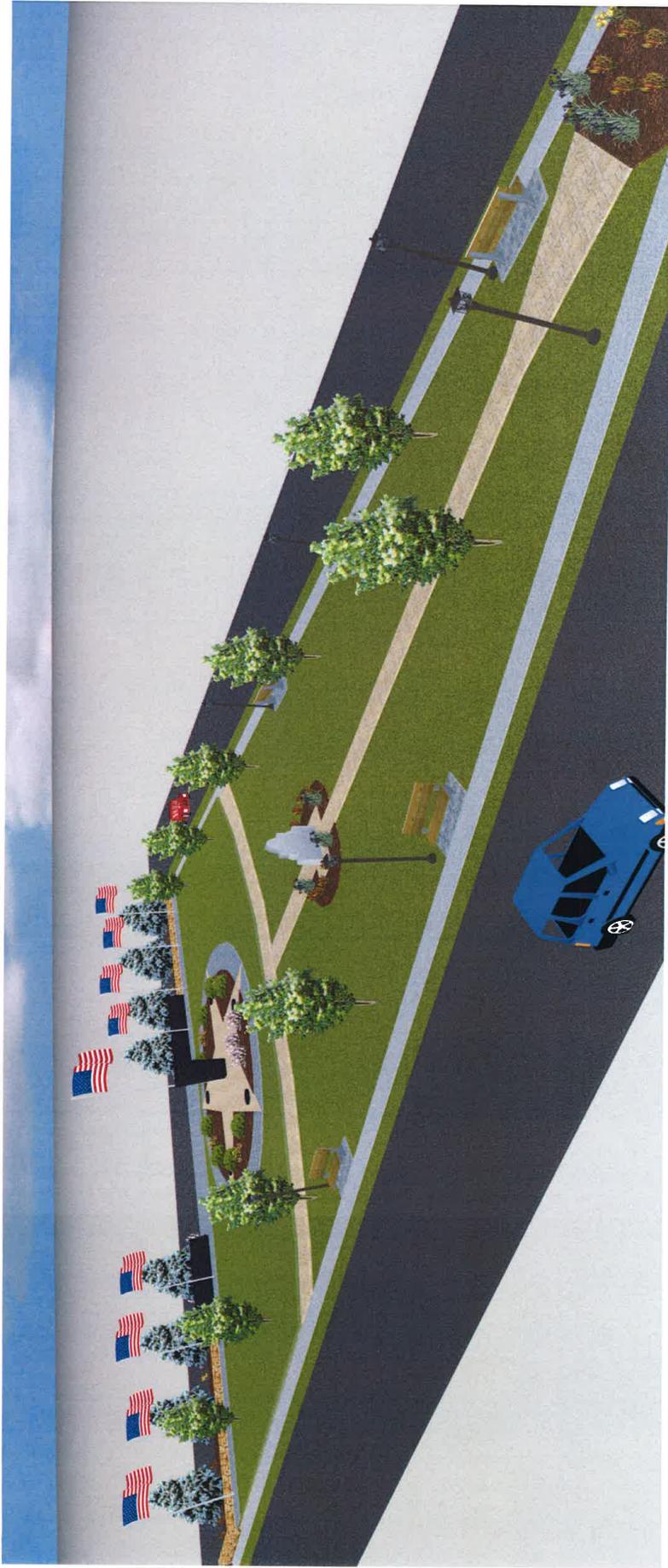
Blacktop and striping	\$18,000.00
-----------------------	-------------

### Signage & Flags

Signage	\$3,500.00
Misc crane and attachment points	\$5,000.00
Flag poles 10 poles	\$50,000.00

<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$431,600.00</b>
<b>10% Contingency</b>	<b>\$43,160.00</b>

<b>Final Project Costs</b>	<b>\$474,760.00</b>
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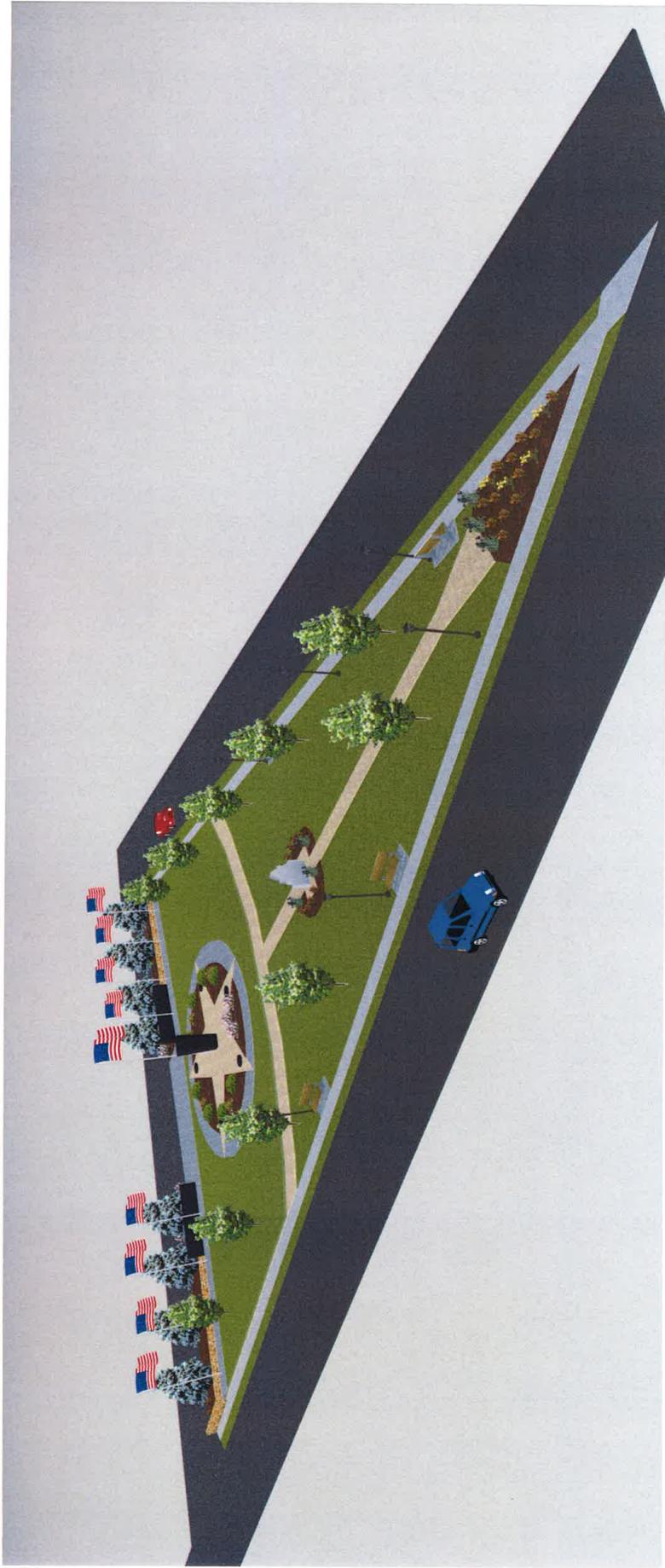
*LivingWays Studio*



