



Lewiston VFW Downriver Post 7487
PO Box 1164
Lewiston, New York 14092
716-343-4358

LEWISTON CIRCLE OF HONOR VETERANS MEMORIAL GREENWAY APPLICATION



“America’s Flame Burns Brightly, Fueled by the Courage and Sacrifice of Those Who Have Defended Our Freedoms.”

January 15, 2019

Project Registration Number _____

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

Type of Review Required:

____ Mandatory Consultation X Voluntary Review and/or Endorsement

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Downriver Post 7487

Mailing Address: PO Box 1164

State: Lewiston, NY Zip Code: 14092

Federal Id# 166092800 Charities Registration # N/A

PROJECT TYPE

Check all that apply:

____ Environmental X Cultural X Waterfront or Land Based Development

____ Recreational X Cultural/Heritage X Trail

____ Land or Water Public Access X Educational/Interpretive X Signage

____ Other

Funding Committee:

 X Host Community Standing Committee Request

____ Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee

____ Ecological Standing Committee

____ State Parks Standing Committee

PROJECT NAME

Lewiston Circle of Honor

Site Location: Academy Park, Lewiston, NY

Site Address: Near Center Street and Portage Road, Lewiston

State: New York Zip Code: 14202

Minor Civil Division(s): Village of Lewiston

All relevant property is owned by the Village of Lewiston.

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: Vince Canosa Title: Quartermaster

Business Address: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Downriver Post 7487
PO Box 1164, Lewiston

State: New York Zip Code: 14092

Telephone Number: (716) 343-4358

Fax Number:

E-Mail Address: vince (at) dealrealtyonline.com

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Lee Simonson Title: Volunteer

Organization/Firm: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Downriver Post 7487

Business Address: PO Box 1164, Lewiston

State: New York Zip: 14092

Telephone Number: (716) 754-8414

E-Mail Address: lee (at) simonson.com

PROJECT NARRATIVE

1. IN A BRIEF PARAGRAPH, DESCRIBE THE PROJECT AND ITS PURPOSE, HOW AND WHEN IT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED, AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT.

Purpose

The purpose of Lewiston's Circle of Honor project is to dramatically improve the community's recognition and appreciation for those military veterans who have honorably served this nation by replacing the existing memorial at Academy Park in Lewiston. Until now, the names of the veterans on the existing memorial have been severely restricted to those who been born in Lewiston or who have been members of the local VFW. The Circle of Honor will be more inclusive and open to veterans who have been born, raised, educated or who have lived or worked in the Village or Town of Lewiston.

Veterans will be eligible who have served since the American Revolution, enhancing awareness of the Greenway's historical significance in America's battles for the cause of freedom, particular in the War of 1812, when Lewiston and Western New York were overrun and controlled by enemy forces.

When

With ongoing fundraising efforts, it is hoped that the Circle of Honor will be unveiled and dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, 2019.

Importance

We believe the Circle of Honor will become a regional focal point for inspiration and education for thousands of annual visitors and will proudly stand as a monument of gratitude and appreciation to those who honorably served our community and nation in the armed forces. The Circle of Honor will contain three elements not often seen in other memorials — an enclosed eternal flame, a bronze eagle, and a large circular base with an outline of the world. We believe this will create one of the most distinctive small town veteran's memorials in America. This will not only improve the Greenway, but our quality of life as well.

The Circle will provide a new and important landmark for locals and visitors alike who will be inspired by the presentation and who will have an opportunity to explore the honor stones for ancestors, relatives and friends who will never be forgotten for their service, courage and sacrifice.



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 Niagara River Greenway is a world-class corridor of places, parks and landscapes that celebrates and interprets our unique natural, cultural, recreational, scenic and heritage resources and provides access to and connections between these important resources while giving rise to economic opportunities for the region.”

Principles

Excellence

The Circle of Honor will be one of the most distinctive small town veterans memorials in the United States that will be renowned for its design and presentation and that promulgates the highest respect and admiration for those who have served our nation. it will stand as an inspirational touchpoint for thousands of visitors who will see their family’s name forever memorialized in

stone or who wish to learn more about the contributions our community has made in defending America's freedoms.

Excellence will be the overriding principle and the key "stone" in constructing and hosting the memorial well into the future as it becomes a hallowed and dignified landmark known for its homage and tribute to our veterans.

