

The Kinnelon War Memorial
Thomas Kline, Borough Historian
August 2025

The history of the Kinnelon War Memorial was brought to the attention of the Borough Historian by Councilman Eric Harriz. An investigation into the origins of the memorials was conducted.

Prior to 1922 when the Borough of Kinnelon was incorporated, any memorial of area soldiers would have been undertaken in Pequannock Township and also in the neighboring Borough of Butler. (During World War II Morris Kinney donated Ivy to be planted around Butler's Spanish American War Memorial.)

World War II would be the first American conflict in which citizens from Kinnelon Borough would have been involved. During the war a "Roll of Honor" was erected at the school which depicted those who were actively serving. (Figure 1) Shortly after the conclusion of World War II, In May 1948, the George P. Sick Tri Borough Post 8096 of the V.F.W. presented a bronze tablet naming area soldiers who been killed during the war. Three identical tablets were produced and presented, one each, to the three Tri-Boro towns; Kinnelon, Butler, & Bloomingdale as part of the 1948 Memorial Day Celebrations. (Figure 2) This bronze tablet was likely mounted to a large stone in front of the school, where it lived for many years. (Figure 3.) Walter Coombs and Arthur Smyth were the two deceased Kinnelon soldiers listed on the tablet. Birth records of these two individuals were requested by Councilman Harriz.



Figure 1 showing Roll of Honor in front of Kinnelon Public School, Circa 1943

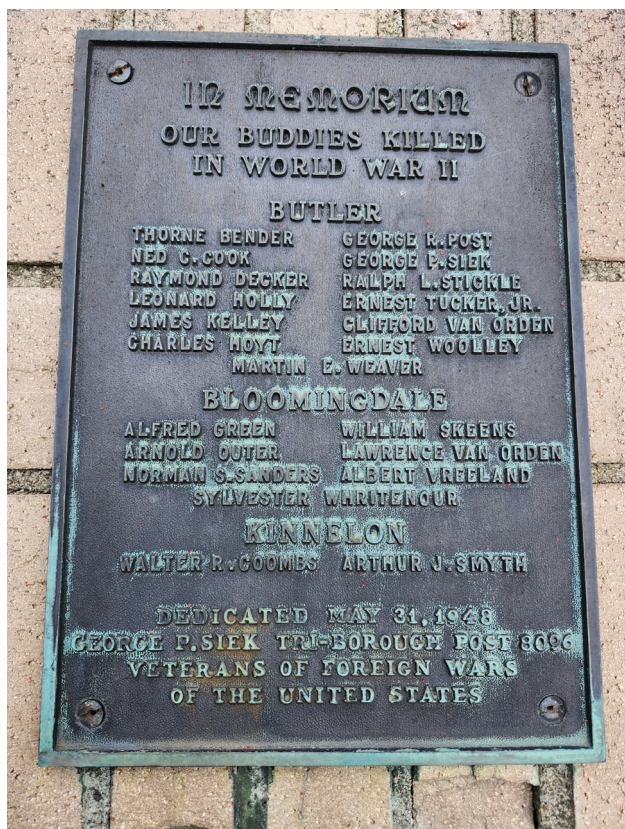


Figure 2
 Memorial Plaque by VFW



Figure 3
 Large stone in front of School

STATE OF NEW JERSEY. ⁵¹⁹ BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.

USE INK AND WRITE PLAINLY **CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF BIRTH**

NOTE: IF BIRTH OCCURS IN A HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION OR THE PARENTS ARE TRANSIENT RESIDENTS IN USUAL RESIDENCE SHOULD BE GIVEN ON THE LINES BELOW.

489

STREET AND NUMBER

CITY

Name of child Walter Robert Coombs
 (in full if possible.)

Sex Male Color White Date of birth Jan 17 1948

Place of birth 371 North 11th St. Paterson, N.J.
 (If in city, give name, street and number; if not, give township and county.)

Name of father Walter Robert Coombs Father's birthplace N.J.
 (If out of wedlock, write O. W.)

Maiden name of mother Florence Coombs Mother's birthplace N.J.

Age of mother 27 Occupation of mother Housewife What preventive for ophthalmia neonatorum did you use? If none state the reason therefor 20.49.103

Age of father 26 Occupation of father Electrician

Number of children in all by this marriage 4 Number of children living 4

Name and P. O. address of professional attendant in cwn handwriting.

*When there was no attending physician or midwife, then either of the parents, registrar or assessor should make this return. Still-births should be reported on blanks provided for that purpose, and a child that lives only a short time, such as a fraction of a minute or longer, should be reported both as a birth and a death.