*Kindred Day Studio*



*Living Day Studio*



*Chickadee Studios*



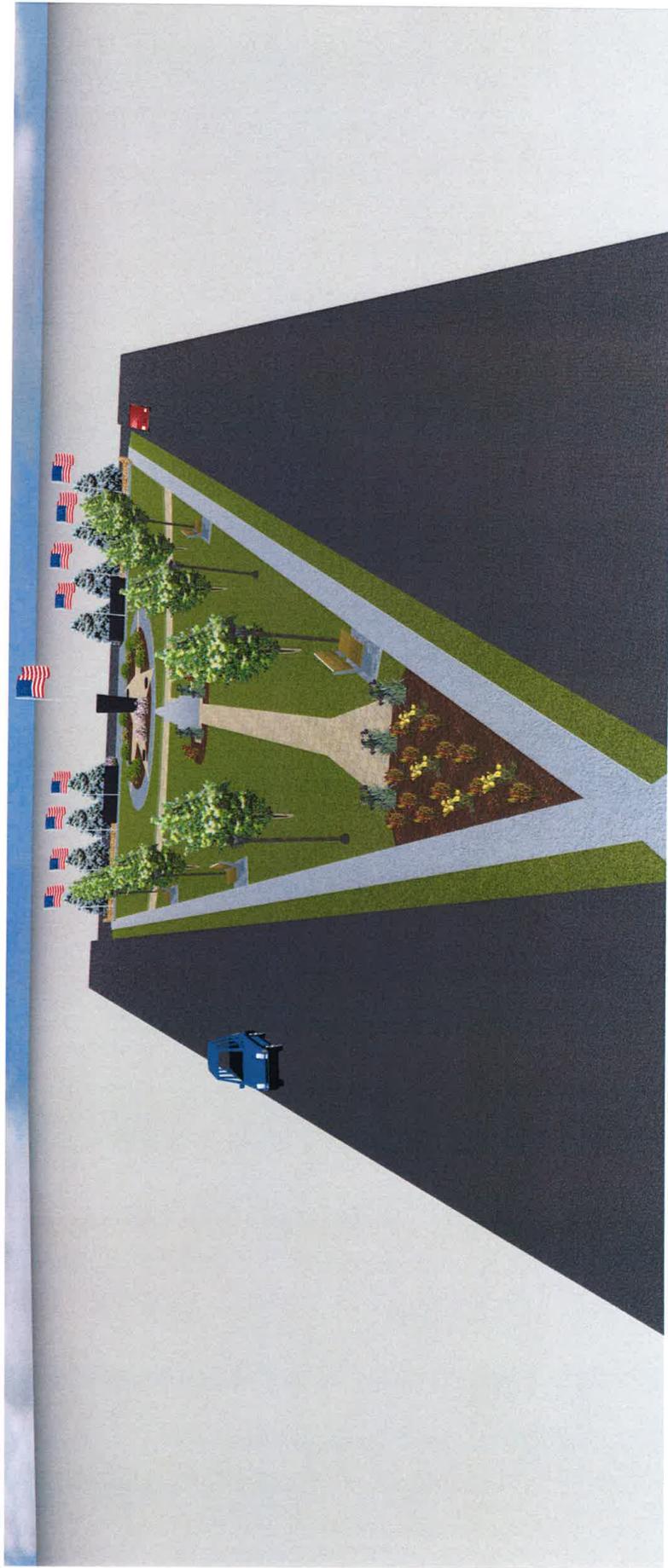
*Kimberly Stolin*



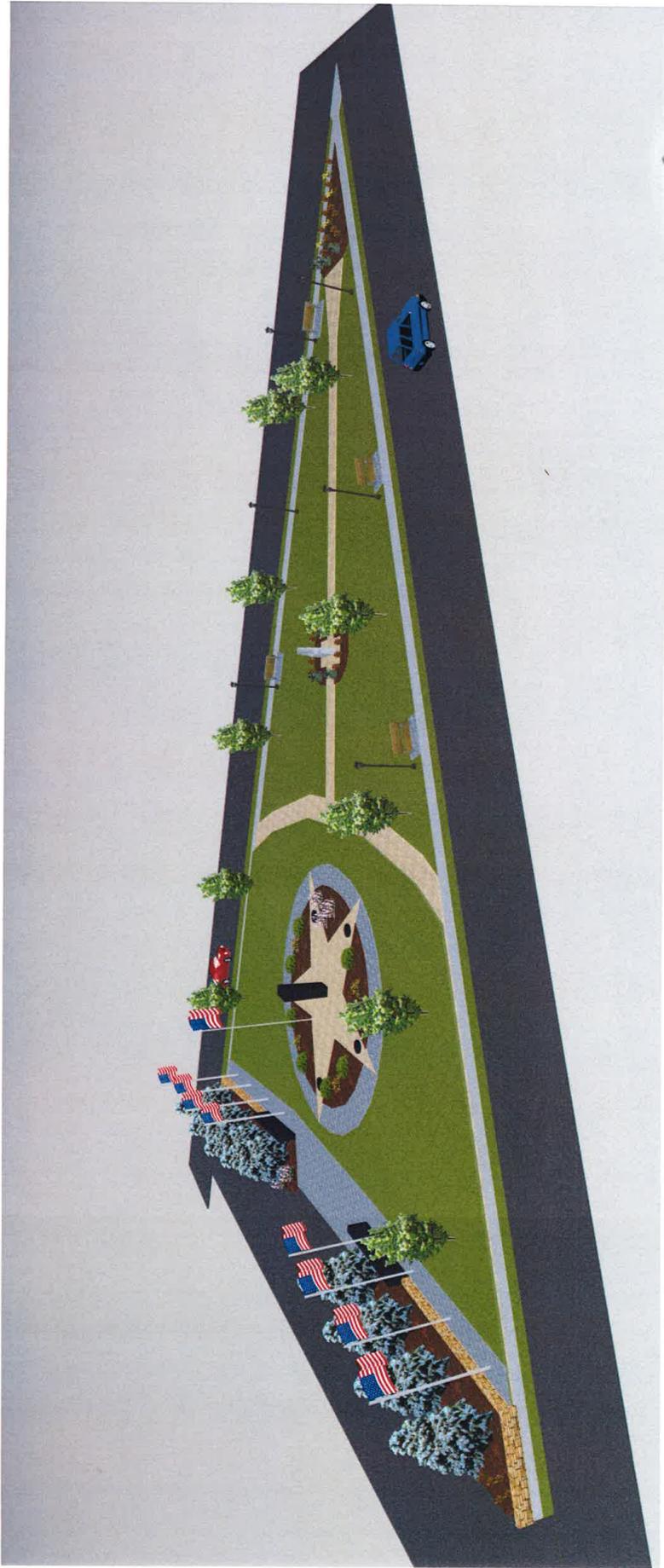
*diversity* strategies



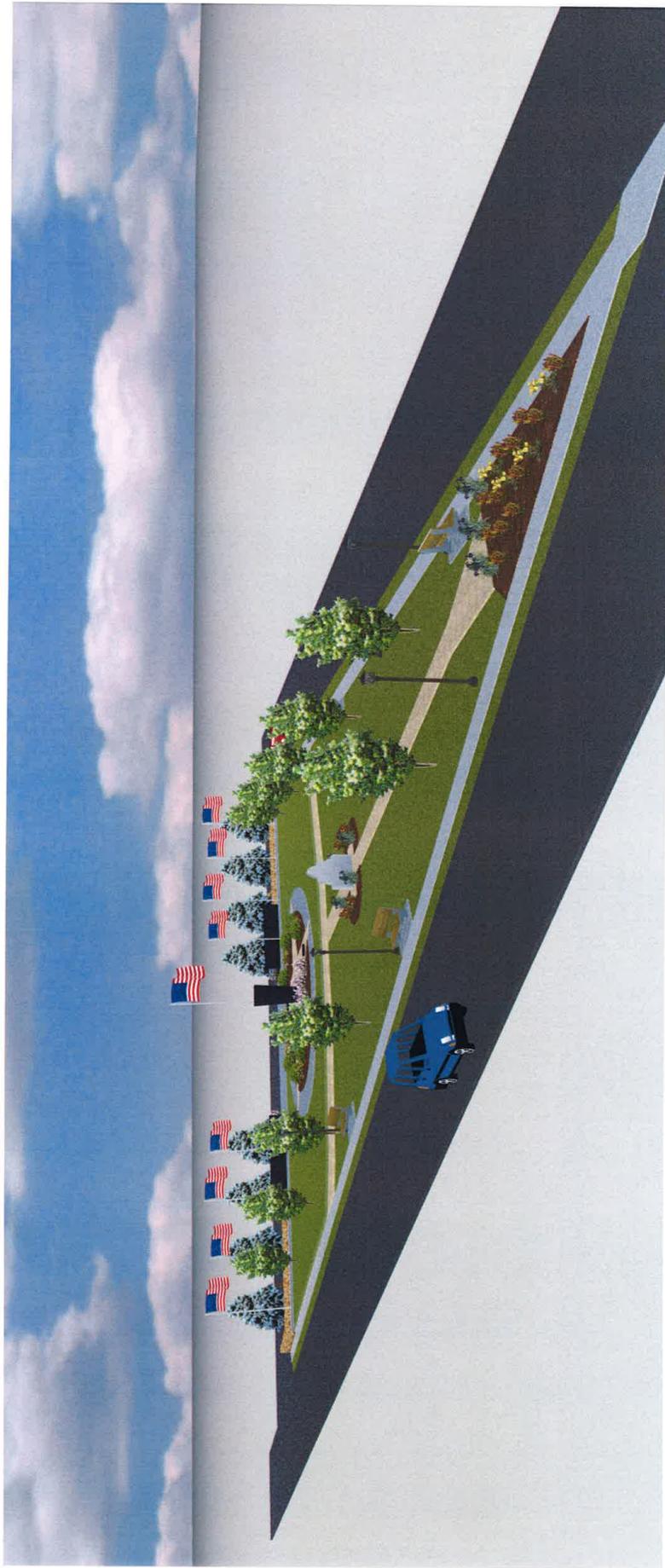
Kindred Studio



*David W. Jones Studio*

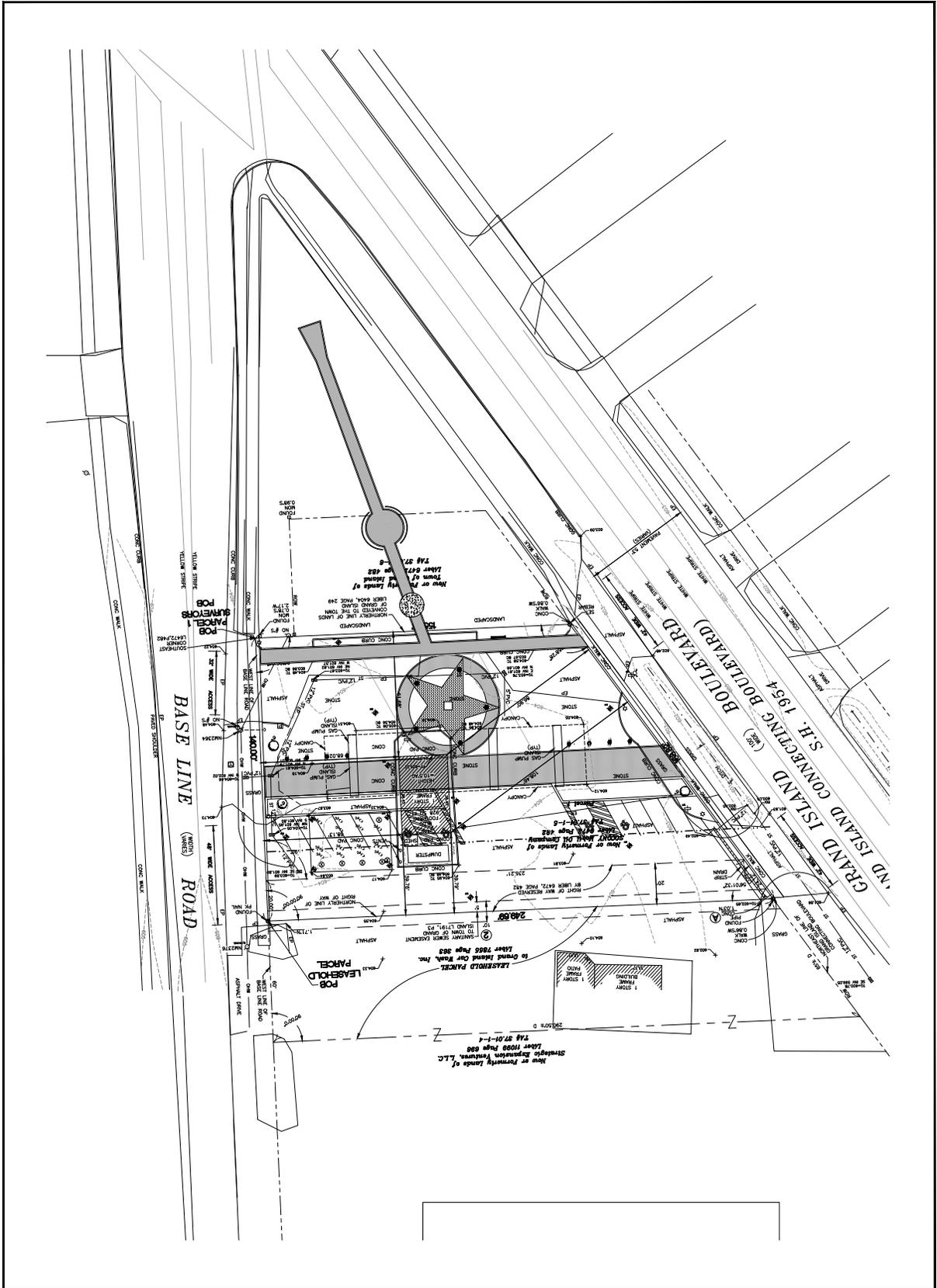


*David W. Stitt*



*Kindred Design Studios*





Scale: 1" = 100'

DATE: 10/17/16  
 DRAWN BY: MAA  
 CHECKED BY: MAA  
 PROJECT: PROPOSED SITE PLAN

**Charles DeGlopper Memorial**  
 Grand Island  
 New York  
 14072

NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION

NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION

205 ST PAUL STREET, SUITE 200  
 ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT 06067  
 TEL: 860.261.4400  
 FAX: 860.261.4410  
 WWW.CHARLESDEGLOPPERMEMORIAL.COM

## **Susan Geissler Quote**

# SUSAN GEISSLER STUDIO

Bronze, Mixed Media and Narrative Monumental Sculpture  
Susan J. Geissler, Principal  
C. Peter Henderson, Director of Sales

Business 440 Rivermist Court  
Youngstown, NY 14174  
Tel: (716)622-8942  
[susan@geissler.com](mailto:susan@geissler.com)  
Studio: 433 Main Street  
Youngstown, NY 14174  
Tel: (716)471-5676, (716)622-8942

Bonnie-

8/4/17

Chas. N. DeBlopper Project  
Grand Island, NY

Enclosed is some background info on Chas. N. DeBlopper, Grand Island native and Medal of Honor recipient.