Sustainability

Both the honor stones and the circular platform will consist of granite which will last thousands of years. The other memorial elements will be constructed of materials that provide maximum sustainability. For convenience sake, the VFW also plans to eliminate the existing shrubbery around the new memorial to minimize maintenance. The Village of Lewiston will continue to provide grass cutting service and will fund energy for the eternal flame in perpetuity. Costs for flag maintenance will be borne by the VFW.

Accessibility

The Circle of Honor will be located at ground level, so it will be easily accessed by anyone. There will no steps or impediments. Moreover, it will be located in Lewiston's Academy Park — an easily accessible park in the middle of town with ample parking, including reserved spaces for handicapped. In addition, its outside



location and ever-burning eternal flame, will provide visitors 27/4 access. The Circle will be just across the street from the famous and popular Hibbard's Custard Stand which attracts tens of thousands of people during the summer and will be situated directly adjacent to all of Academy Park's activities and festivals, including the County Peach Festival, weekend markets and car shows and the town's popular ice rink.

Ecological Integrity

The ecological integrity of the Circle of Honor site will be totally preserved. Any trees in the vicinity will be kept and included in the project planning. Since the new memorial will be replacing an existing memorial, the footprint will remain identical to what it is today. The Village of Lewiston Department of Public Works will be an integral part of the process and the VFW will work hand in glove with DPW to insure that the park ecology is protected.

Public Well-Being

The Circle of Honor will be the community's centerpiece and hub for all things military — particularly honoring our veterans who have served from the battlefield to the homefront. It will provide a needed affirmation that our future is safe and secure, protected by those who are defending our freedoms. That psychological affirmation — that peace of mind — is essential in fostering and supporting the public's "well being." The memorial will bolster needed confidence, pride and inspiration because its message is simple and direct — America has overcome its challenges, foreign and domestic, for the past 243 years.

Authenticity

The VFW will adhere to vigorous standards to insure that the names which are immortalized in the memorial have been honorably discharged by the U.S. armed forces, either by the provision of a DD-214 form, or other acceptable documentation or proof of service. While 19th Century service may be difficult to verify, the VFW will do its best to corroborate information from various sources to validate inclusion on the memorial. The central focus of the main circular platform will be the American bald eagle holding three arrows with its talons.

Celebration

The Circle of Honor will celebrate and commemorate the service of veterans who have been born, raised, educated, lived or worked in the Village and Town of Lewiston, including the hamlets of Ransomville, Model City, Colonial Village and Sanborn. It will be the staging location for all the ceremonies for Memorial Day and Veterans Day celebrations, including other military themed events in the area. These ceremonies are well attended and the Circle of Honor will provide a

wonderful, and impressive, backdrop for those visitors of all ages who desire to recognize and honor local veterans from all five military branches.

Partnerships

The Circle of Honor has two main partners — the Village of Lewiston which will provide and maintain the property, in addition to the energy to fuel the eternal flame, and the Town of Lewiston which will provide financial support for the construction of the new memorial. The VFW has long established partnerships with other private businesses and community based organizations, which are discussed in the next section.

Community Based

The VFW has joined hands with a number of other community based and volunteer organizations including the Kiwanis Club, the Lion's Club, the Historical Association, Chamber of Commerce, and hundreds of businesses and individuals who have donated time and money to the Circle of Heroes project. We have sent out over 8000 flyers/applications in the Lewiston Porter Sentinel newspapers to publicize and promote the project and to solicit names for the memorial. We have also have had a strong presence at the local supermarket and at festival booths and other event locations to explain the project and encourage participation. Everyone we meet and talk to have been very supportive and looking forward to see the project completed, particularly those who will see their family members, ancestors and loved ones' names on the memorial for the first time.

Goals

Improve Access

Access to the Circle of Honor is free and open to the public 24/7 and provides a substantially improved design from the current memorial by eliminating a step down to view the honor stones and flame. The new design will be flat and visitors will be able to easily approach the enclosed flame and stone tablets. All in all, the Circle of Honor will be more visitor friendly, much safer and provide for an improved convenience for visiting patrons.