Date of this report Jan 19, 1948 33 Church St. Paterson, N.J.
 (P. O. address.)

(Signature of professional attendant.)

Birth Record of Walter Coombs

PLACE OF BIRTH
County of Morris
Township of Fair Haven
Village of Fair Haven
City of Fair Haven

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.
STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

NOTE.—If birth occurs in a hospital or institution or the parents are transient residents, their usual residence should be given on the line below.

SEP 15 1938 C. O.
Street and Number. 1 City 29
Registered No. 1 Ward 1

FULL NAME OF CHILD Arthur Griffith James Smyth If child is not yet named, make supplemental report, as directed

Sex of Child Male Twin, triplet, or other? None Number in order of birth 1 Legitimate? Yes Date of birth July 27, 1921
(To be answered only in event of plural births) (Month) (Day) (Year)

FATHER		MOTHER	
FULL NAME <u>James Arthur Smyth</u>	FULL MAIDEN NAME <u>Helen W.H. Jorgensen</u>	FULL NAME <u>Helen W.H. Jorgensen</u>	FULL MAIDEN NAME <u>Helen W.H. Jorgensen</u>
RESIDENCE <u>Fair Haven</u>	RESIDENCE <u>Fair Haven</u>	RESIDENCE <u>Fair Haven</u>	RESIDENCE <u>Fair Haven</u>
COLOR <u>White</u>	COLOR <u>White</u>	COLOR <u>White</u>	COLOR <u>White</u>
AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>28</u> (Years)	AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>25</u> (Years)	AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>25</u> (Years)	AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>25</u> (Years)
BIRTHPLACE <u>Brooklyn</u>	BIRTHPLACE <u>Denmark</u>	BIRTHPLACE <u>Denmark</u>	BIRTHPLACE <u>Denmark</u>
OCCUPATION <u>Mechanic</u>	OCCUPATION <u>Housewife</u>	OCCUPATION <u>Housewife</u>	OCCUPATION <u>Housewife</u>

Number of children born to this mother, including present birth 2 Number of children of this mother now living 2 What prevention for ophthalmia neonatorum 2090 0-4990

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was Born alive at 2:07 P.M. on the date above stated.
(Born alive or Stillborn)

(Signature) Samuel J. Rasmussen
Physician
(Physician or Midwife)

Address 20 East 1st St. Red Bank

Filed Aug 2nd, 1921 M. L. Schuchman
Registrar.

*When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father or mother should make this return. A stillborn child is one that neither breathes nor shows other evidence of life after birth.
Give name added from a supplemental report 19

Birth Record of James Smyth

In 1965, The Borough of Kinnelon purchased a 21.97 acre tract of land from the Kinnelon Board of Education in order to build a new municipal complex consisting of Library, Garage, and Borough Hall. The new complex was completed in 1966. In April 1967, it was announced that the Kinnelon Jaycee's had submitted plans for a war memorial to be erected on the municipal green. As part of the Memorial Day celebration Mayor Walter Nash commented upon the completion of the memorial. A second bronze plaque was presented to the borough (Figure 4). It was at this time that the original VFW Bronze tablet was relocated from the Kiel School to the new location.

At some point between 1967 and 2000 a second semi circular arch, a mirror image of the one installed by the Jaycees was added. The origin of this second structure is unknown. (Figure 5)

It is difficult to understand why, in the period from the original VFW Bronze in 1949 to the present day, that no municipal recognition of Korean or Vietnam war dead was undertaken by the Borough. The only Kinnelon war casualty of the Korea conflict was James Nelson Dorland. Mr. Dorland was commemorated by the erection of a flag pole and memorial tablet at the Smoke Rise North Gate. (Figure 6) For many years the Smoke Rise Sailing Club started their season with the "Peter Kemper Memorial Race". Kemper died immediately following his basic training at the age of 19. The Kemper family had moved from Kinnelon just 4 months prior, so technically a resident of Boonton Township. (Figure 7)



Figure 4 Municipal Building and War Memorial Circa 1973



Figure 5 Municipal Building Under Construction Circa 2000. Note second arch added.



Figure 6 Dorland Memorial Tablet at Smoke Rise North Gate

The Vietnam War saw the deaths of two Kinnelon soldiers; Jay T. Dandurand and Vincent L. Jacobs, both graduates of Kinnelon High School. Memorial tablets for these two soldiers can be found near the high school flagpole. (Figures 8, 9 & 10)



Recruit, 19, Dies at Ft. Dix, Services Today

BOONTON — Services were to be held today at 2 p.m. in St. John's Episcopal Church for John Peter Kemper, 19, of Split Rock Rd., Rockaway Valley, Boonton Tshp., who died Thursday at Fort Dix, where he was to have completed 16 weeks of basic training Saturday.