The Committee (DeBlopper family, VFW members, etc.) have chosen Susan to execute a 7' tall sculpture of Pvt. DeBlopper, to be installed in the military park under development on the island.

We have quoted the Committee a price of \$93,500 for the sculpture component of the project... not including signage, installation, webcams, etc.

The Tr. Supervisor's office has stated interest in obtaining Greenway funding towards this project, so please make sure the subject comes up at your meeting  
over →

with Tim Shaupe next week. (During a recent phone call with Tim, I mentioned the importance of getting this in front of the Greenway folks in September... but certainly no later ~~that~~ than the final meeting of the year.)

— Peter Anderson  
622-8942 c

## **Website and News Articles**

# NEWS

Home (<http://degloppermemorial.org>) / News



(<http://degloppermemorial.org/deglopper-memorial-expansion-project-committee-meeting/>)

## DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project Committee Meeting (<http://degloppermemorial.org/deglopper-memorial-expansion-project-committee-meeting/>)

DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project Committee Meeting The meeting will be on June 1st at 7pm at the Moose Lodge on Grand Island Blvd. ALL ARE WELCOME, PLEASE ATTEND AND SPREAD THE WORD!

**Continue Reading** → (<http://degloppermemorial.org/deglopper-memorial-expansion-project-committee-meeting/>)

## Recent Posts

DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project Committee Meeting (<http://degloppermemorial.org/deglopper-memorial-expansion-project-committee-meeting/>)

We need your help! (<http://degloppermemorial.org/we-need-your-help/>)

Deed Signing (<http://degloppermemorial.org/deed-signing/>)

DeGlopper Groundbreaking (<http://degloppermemorial.org/deglopper-groundbreaking/>)

## Archives

May 2017 (<http://degloppermemorial.org/2017/05/>)

April 2017 (<http://degloppermemorial.org/2017/04/>)

September 2016 (<http://degloppermemorial.org/2016/09/>)

August 2016 (<http://degloppermemorial.org/2016/08/>)

## Categories

THEY GAVE THEIR ALL FOR US, HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THANKS!

**CALLING ALL VETS**  
**WE NEED YOUR HELP**  
**ON APRIL 29TH @ 9AM**

We're looking for a few good men and women to help build the veterans memorial!

**DeGlopper Memorial**

WHERE:  
 Intersection of Grand Island Blvd & Baseline Rd

All are welcome to help honor Charles DeGlopper as well as all Islanders killed in action.

**QUESTIONS?: (716) 725-5750**

(<http://degloppermemorial.org/we-need-your-help/>)

### We need your help! (<http://degloppermemorial.org/we-need-your-help/>)

We're looking for a few good men and women to help build the veterans memorial! All are welcome to help honor Charles DeGlopper as well as all Islanders killed in action. WHERE: Intersection of Grand Island Blvd & Baseline Rd WHEN: April 29th @ 9am – Completion Helpers can show up at

**Continue Reading** → (<http://degloppermemorial.org/we-need-your-help/>)



(<http://degloppermemorial.org/deed-signing/>)

### Deed Signing (<http://degloppermemorial.org/deed-signing/>)

Members of the Charles DeGlopper Memorial Expansion project met on Tuesday, September 13th to sign the deed for the old Exxon property over to the VFW. The expansion is a cooperative effort by the Grand Island VFW Memorial Post 9249, Grand Island American Legion and Grand Island Moose Lodge #180.

News  
 ([Http://degloppermemorial.org/Category/News/](http://degloppermemorial.org/Category/News/))  
 Uncategorized  
 ([Http://degloppermemorial.org/Category/Uncategorized/](http://degloppermemorial.org/Category/Uncategorized/))

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(<http://degloppermemorial.org/deglopper-groundbreaking/>)

## **DeGlopper Groundbreaking** (<http://degloppermemorial.org/deglopper-groundbreaking/>)

Thank you to all who joined us at the groundbreaking, including Supervisor Nathan McMurray, Erie County Clerk Chris Jacobs and Bonnie Kane Lockwood (representing Congressman Brian Higgins office).

**Continue Reading** → (<http://degloppermemorial.org/deglopper-groundbreaking/>)

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# A monumental tribute: Youngstown sculptor to create Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper statue

*Story and photos by Karen Carr Keefe*

Youngstown sculptor Susan Geissler has received a new commission of great significance for Grand Island. She has been chosen to create the statue of Medal of Honor recipient Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper, a World War II hero from Grand Island.

The statue will be installed in the center of the DeGlopper Memorial, at the intersection of Grand Island Boulevard and Baseline Road. In June 2016, on the 72nd anniversary of DeGlopper's death, members of the DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee held a ceremonial groundbreaking to launch an estimated \$750,000 expansion of the original parkland to include land that was once a gas station.

The expansion committee includes members of the Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9249, Grand Island American Legion Post No. 1346, and Grand Island Moose Lodge No. 180. Their project is to honor DeGlopper, the other 13 Island soldiers killed in action, as well as servicemen and women from the community who have served their country.