Make Connections

The Circle of Honor will be located at Academy Park in Lewiston and will be at the center of Greenway trails going north, south and west. For example, the existing path from Lewiston to Youngstown, along the Niagara River, will eventually be connected to a new path that traverses the Escarpment and enters Lewiston near Academy park. (This future path is contingent upon Niagara Scenic Parkway improvements.) This vital link at the park will enable people to hike unimpeded from Youngstown to Niagara Falls and beyond. There is also a path from the Village of Lewiston along the Scenic Parkway to Pletcher Road. Moreover, there is a Niagara Discovery trolley stop at the corner of Portage Road and Center Street, just feet from the Circle of Honor. Suffice it to say, the Circle is in a location that is optimal for making connections to other features, attractions and activities that enhance Greenway interactivity, participation and experiences.

Celebrate History and Heritage

The Circle of Honor will play a tremendously important part of the Greenway's history and heritage. In fact, there are three major reasons why this project is totally consistent with the Greenway philosophy:

1) The Greenway has been the scene of major national battles.

During the War of 1812, the United States Army and local militia men, along with local allied Native Americans, battled British forces on a regular basis on today's Greenway. Historically speaking, and when it comes to human events, nothing has occurred along on the Greenway that has been more significant than the border battles that took place during the War of 1812. Before that, the Greenway was the location of battles between France and Britain — battles that still resonate throughout history as turning points in the control and conquest of North America. At the mouth of the Niagara River, Fort Niagara stands as a testament to the historic importance of the Greenway.

2) Tens of thousands of men and women who have been born and raised on the Niagara Greenway have served in the U.S. military, with many receiving our nation's highest honors, including General "Wild Bill" Donovan, the only person to have received all four of the United States' highest awards. Since the American Revolution, hundreds of Greenwayers have made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our freedoms. Nothing commemorates or interprets our heritage resources better than a memorial that honors the veterans from the Greenway area who have served — with many making the ultimate sacrifice.

3) Inventions and manufacturing that took place on the Greenway played an integral part in America's military victories. There are many examples, not the least of which include the Manhattan Project and Bell's production of vital aircraft. Whether it has been on the battlefield or the homefront, events and activities on the Greenway have played an essential and vital role in America's military and defense efforts throughout the ages.

This history is an integral part of the Greenway's heritage — a history that is often forgotten and under appreciated. It's part of the vision that was codified in the creation of the Greenway itself... the legislation states, "The Niagara River Greenway...celebrates and interprets our unique... cultural... and heritage resources." It's about preserving the Greenway and family legacies forever.

Criteria

Consistency with Greenway Principles

As stated in detail on the previous page, the Greenway legislation states: "The Niagara River Greenway...celebrates and interprets our unique... cultural... and heritage resources." Because of the Greenway's unique geography and its border location, along with its contribution to America's defense over the centuries in both manpower, manufacturing and technology, the Circle of Honor fits perfectly with the Greenway principles. This is not the first, nor the last, Greenway project with a veteran theme that has been voted consistent.

Economic Viability

From an economic development point of view, the memorial will be an attraction and destination for hundreds of families who will come to Lewiston in the future to see, and emotional experience, the sense of pride of seeing their family's name etched in stone honoring their relative or ancestor. Memorials of this kind are very popular stops for local tourists and visitors, particularly the Circle of Honor which will present a unique design.

As far as sustainability is concerned, the memorial will be constructed of materials that will last hundreds of years. There will be little or no maintenance necessary to provide the presentation to the public. Since it is located in a public park, the Village will continue to cut the grass around the memorial as always. The Village has also stated that it will continue to maintain its sponsorship and supply of natural gas to fuel the eternal flame.

Priority Status

Recognizing and honoring the men and woman from our community, by name, who have served their country is an important mission of the VFW and the community at large. Until now, the opportunity to do so has never been available and, after years of discussion, the VFW is looking forward to commencing the project. It is the most important and largest project the VFW has ever undertaken, and the largest veteran project ever endorsed by the Village and Town of Lewiston.

Availability of Local Sponsor or Partner

The local Lewiston Veterans of Foreign Wars Downriver Post 7487 will be the proud sponsor, and will partner with the Town and Village of Lewiston.

Focus Area

The project will be constructed in the center of the Village of Lewiston at Academy Park, an historic site and well within the Greenway boundary, only a few blocks from the Niagara River. The memorial will also feature the names of Village and Town of Lewiston veterans — all within the recognized Greenway borders.