Young Kemper was found unconscious in his bunk and was dead on arrival at the base hospital. The Army did not reveal the cause of death.

The youth was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Kemper. He was born in Reading, Pa., and had lived in Glen Ridge and Smoke Rise, Kinnelon, until four months ago when the family moved to Rockaway Valley. He attended Glen Ridge schools, Carteret School and Butler High School and was graduated last June from Kent School, South Kent, Conn.

He was on the varsity football team at Kent, played forward for the Lakeland Raiders of the Garden State Amateur Hockey Association and served as an acolyte at St. John's Church.

Last August he enlisted for three years and was scheduled to attend a paratrooper school at Fort Campbell, Ky., after his Christmas furlough.

His father is president of the Watson-Stillman Press Division of Farrell Birmingham Co. Inc., in Roselle, and vice president of H. K. Porter Co. of Pittsburgh.

Surviving besides his parents are two brothers, Jackson Jr., a student at Kent School, and William F. at home; his paternal grandparents, the Rev. and Mrs. W. P. Kemper of New York and his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Heister H. Muhlenberg of Reading.

Figure 7 Newspaper Notification Concerning Peter Kemper 1958



Figure 8 Dandurand Tablet at Kinnelon High School



Figure 9 Jacobs Tablet at Kinnelon High School



Figure 10 Vietnam Memorial at Kinnelon High School



Vietnam Memorial at Kinnelon High School



Figure 11 Newly Constructed Memorial as shown in Kinnelon News Summer 2001

In 2001 the current war memorial was constructed as part of the larger facilities project which included the enlargement of the municipal building, library and renovation of the old Kiel School. At a Mayor & Council meeting held on April 19, 2001 a change order detailing various aspects of the project included a line item of \$15,000 for construction of the war monument. At the May 2001 Council Meeting, Facilities Chairman Bud LaMarca commented that the new memorial will be utilized for Memorial Day. At the July 2001 Council meeting an additional change order noted \$1780 for plants around memorial. The new concept was likely designed by Donald Terry, a Kinnelon resident, who was the principal architect for the entire facilities program. (Mr. Terry passed away in 2015). A borough wide newsletter was distributed in Summer 2001 which included an image of the newly constructed memorial (Figure 11).

After the new monument was erected a bronze tablet was installed honoring those Kinnelon residents or former residents that were killed as a result of the terror attack that occurred on September 11, 2001. James Martello, Mathew Yarnell and Seth Morris were named on a plaque that was created by 17 year old Greg Carafello and dedicated on the monument at a ceremony held on December 5, 2004. (Figure 12)

Jonathan Batista was killed in Afghanistan on July 8th 2012. A bronze memorial tablet in his honor was installed as part of the Memorial Day activities in May 2013. (Figure 13)

The current condition of the monument was documented in May 2025. (Figure 14) Shortly thereafter the monument erected in 2001 was removed. The plants were removed and the ground leveled as seen in current conditions photo. (Figure 15)

Various newspaper article are attached.
Council Minutes from 2001 are available electronically



Figure 12 September 11 2001 memorial tablet installed in 2004



Figure 13 Jonathan Batista memorial tablet installed May 2013



Figure 14 Showing completed 2001 monument prior to removal May 2025



Figures 15 Show removed monument August 2025

Kinnelon

(Continued from Page 25)

draw up plans for the reconstruction of Stonehouse Road. Funds for this improvement will come out of capital surplus.

Councilman Glenn Sisco reported that the Kinnelon Jaycee's, as a community service project, have submitted plans for a memorial to honor Kinnelon's war dead. The memorial, to be located in front of the Municipal Building, will be two feet high and one foot, four inches wide; to be constructed of bricks matching the building and have a flagstone top. The council voted to authorize the memorial, expressing gratitude to the Jaycee's.

Sisco also reported that member of the Kinnelon Police Association and the recreation committee conducted sound tests in the rear of the Municipal Complex property where they wish to build a rifle and pistol range. The council moved that the recreation committee draw up plans for the range and submit them for further consideration.

Set Speed Limits

Approval of Ordinance 267, establishing speed limits of several borough roads, has been received from the State Department of Transportation. The limits established are: Fayson Lakes Road, 35 miles per hour; Cutlass Road, 35 miles per hour; all Smoke Rise roads, 30 miles per hour; and Ricker Road, 30 miles per hour.