## **Turning Points in History**

DeGlopper, a member of the Glider Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division, was killed in battle June 9, 1944, during the D-Day invasion. He died as he drew enemy fire away from his battalion by firing his automatic rifle at the German soldiers. His courageous act of self-sacrifice saved the lives of his fellow soldiers and is considered a critical point in the Battle of Normandy.

Geissler is no stranger to sculpting scenes that capture turning points in history. Her Tuscarora Heroes Monument commemorates "the gallantry of a vastly outnumbered band of Tuscarora men" who came to the defense of American white settlers, delaying a British attack on Lewiston during the War of 1812.

The sculptor's Freedom Crossing monument honors Lewiston's Underground Railroad participants who helped slaves escape to freedom across the Niagara River to Canada.

Unbeknownst to Geissler, Buffalo artist Ralph Sirianni had recommended her for the commission to make the DeGlopper statue.

Independently, Geissler and her husband, Peter Henderson, who handles the business side of the artistic work, had read about the DeGlopper Memorial expansion groundbreaking and dedication last June, and they decided to attend and find out who was involved in the project.

At the dedication, Henderson said he went over to Sirianni. "I said to Ralph, 'Do you know who the sculptor's going to be on this?' and he said, 'Yes, Susan Geissler.' That was the first we heard about it," Henderson said.

At the dedication, they met Ray DeGlopper, and his wife, Anita, who is also an artist. "She recognized Susan's talent right away," Henderson said.

"They're wonderful people."

"We offered for everyone at that unveiling to come to the studio and take a tour if they wanted to."

Charles DeGlopper's nephew, Ray DeGlopper said the choice of Geissler to do the statue was easy, "if you see some of the things that she's done, like in Lewiston." He, his wife, Anita, and Memorial Committee Chairman Erik Anderson took Geissler up on her offer of a tour of her Tuscarora Heroes and Freedom Crossing monuments, and they were favorably impressed.

DeGlopper was also at the dedication of Geissler's sculpture of World War II hero and Buffalonian Wade McClusky at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park, where the finished statue will eventually be on permanent display.

"We were down there for the unveiling. It wasn't the finished project. Wade McClusky's son was there, and the likeness of him, to his father and to this monument ... that's why Susan (was chosen). Might be a little more expensive, but I think it's the right choice.

Chris Taylor of the DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee said the decision to choose her was made official at the committee's July 13 meeting. But the DeGlopper family's input was the primary factor, he said.

Grand Island Supervisor Nathan McMurray applauded the choice of Geissler as the sculptor.

"I've been lucky enough to travel a lot, and the most successful war monuments are not glorifications of war," but rather "a remembrance of the sacrifice of war and the solemnity of war. I'm very glad they chose Susan Geissler," he said. "Her Tuscarora Heroes monument is fantastic, and her Lewiston Crossing monument - I've taken a lot of out-of-town guests to go visit it. So I was very, very grateful they chose her to do this."



*Sculptor Susan Geissler, in her Youngstown studio, shows a "concept model" for the statue she will create of Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper of Grand Island, a World War II hero who died in the Battle of Normandy saving the lives of his fellow soldiers under fire from German forces. The statue will be installed in DeGlopper Memorial Park at Grand Island Boulevard and Baseline Road.*

### **Capturing Emotions in Clay**

Geissler has created a "concept model" of Charles DeGlopper holding his Browning automatic rifle used in that fateful battle. The way the model is posed was based on a picture that artist Ralph Sirianni drew for the back of the T-shirt for the memorial project, but there was other input.

"This was the result of conversations with the DeGloppers and the committee," said Henderson.

Geissler said DeGlopper family members told her that in the Normandy invasion, "Charles and fellow troops glided in behind enemy lines and were

trapped." She said the family explained that Charles, at 22, told his fellow soldiers - many of whom had wives and children to go home to - " 'I'm going out there. And when I'm out there, just get out.' " She said Charles DeGlopper's nephew, Charlie, Ray DeGlopper's youngest brother, "has second-hand stories of the men that looked back when Pfc. Charles DeGlopper was walking out." Geissler said that, according to those stories, "He was just carrying his Browning automatic, 6 feet, 7 inches tall, walking out there and firing. He was taking the bullets ... and kept shooting and died, and he died saving the lives of his men."

Geissler said that when she does the sculpture of Charles DeGlopper, what he went through will be written "on his face and on his body - his whole mannerism. In a way, it's like an actor studying the script of a character they're going to portray."

"An example was my Freedom Crossing piece with the slave mother who - I wanted her fear of being chased by slave catchers while she's trying to escape. Her child is being passed to her. She just wants to get to freedom and out of there and is just absolutely terrified," she described. "I took a walk one evening. It was getting dusky. It was a walk on an overgrown path down to the river, off River Road here. And I started to convince myself I was being chased. But relayed that story, in my mind, to the time when I was a little girl, being chased by these boys in New Jersey, and how scared I was. And I just remember the breathing that I was going through. I was breathing, and I was scaring myself. So when you look at the slave mother, I want you to capture the breath - the shortness of breath that's coming out of her mouth," Geissler said. "Her eyebrows, her hands. She just wants her baby. So that's what I would like to do. I try to find as much personal information from people about Charlie. The kindness of his nature - this big, gentle giant. He's a farm boy - that makes up the character of what I would put into the piece. Live the piece and try to portray that."

## **Fundraising Affects Timetable for Statue**

The time frame for the statue's completion, as well as the rest of the park, depends on the success of ongoing fundraising, committee member Taylor said. "If we could complete it in the summer of 2018, I think that would probably be a win," he said.