Ability to Match or Leverage Funds

As described in the budget section, there is a ongoing and vigorous campaign to solicit funds from the private and non-profit segment to match and leverage Greenway funds. As of this submission date of this application, the fund drive has been on target with several promising sources still forthcoming.

Environmental Soundness

Since the project will replace an existing memorial, there are no known environmental impacts. The memorial will continue to present the existing eternal flame which burns natural gas that produces negligible particulates and is considered among the cleanest energy sources. The project footprint will remain essentially the same as the current memorial that will be replaced.

Consideration of Other Planning Efforts

Recently, the Mayor of the Village of Lewiston, released a proposed plan to develop Academy Park. The memorial was included in the plan and the Village of Lewiston, in its resolution of December 17, 2018 (attached) confirmed its support for the Circle of Honor at current site of the veterans memorial at Academy Park.

Implementable

There are no issues involving the “implementability” of the Circle of Honor project. The most challenging engineering issue will be the placement of the eternal flame within the center stone. That will require several custom made holes in the stone to accommodate natural gas piping and proper venting in the rear of the stone. Consulting contractors say that, while unusual, it is certainly feasible and doable.

Clear Benefits

As mentioned in other sections of this application, the Circle of Honor provides several important benefits, including:

- dramatically improved recognition and honor for those who have served the cause of freedom.
- achieving our goal to host one of the most distinctive small town veterans memorials in America.
- establishing a local landmark that will attract visitors from far and wide who will be educated and inspired about our history and heritage.
- provisioning an accessible “touchstone” for families, relatives, loved ones and friends, to stand witness to the names inscribed on the honor stones.
- adding an attraction to the Greenway that will bring more people closer to the Niagara River and the opportunities to learn more about its natural, cultural, recreational and scenic resources.
- enhancing the business and commercial development of the Lower Niagara River community and region.
- improving the area’s quality of life with a permanent testament and memorial that proclaims our gratitude and appreciation those who have protected our cherished way of life.

BUDGET

3. 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.

Planning	\$ _____
Construction	\$ <u>200,000</u>
Acquisition	\$ _____
Administration	\$ _____
Operation and Maintenance/Year	\$ _____
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ <u>200,000</u>

As of this date, we have raised \$32,000 of private funding, and have a commitment of \$100,000 from the Town of Lewiston Greenway funds. We are in the midst of a fundraising campaign to secure additional funding to meet our goal.

ONGOING FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

The VFW is currently conducting an ongoing fundraising effort to finance the project estimated to be about \$200,000. The campaign, run solely by dedicated volunteers, is taking on several approaches to maximize the fundraising potential from both private and public sources.

The VFW has established a new website (LewistonVFW.org) where individuals are given an opportunity to include a loved one's or ancestor's name on the memorial for \$150. In addition, the website has a prominent link to a GoFundMe website that has been created to enable those interested in supporting the project to donate online via credit card or Paypal. Post Commander, Bill Justyk, said, "No matter where you are in the world, you can easily support the project with just a few clicks. All donations are needed and appreciated. This is the

largest project we've ever undertaken and we encourage our fellow civic organizations and local citizens to share our links with their social media and email contacts."

Business and corporate support has already been received from Tops, Modern Disposal, Village Bake Shoppe, the Kiwanis Club of Lewiston, Deal Realty, The Spicey Pickle and Favorites Pizza. Additional donations from businesses and individuals, and nonprofit groups, continue to be solicited, with several promising funding sources we hope to tap soon.

The Village of Lewiston has previously donated the land where the existing memorial is located. The new memorial will be constructed on the same footprint as the current memorial. The VFW also hopes to supplement its revenue through non-tax sources such Greenway funds.

"Overall, our mission is clear and we are working to combine multiple funding sources. There are a lot of moving parts to this project and we are hoping for a rededication ceremony on Veteran's Day in 2019. Either way, good things are worth waiting for, and once this is up, it will stand for generations as the way our community expresses its appreciation to those who have preserved and protected the freedoms we all enjoy. We want to make Lewiston proud." Justyk said.

CIRCLE OF HONOR COMMEMORATIVE COIN

Individuals donating \$100 or more will receive a specially minted commemorative 2-inch diameter Circle of Honor antique gold coin that features the American eagle defense symbol on one side and the profile of the new memorial with the enclosed eternal flame on the reverse. This keepsake coin will be held for generations as a reminder to families and loved ones of the service and sacrifice of our veterans.



