



**WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP
VETERANS' MONUMENT**



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LOCATION

The West Windsor Township Veterans' Monument is located on the grounds of the West Windsor Municipal Building at the intersection of North Post Road and Clarksville Road in the Village of Princeton Junction. The Monument is situated to the east of the Municipal Building. The axis of the Monument runs north to south with the statue facing south.

HOURS

The Monument is open to the public twenty-four hours a day and is illuminated in the evening.

DESIGNER AND SCULPTOR

The concept and design of the Monument are the work of Peter E. Smith. Mr. Smith also created the bronze statue and the terra cotta tiles.

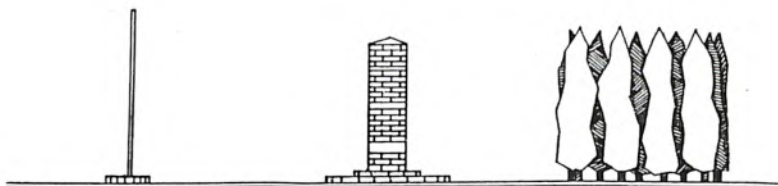
DEDICATION

The Monument is dedicated to all West Windsor Veterans who served faithfully and honorably, but especially to those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

THE MONUMENT

The Monument serves as a reminder both in its design and its materials of all the monuments that have preceded it. The materials (terra cotta, brick, bronze, and gold leaf) were selected for their timeless character. They have all been in use for thousands of years in monument architecture. The unifying theme of the Monument is the number three. All aspects of the design relate to this number and its multiples. Three was called the number of completion by Pythagoras, expressive of a beginning, a middle, and an end.

The Monument consists of three elements: a pylon, a statue and a flagpole lined up along a 60' axis.



THE PYLON

The brick pylon is the central element of the Monument. It is made of three parts: a shaft and two platforms. The square shaft, 12' high and 3' wide, carries three bands of terra cotta relief tiles. The sides of the upper and lower platforms measure 6' and 12', respectively. In commemoration of the beginning of construction, a 1988 U.S. Lincoln cent was sealed into the lower platform in June of 1988. A bronze plaque was placed on the southern side of the lower platform in May of 1989 to mark the completion and dedication of the Monument. It reads as follows:

*GIVE SORROW WORDS; THE GRIEF THAT DOES NOT SPEAK
WHISPERS THE O'ER-FRAUGHT HEART AND BIDS IT BREAK*

SHAKESPEARE

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP VETERANS' MONUMENT

DEDICATED MAY 20, 1989

In ancient cultures, pylons in the form of quadrilateral masonry masses marked the entrance or approach to significant sites. Today they are an important element in many overseas American military memorials and cemeteries. In these overseas cemeteries, floral tributes are traditionally laid at the base of the pylon during memorial services.

THE TILES

The tiles are made of terra cotta stoneware fired to 2300 degrees F. There are three basic designs ascending from the bottom to the top of the pylon. These designs represent three levels of meaning — the literal: flower, fabric, stars; the metaphorical: earth, man, heaven; and the Pythagorean: beginning, middle, end.

Flowers

The lowest band is a flower design. This design is based on an ancient Roman relief fragment of Isis (c. A.D. 130) now in the Museo Capitolino, Rome. Flowers have been an important subject throughout the history of architectural sculpture. They traditionally represent the cycle of life in the round of the seasons. The lily is most often associated with purity, innocence and immortality.



Fabric

The middle band is a fabric design derived from an engraved metope on the frieze of the ancient Greek Temple of Hera near Paestum (c. 600 B.C.). Fabric is the most common and the most elegant subject depicted in relief sculpture throughout the history of art. Fabric has always been a symbol of the work of man and in the form of a coat or cloak it is a traditional symbol of dignity.