Also affecting the timetable is the fact that it's a complicated and expensive process to create and cast a statue, Henderson said. "We usually tell someone (it takes) 15 months from the time Susan is told to go on the project. In this case, they still have some fundraising to do, so Susan hasn't really been told to go yet."

"Although it's been announced that it's been commissioned," Geissler added.

"They have quite a few fundraising ideas," Henderson said.

Supervisor McMurray put in a request for Niagara River Greenway funding for the park expansion for next year. "The application is still in the works, but we're going to try to get as much as we can," McMurray said. He also made a video about Charles DeGlopper and the committee's quest to build a more extensive tribute to him.

He said the impetus for his video was the desire to tell DeGlopper's story and raise awareness about the project with a goal toward fundraising. He said the video has already received 10,000 views online. McMurray said he also worked with committee chairman Erik Anderson to draft emails to all the major defense contractors to seek financial support.

A fundraiser is also planned for Oct. 1 at the VFW post. A new fundraising event is in the works through the wetlands and waterfowl conservation group, Ducks Unlimited, and its local representative, Islander Ron Rezabek.

## **Larger than Life**

The DeGlopper memorial will be life-sized. Henderson said. "Typically, we make them a little over life-sized. In this case, he's already over life-sized."

Several weeks ago, when Geissler introduced the little concept model of the statue, the dialogue began on what size the actual statue and its base, or plinth, would be. "Initially it was going to be a 5-foot-high plinth he was standing on," Geissler said. "It just seemed he was so tall that it was a question. And so, because the committee would look at this and have some input, I decided to make this concept model with three choices of heights, so that everyone could see what it would look like, one way or the other."

Henderson said with five feet of the stone and a 7-foot-tall sculpture, the top of the statue would be 12 feet off the ground.

Geissler said everyone on the committee seemed to like a lower height made up of two angled pieces of stone as a base for the statue.

### **From Clay to Bronze - Complex & Costly**

When asked about the process used to create a statue, Henderson joked: "There are 13 easy steps from clay to bronze." The irony, of course, is that the process is anything but easy, with highly paid craftsmen at each stage taking Geissler's clay sculpture through a complicated series of steps.

"First, I make the model in clay," Geissler explained. "And after either the model or the life-sized sculpture, whichever is the masterpiece, I'll send it to a mold-maker, and the mold-maker puts on a latex rubber mold with a plaster support mold. They call it "the mother mold."

Steps 3 through 12 include pulling the mother mold off the clay; applying molten wax to the inside of the mold; removing the mold and leaving a wax positive of the original piece; making a shell that will be the mold for the molten bronze; pouring molten bronze into ceramic shells; cooling, sandblasting, cleaning, sandblasting again and creating patinas - which give the piece its color and surface character through chemical reaction or paint.

Fast forward to step 13, which Geissler describes: "Then they varnish it, and

then they apply a paste wax - all of that to protect the metal and the patina. And then my driver - Peter - goes out and picks the sculptures up and brings them to where they're going to be installed. And that's pretty much the process."

"The mold-makers and the foundry people, they're all artists in their own right," Henderson said. They have some long-term relationships with a number of the foundries in Loveland, Colorado.

Geissler will attend certain steps in the process, so she is there to make sure the finished product faithfully and accurately follows her original creation.

"Explaining this process," she said, "I always like to finish with, 'And if you think I'm getting all that money when you read in the paper the piece is, like, \$300,000 - or whatever - I'm not getting paid all that money. I am paying the services of these foundries first, so I have to pay everybody, and then at the end, I will get paid.' "

"These guys are getting \$85 an hour, you know," Henderson explained. Geissler added, "So the more we can educate the public about that, the better."

## **In-kind Contributions Reduce Costs**

The Grand Island community has stepped up to make in-kind contributions to defray costs, said expansion committee chairman Erik Anderson.

"Businesses on and off the Island have helped, doing such things as donating trees, stone and dirt. Several people have credited project engineer Dan Drexelius for his work and inspiration on the project. "When he says it's going to happen, it will happen," Ray DeGlopper said.

Committee member Taylor also appreciates all the work done so far. "We've gotten all the donated work we possibly can. Some of the landscaping work and the donated paving and the donated planters and all that stuff - to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of material and labor. But at

this point, it's all dollars and cents. And anything that anybody can do in the fundraising side of it would be a great help. And anybody that wants to make a donation can do so easily at [degloppermemorial.org](http://degloppermemorial.org)."

"The response of the community has been fantastic. We just need to put the foot down to the pedal and get it home," Taylor said.

## **Hometown Tribute Shaping Up**

Ray DeGlopper, is active in the memorial expansion committee, and like his heroic uncle, is a humble man. He tries to imagine what made his uncle take on the act that saved lives but cost him his own life. Ray DeGlopper is glad that Charles DeGlopper's hometown is stepping up to pay tribute.

"I like the project, I like the idea," Ray DeGlopper said. "Charlie was a hero, but I think that under any circumstances, we all have things that we do that are hard to describe. When you do things that you normally would not do if you thought about them - a spur-of-the-moment thing, you'd step right up and do it. Never think of the consequences.

"I don't know if he realized that 'I might not come out of this.' I don't know what his thoughts are. You've got to think about yourself. What would you do in a situation like this?"

In 2010, Ray DeGlopper and four others paid a visit to the battle site in France where his uncle died. There, he found a plaque with his uncle's picture on it, an inscription that told about him, as well as the knowledge that others knew of his uncle's sacrifice. In 2015, there was a dedication of the DeGlopper Air Assault School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

DeGlopper said others in his family and circle of friends have suggested greater hometown recognition for his uncle, who has been honored elsewhere in perhaps greater measure.