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.

SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTIONS AND LETTERS OF SUPPORT

VFW Letter of Support

Village of Lewiston Resolution of Support

Town of Lewiston Resolution of Support

State Senator Robert Ortt Letter of Support

State Assemblyman Angelo Morinello Letter of Support

Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce Letter of Support

VOLUNTEER INSPIRED AND DIRECTED: Since the Circle of Honor's conception, there has been a concerted effort on behalf of the VFW volunteers to build a strong base of community support for the construction of the memorial. This has included efforts from personal meetings with community leaders to ongoing social media campaigns — from letter writing to presentations at public information booths during several of Lewiston's well attended festivals. Interactions have taken place with thousands of local residents.

Moreover, local newspaper publicity has been keeping the public abreast of VFW plans and progress with regular reports that include meetings and local government actions. Recently, the VFW included an insert in the Lewiston Porter Sentinel that was delivered directly to over 8000 Town of Lewiston homes, describing the project and explaining how people could include their loved one's or friend's name on the memorial. In all instances, response has been positive and encouraging.



Lewiston VFW Downriver Post 7487
PO Box 1164
Lewiston, New York 14092
716-343-4358

December 20, 2018

Project Manager
 Niagara River Greenway Commission
 PO Box 1132
 Niagara Falls NY 14303

RE: SUPPORT FOR CIRCLE OF HONOR PROJECT

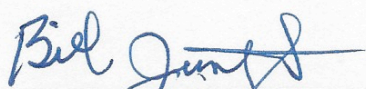
Dear Niagara River Greenway Commission:

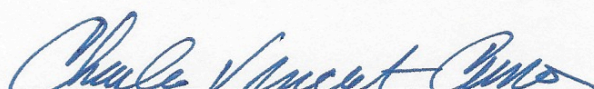
We are very excited about our plans for a new Lewiston "Circle of Honor" Memorial. The Memorial will replace the existing one at Academy Park and will provide a spectacular platform while showcasing the eternal flame inside a large granite stone. It will transform our existing VFW memorial in Lewiston into one of the most distinctive small town veterans memorials in the nation.

This project has officially been launched and we are in the process of raising funds. We need and appreciate all the support we can get and we proudly submit this Greenway application in hopes that we can move forward with this important project.

Until now, the names on the existing memorial were limited to members of the VFW and/or those veterans who were born in Lewiston. However, those limitations are gone, and now any veteran who has lived or worked in Lewiston is eligible. This will provide us an opportunity to honor hundreds of veterans who have yet to be recognized for their service.

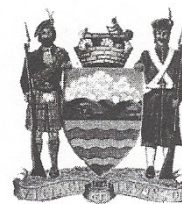
As this application attests, we believe the Circle of Honor will become an important Greenway landmark that will attract thousands of people over the years to come — relatives, descendents and friends of those who have sacrificed their time, personal safety and efforts to protect and defend our freedoms. If you have any questions or comments, please call Vince Canosa at the number below. We look forward to working with you to make our Niagara Greenway even more prosperous and inviting. Thank you again for your valued support and assistance.


 Bill Justyk, Commander


 Vince Canosa, Quartermaster
 Project Coordinator
 716-343-4358

Village of LEWISTON

145 North Fourth Street • PO Box 325
Lewiston, N.Y. 14092-0325
716-754-8271 • FAX 716-754-2703



SUPPORT FOR VETERANS' MEMORIAL IMPROVEMENTS: CREATION OF LEWISTON'S CIRCLE OF HONOR

WHEREAS: The Village of Lewiston has proudly provided its property at Academy Park to honor local veterans who have courageously served in defending our freedoms, and

WHEREAS: The current memorial, created and jointly maintained by Lewiston's Veterans of Foreign Wars Downriver Post 7487, and the Village of Lewiston, is in need of improvements that will enhance the readability of the veterans' names, create a safer and more prominent eternal flame, and upgrade the memorial's presence as a place of honor and distinction, and

WHEREAS: In an effort to be more inclusive and to insure that no veteran's service is forgotten, the VFW has modified its policy to allow names on the memorial to include any and all veterans who have been born in Lewiston, or lived, attended school or worked in Lewiston, and who have served our community and our country since the American Revolution, and