Stars

The topmost band is a star design gilded with twenty-three karat Italian gold leaf. Gold has traditionally been used in monument ornamentation. Greek temples were overlaid with substantial amounts of gold. The Monument star design derives from two more recent sources: the gilt stars on the vault of the Arena Chapel (c. A.D. 1300) in Padova, and the gilt stars on the original Sistine ceiling (c. A.D. 1480) in Rome. Stars are symbols of the heavens. They are the light in the dark of the night. Gold is a symbol of power and of the sun. The sun is the source of illumination and life itself. The moon points to the passage of time. A total of 144 celestial objects are represented on the tiles (141 stars and 3 moons).



The gilt stars and moons were formed by pressing coins into the wet clay. Coins of the nations in which Americans have fought and died were used to make the round stars. An 1890CC Liberty Head U.S. silver dollar was used to make the crescent moon shapes. After their use in making the star designs all of the coins were sealed in the base of the statue.

THE STATUE

Thirty feet north of the pylon is the statue enclosure. This is the second element of the monument. The enclosure is designed to provide a contemplative setting for the statue. The thoughtful setting of sculpture in garden enclosures is a tradition dating back to ancient times and carried on today in many European formal gardens. The design for the Memorial statue enclosure derives from the Villa Reale di Marlia located near Lucca, Italy. It consists of three types of plantings: a tall semicircle of juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* 'Mountbatten'); a low background of dwarf holly (*Ilex crenata helleri*); and a foreground of seasonal flowers.

The statue rests in the middle of the enclosure on a brick platform. Six feet high and made of bronze, it depicts a single standing figure.

THE FLAGPOLE

Thirty feet south of the pylon is the third element of the Monument, the flagpole. It is 24' tall and stands on a 3' square brick platform. The flagpole flies U.S. flags raised in memory and tribute to relatives and friends of West Windsor residents.

HISTORY

The Monument is one of two Veterans' Memorials in West Windsor. The first memorial was built in 1948 in the Village of Dutch Neck to commemorate World War II veterans.

In the summer of 1986, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 925 and the American Legion Post 76 requested that a new monument in honor of all veterans be built at the Municipal Center. On February 2, 1987, the Township Committee voted 5-0 to create a six-member Memorial Committee with John J. Flood as Chairman. The Committee's assignment was to decide the location, the design and the funding for the new Monument.

On August 10, 1987, the Township Committee approved the design plans, and on September 8, 1987, the site plan was accepted. The \$30,000 needed to build and maintain the Monument would be raised entirely through donations. In order to facilitate the formidable tasks of raising the funds and building the Monument, the Memorial Committee was expanded in December 1987 to twelve members under the leadership of a new chairman, Eugene D. Shaw.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 21, 1988. Completed in the spring of 1989, the Monument was dedicated on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20, 1989, three years after the plan was first presented to the community.

IN MEMORIAM

FLAGPOLE

In Memory of

GEORGE KENNETH HULLFISH, US Navy, World War II
(Marie M. Smith)

EARL L. SMITH, SR., AEF in France, World War I
(Earl L. Smith, Jr. Family)

CEREMONIAL US FLAGS

In Memory of

JOSEPH POPINO, AEF in France, World War I
(Robert P. Popino Family)

HENRY A. WINJE, AEF in France, World War I
(Russell A. Winje Family)

USS ARIZONA
(Charles F. Juliussen)

POW MIA FLAG

(VFW POST 925)

GOLD LEAF MOTIF ON PYLON

In Memory of

EDWARD WILLIAM KIRCHMAIER, US Army, World War I
(Edna E. Kirchmaier)

HENRY BENNETT SMITH, Canadian Army, World War I
(Elwin E. Smith Family)

SPECIAL REQUEST CONTRIBUTIONS

In Memory of

ALLEN H. GUNDERSON, US Navy, World War II & Korea

MARK STEPHEN GUNDERSON, US Army, Vietnam
(Marie C. Gunderson)

FLORRY B. ROSSI, Killed In Action, World War II
(Julio J. Ranallo Family)

HERMAN SCHIELKE, World War I
ALFRED E. SCHIELKE, World War II
(Carl Schielke)

C. W. LOWDEN
(Stephen M. Escher Family)

SELDEN LEE TINSLEY, US Navy, World War II
(M. Patricia Tinsley)