"Ten, 15 years ago, I remember there was a guy by the name of Bill

Ashenbaum, who was here and he asked, 'How many buildings were named after Charlie?' And I says, 'Well, just the reserve center over there.' And he says, 'There should be buildings, streets - you name it.' "

Ray DeGlopper also said that his aunt had a similar request in about 1994. Lillus Bell, Charles DeGlopper's sister, lived on the Island till 1960 or so, at Fix Road and Baseline, part of the Bell farms, before moving to Perry, New York. "She said to me one day, there should be a statue of Charlie in town. And I says, 'Yes,' and this is probably the first of anything that's come about from that."

Expansion committee chairman Anderson is passionate in his vision for the DeGlopper Memorial.

"If you walk out into that clearing where the statue is going to be, and you look out, the whole point of this, with the statue going up, is that Mr. DeGlopper is going to be watching over everything, and that's what we wanted. We wanted the likeness to be very, very presentable to the family. ... We also wanted Mr. DeGlopper to watch over all of the veterans, whether they're on the wall, whether they're on the KIA (Killed in Action) stone. We wanted him to watch over it, and to me, that is a huge, huge deal."



*Ray DeGlopper stands in DeGlopper Memorial Park beside the monument that bears the names of Grand Island servicemen who have been killed in action during U.S. wars. At the top of the list of World War II casualties are the names of two of his uncles, Medal of Honor recipient Charles N. DeGlopper, for whom the park is named, and Eugene F. Dinsmore. Fundraising is underway to expand the park and install a statue of Charles DeGlopper that will be sculpted by Susan Geissler of Youngstown.*

## LOCAL NEWS

# Statue of war hero DeGlopper to grace upgraded memorial park

By NANCY A. FISCHER

NEWS STAFF REPORTER

The story of Army hero Charles N. DeGlopper reads like a Hollywood script: A small-town boy joins the Army in World War II and gives his life to save his platoon, stepping out into the open to fight the Germans alone and stopping them from taking control of a strategic bridge in the Normandy campaign.

But on June 9, 1944, this was the true story of local hero Pfc. DeGlopper, a member of the 82nd Airborne Division's 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, a native of Grand Island and a 1941 graduate of Tonawanda High School. He was killed in action and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, the military's highest award for valor.

On Grand Island, DeGlopper Memorial Post 9249, Veterans of Foreign Wars, so named since 1965, and the American Legion are in the process of a \$750,000 renovation of DeGlopper Memorial Park. The plans call for erecting a statue of the war hero. Also planned are a memorial wall honoring Grand Islanders killed in action, a Gold Star mothers memorial, and benches and memorial paver stones. A star inlaid in the ground will pay tribute to all five military branches.

Currently, there's a single memorial plaque and flagpole that were put in the park at Baseline Road and Grand Island Boulevard when it was dedicated in DeGlopper's memory in 1962. The expansion was possible after the VFW acquired adjacent land where a



John Hickey/Buffalo News

**Ray DeGlopper, nephew of Medal of Honor winner Charles DeGlopper from World War II, visits the Grand Island park named in his uncle's memory. The VFW and American Legion are planning a \$750,000 upgrade.**

gas station had been torn down.

For Ray DeGlopper, the park's namesake was Uncle Charlie. Ray DeGlopper said his uncle, who was 6-foot-

7 and had to duck to go through doorways, seemed larger than life, even before he jumped out of airplanes in North Africa and Sicily to fight the Na-

for a visit."

DeGlopper said the bridge in La Fièvre, France was strategic — the only bridge over the Merderet River that had not been blown up. The Germans wanted to cross the bridge reach the beaches where Allied troops were landing in Normandy. The mission of Charles DeGlopper and his battalion was to secure the bridge.

"But somehow they got cut off," said Ray DeGlopper. "Evidently he said he would hold (the Germans) off while his (platoon of about 40 to 50 men) got back to the rear."

Ray DeGlopper said he has traveled to La Fièvre, where his uncle was killed at 22. "They all say, 'If it wasn't for Charlie, we wouldn't be here today,'" he said. DeGlopper said his family didn't talk much about his uncle, perhaps due to the painful memories and many losses the family had faced.

"My grandfather (Charles L. DeGlopper) had this awful sad look on his face," DeGlopper said, remembering the days after his Uncle Charlie was killed in action. He said another uncle, Robert, died at age 26 of tuberculosis, and his grandmother, Mary, died before Ray was born.

An annual ceremony is held in Charles DeGlopper's memory at the site of the battle in La Fièvre. There also has been a transport ship, since de-commissioned, a road at Fort Bragg, N.C., and an Air Assault School at Fort Bragg named in his memory.

The Army Reserve Training Center on Colvin Boulevard in the Town of Tonawanda was also named for DeGlopper.

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**ENDS MAY 31, 2016.**



The expansion of Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Park will honor all Grand Island residents, past, present, and future, who have proudly served the USA as a member of the military. Help to honor the many Grand Island residents that have risked their lives to keep our home safe by giving to help fund this expansion project. Join us May 29, 2016 to learn more.

**DeGlopper** ★  
**Memorial**

**JOIN US**

Town of Grand Island Memorial Day Ceremony  
**Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Park**

**Monday, May 29, 2016**  
**at 10:00 AM**

[gofundme.com/DeGlopperMemorial](http://gofundme.com/DeGlopperMemorial)