WHEREAS: It is the goal of the VFW to have Lewiston host one of the most distinctive small town veterans' memorials in America by featuring the eternal flame which has been generously donated by the Village of Lewiston, along with a large granite circular platform that will highlight the honor stones and create a new "Circle of Honor," and

WHEREAS: The VFW has worked diligently over the past year to solicit private funds to help in the improvements, along with publicizing and promoting its new policy to include all veterans' names who have been associated with Lewiston,

SO THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Village of Lewiston continues its support of the VFW's efforts, and reaffirms its long standing policy to host the veterans' memorial at Academy Park, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Village of Lewiston believes that the Circle of Honor is well deserving of Niagara River Greenway funds to help complete the project which exemplifies the essence of our local heritage and honors Lewistonians who have been put in harm's way to protect and defend the freedoms we hold so dear.

I, Amy Salada, Village Clerk-Treasurer of the Village of Lewiston, in the County of Niagara, State of New York,

HEREBY CERTIFY, that the following resolution was adopted at the meeting of the Board of Trustees of said Village of Lewiston duly called and held on December 17, 2018 and is incorporated in the original minutes of said meeting and said motion has not been altered, amended, or revoked and is in full effect with five yes votes.

Trustee Conde "YES"
Trustee Marasco "YES"
Mayor Welch "YES"

Trustee Eydt "YES"
Trustee Gibson "YES"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of said Village of Lewiston this 18th day of December, 2018.



Amy Salada, Clerk Treasurer





TOWN OF LEWISTON
 1375 Ridge Road
 Lewiston, New York 14092
 (716) 754-8213
www.townoflewiston.us

**TOWN OF LEWISTON
 RESOLUTION 2019 – 3**

Town of Lewiston Support for the Circle of Honor Veterans' Memorial Project at Academy Park

WHEREAS, The current veterans' memorial located at Academy Park in the Village of Lewiston has restricted the names placed on the honor stones to those veterans who have either been members of the Lewiston's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Downriver Post 7487, or born in the Village of Lewiston, and

WHEREAS, There has been no official Town of Lewiston veterans' memorial that has recognized and honored those veterans, by name, who have been born, raised, educated, lived or worked in the Town of Lewiston, and

WHEREAS, In an effort to be more inclusive and to insure that no veteran's service is forgotten, the VFW has modified its policy to allow names on the memorial to include any and all veterans who have been born, attended school, worked or lived in the Village or Town of Lewiston, and who have served our community and our country since the American Revolution, and

WHEREAS, The current memorial, created and jointly maintained by the VFW and the Village of Lewiston is in need of substantial improvements that will enhance the readability of the veterans' names, create a safer and more prominent eternal flame, and upgrade the memorial's presence as a place of honor and distinction, and

WHEREAS, It is the goal of the VFW to have Lewiston host one of the most distinctive small town veterans' memorials in America by that will include a large granite circular platform that will highlight the honor stones and create a new "Circle of Honor," and

WHEREAS, The VFW has worked diligently over the past year to solicit private funds to help in the improvements, along with publicizing and promoting its new policy to include all veterans' names who have been associated with Lewiston,

SO THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of Lewiston strongly supports the VFW in its efforts to be more inclusive by having all honorably discharged veterans who have been

born raised, educated, or who have resided or worked in the Village or Town of Lewiston to be eligible for memorializing on the new Circle of Honor, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Town of Lewiston enthusiastically endorses the Circle of Honor project, along with the VFW's effort to obtain Greenway Funding, not to exceed \$100,000, to supplement private contributions to construct and maintain the memorial which will exemplify the essence of our local heritage and honor Lewistonians who have been put in harm's way to protect and defend our freedoms, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Town of Lewiston supports siting the Circle of Honor at Academy Park in the Village of Lewiston, the location of the current veterans' memorial, and expresses its appreciation to the Village of Lewiston for hosting the memorial on its property and providing the energy to light the eternal flame.

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows;

Steve Broderick	Town Supervisor	Aye
Alfonso Bax	Town Councilman	Aye
William Geiben	Town Councilman	Aye
John Jacoby	Town Councilman	Aye
Robin "Rob" Morreale	Town Councilman	Aye

This resolution was adopted 01/07/2019

I, Carole N. Schroeder, hereby certify that this is a true & correct copy of the record filed in the minutes of 01/07/2019.

Carole N. Schroeder
Carole N. Schroeder
Deputy Town Clerk



CHAIRMAN
 MENTAL HEALTH AND
 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

CO-CHAIRMAN
 TASK FORCE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE MEMBER
 CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS
 CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES
 AND COMMISSIONS
 ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
 HIGHER EDUCATION
 LABOR
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY
 AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

MEMBER
 HEROIN TASK FORCE
 SENATE MAJORITY TASK FORCE ON
 COUNTERTERRORISM AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

THE SENATE
 STATE OF NEW YORK



ROBERT G. ORTT
 SENATOR, 62ND DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE:
 815 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
 ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
 (518) 455-2024
 FAX (518) 426-6987

DISTRICT OFFICE:
 175 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 6
 LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094
 (716) 434-0680
 FAX (716) 434-3297

December 20, 2018

Project Manager
 Niagara River Greenway Commission
 PO Box 1132
 Niagara Falls NY 14303

RE: SUPPORT FOR CIRCLE OF HONOR PROJECT

Dear Niagara River Greenway Commission:

Please accept my enthusiastic support for the Circle of Honor project that will accomplish several objectives for the Lewiston area.

Not only will it recognize and honor military veterans who have served this nation honorably since the American Revolution, but also it will add an important element to the Niagara River Greenway by providing an important landmark that will attract visitors from far and wide.

As you know, veterans memorials across the U.S. have become popular destinations (in some cases, THE most popular destinations) because descendants and families of veterans often visit these sites to reflect upon the service of their loved ones and to gain a greater sense of appreciation and understanding of how, and why, these brave men and women have put the interests of their country above themselves. As a veteran myself, I understand the importance of this effort.

The Circle of Honor will provide one more reason for citizens to celebrate and commemorate the Greenway's role in our military history, and the local residents who have sacrificed their time and safety for the benefit of all.

I hope you give this proposal your favorable consideration as we work together in developing our rich cultural and historical resources. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at (716) 434-0680.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Ort
 New York State Senator



ANGELO J. MORINELLO
Assemblyman 145th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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Sports Development

December 20, 2018

Project Manager
Niagara River Greenway Commission
PO Box 1132
Niagara Falls NY 14303

RE: Endorsement for Circle of Honor Project

Dear Niagara River Greenway Commission:

I wholeheartedly endorse the Circle of Honor Project as a needed improvement and an important element in the development of the Greenway.

I believe, as do my colleagues in the Lewiston VFW Downriver Post 7487, that this could become one of the most distinctive small town veterans memorials in the United States. With the incorporation of the eternal flame (provided by the Village of Lewiston) and the circular granite platform, in addition to the inscription of the veterans' names, the Circle of Honor will be one of Niagara County's treasured landmarks that will stand for generations.

When you consider the Greenway history---because of its location on our border with Canada---you can easily witness the importance our geography plays in the development of our local culture and heritage. This, coupled with the courage and sacrifice our local service people have played in defending our freedoms, provides a compelling reason why the Circle of Honor will be a welcomed and popular destination of choice for visitors and families who are intent on learning more about their ancestors and loved ones who served.

I pledge my support for this project and hope the Greenway Commission does the same. Joining hands, we can continue to work together in our efforts to insure the Greenway, as well as all of Western New York, realizes the full potential of the resources we have been gifted.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to doing whatever I can to assist with this vital project.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angelo J. Morinello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ANGELO J. MORINELLO,
Assemblyman, 145th District

AJM/cld



RE: LEWISTON'S CIRCLE OF HONOR ENDORSEMENT

Project Manager
Niagara River Greenway Commission
PO Box 1132
Niagara Falls NY 14303

Dear Niagara River Greenway Commission:

The Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce fully supports efforts to construct the Veterans of Foreign Wars Circle of Honor in Lewiston. In fact, it will be located on the west end of Academy Park, opposite of our offices which are located on the east side. Academy Park provides a beautiful, green space setting for this monument to pay tribute to those who have served.

We believe the Circle of Honor is deserving of our endorsement for several reasons, not the least of which include:

- 1) The design will provide for more accessibility and safety for visitors.
- 2) It will include Town of Lewiston veterans who, at the present time, have no official recognition memorial.
- 3) It will attract more visitors from out-of-town and out-of-state to the Greenway corridor.
- 4) As a welcomed landmark, it will assist in our continuing efforts to promote Lewiston's business and economic vitality. Visitors to the memorial will be able to see and patronize neighboring businesses that will benefit from the additional traffic. In addition, our office serves as a Visitor/Welcome Center to distribute additional information on the monument.

Overall, the Circle of Honor will raise our community's profile — not only as a town that appreciates the service of veterans — but also as town that values our cultural, historical and heritage resources. We are truly grateful to our local veterans who have served the cause of freedom and are proud to showcase their service with this extraordinary and awe inspiring presentation.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Pauly
President, Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce

895 Center Street, Lewiston NY 14092
(716) 754-9500 www.NiagaraRiverRegion.com

New 'Circle of Honor' memorial design unveiled

Just before the Fourth of July holiday, the Lewiston Veterans of Foreign Wars has announced it will embark on a major project that will transform the current Veterans Memorial at Academy Park into a "Circle of Honor" that will pay tribute to Lewiston veterans who have served this country.

Organizers said they believe the "Circle of Honor," featuring an eternal flame, will be one of the most distinguished small-town memorials in America.

Moreover, the local VFW Downriver Post 7487 has changed its policy and now any veteran, living or deceased, who has been born, raised, lived or worked in the Village or Town of Lewiston, and has been honorably discharged, will be eligible to have his or her name inscribed on the granite honor stones.

"We want to be more inclusive," said William Justyk, volunteer commander of the post. "Now hundreds of Lewiston veterans will have the chance to be honored. Anyone can apply to have family members, friends or loved ones included on the new memorial. And there will be no restrictions regarding the time of service. We'll go back to the War of 1812."

Project organizers said they are enthusiastic about several site changes that will be part of the dramatic renovation.

Vince Canosa, volunteer coordinator representing the post, outlined the new features.

- The center of the memorial will be a new, 23-foot-diameter granite platform that features a large engraved image of the United States eagle defense symbol, along with the words, "United States of America" and "Veterans of Foreign Wars Downriver Post 7487."

Canosa said, "This impressive and awe-inspiring presentation will be unique to Western New York and will not only provide a significant and impressive entrance to the memorial, but also a profound and eloquent statement that honors those who have served."



Pictured is an artistic rendering of the proposed "Circle of Honor" memorial in the Village of Lewiston.

- The current eternal flame will be repositioned within the granite centerpiece for safety and other practical purposes. At present, while the flame is enclosed on the sides by a plastic shield, the top is open to the elements and it is often extinguished by rain and wind. Putting the flame within the centerpiece should make it safer for children and protect it from the weather.

- To highlight the significance of the eternal flame, there will be an engraving above it with the words, "America's Flame Burns Brightly, Fueled by the Courage and Sacrifice of Those Who Have Defended Our Freedoms."

Also, the current bronze plaque, which was dedicated on May 30, 1955, will be preserved and included as part of the new memorial, along with a new plaque that chronicles the re-dedication.

- With the opening of eligibility to all veterans who have an association with Lewiston (born, raised, educated, lived or worked in Lewiston) the number of names on the memorial will significantly multiply.

To be included, the VFW will ask applicants to fill out a form that can be accessed online at the Lewiston VFW website, lewistonvfw.org, along with a copy of proof of honorable service, and a donation of \$150.

As more names are added in the future, more granite stones will be erected around the circle to accommodate the requests.

- Currently, because of the landscape geography, the memorial has a step-down to view the stone memorials.

"That will be addressed," said Harry Raby, a VFW member and part of the organizing committee. "The center platform and the

honor stones will all be on the same level and more convenient for visitors and families to see their loved ones' names. No one will have to step down to experience the dignity and tribute the site represents."

- The current flagpoles, which are non-proportional, will be replaced with more modern and height-appropriate poles that will display the American and POW flags. The new poles will have upgraded LED lighting for better illumination at night, as well as energy efficiencies.

The VFW is currently conducting a fundraising effort to finance

SEE ALL on Page 19

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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 ANIMAL 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.

There are no known environmental impacts regarding the Circle of Honor Memorial project.

The owner of the site, the Village of Lewiston, passed a resolution of support on December 17, 2018. See page 16 and 17.



Current Memorial



Proposed Memorial