The mayor and council went on record as being in approval of a land trade between the borough and Joseph Paterno. The borough wishes to acquire 10 feet of Paterno's property to enable it to widen Kiel Avenue at the turn-off into the Meadetown Shopping Center. The motion was passed with the provisos that all easement rights shall be retained by the borough and that no building be allowed on

KINNELON

Report Lt. Dorland Missing in Action

KINNELON — 2nd Lt. James N. Dorland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond P. Dorland, of 39 Fox Lodge Rd., Smoke Rise, has been reported missing in action in Korea, according to a Department of Defense announcement today.

Lt. Dorland, who has been in the Army for two years, was serving on a mission with the Air Force, directing artillery attack from the air, on March 26, when he was reported missing. He had been assigned to the 92nd AFA Battalion, Headquarters Division, since Nov. 1 of last year.

A former resident of Glen Ridge, he moved to Smoke Rise with his family a few years ago. He was graduated from Williams College, Maryland in 1950.

Lt. Dorland entered the Army two years ago, trained at Fort Dix and was commissioned at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He later was stationed at Camp Carson, Colorado and then was assigned to duty and an Arctic Indoctrination Course in Alaska before being sent to Korea.

Flagpole Honors Memory Of Lt. James Dorland

A service was held on Sunday at Smoke Rise, Butler, to dedicate a flagpole and plaque which have been given by the people of Smoke Rise in memory of Lieutenant James N. Dorland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond P. Dorland of Smoke Rise, formerly of Glen Ridge. Lieut. Dorland was killed in Korea on March 26, 1953. He was 24.

George Griesenbeck of Smoke Rise was the master of ceremonies. The Rev. Charles L. Copenhaver of Glen Ridge Congregational Church gave the dedication. The Boy Scouts of Smoke Rise served as the color guard for the flag raising.

Crash Kills Morris Marine



Lt. Vincent Jacobs
First from Kinnelon

A four-year U.S. Marine Corps veteran from Kinnelon has been killed in a helicopter crash in Vietnam.

The victim was 1st Lt. Vincent Jacobs, 23, of Fayson Lakes Road, Kinnelon. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Jacobs, of Kinnelon, and the husband of Mrs. Susan M. Jacobs, of Mount Arlington.

Lt. Jacobs was graduated from Kinnelon High School in 1965. He played freshman and varsity football and was classroom representative in his senior year.

Lt. Jacobs was known for his skill as a scuba diver, hunter and water skier. He was also active in the Police Athletic League. After graduation, he joined the Marine Corps and went to Officer's Candidate School. He was graduated as a helicopter pilot.

According to Marine sources, Lt. Jacobs was killed in a helicopter crash some months ago. He had been listed as missing. His body was recovered last week.

Lt. Jacobs was the first serviceman from Kinnelon to lose his life in the Vietnam war.



JAY T. DANDURAND

Kinnelon Pilot War Victim

KINNELON — Flags will be flown at half staff here for the next 30 days to mourn the death of Warrant Officer Jay T. Dandurand, 21, who was killed March 12 in Vietnam.

The victim's family was notified Monday.

The borough's second casualty of the Asian conflict, Dandurand was assigned to the 128th Helicopter Assault Co., 11th Aviation Group when he met death while on a rescue mission.

Dandurand, who was married to the former Sandra Adornetto of 18 Munn Ave., Riverdale, was sent to Vietnam in Decem-

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Kinnelon Pilot War Victim

(Continued from Page 1)

ber after nearly one and a half years of training in various posts throughout the country.

Dandurand took basic training at Ft. Polk, La. and went to Ft. Wolters, Texas for pre-flight training. He received flight training at Ft. Rucker, Alabama.

Dandurand's wife traveled with him during the basic training and flight training periods, but returned to live with her parents in Riverdale when he was assigned to Vietnam. The couple had no children and attended the United Methodist Church in Butler.

Born in Kankakee, Illinois, Dandurand was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dandurand of 13 White Birch Terrace and initially came to the borough in 1964.

He received his primary education in Kankakee but graduated in 1966 from Kinnelon High School where he attained a high academic rating and had also been active in the marching band.

Dandurand later improved on his musical talents by entering Newark State College where he was enrolled as a music major prior to entering the service.

The Dandurand family resided a brief time in Memphis, Tennessee after coming here in 1964 but returned permanently in August of 1969. The victim's father is plant manager at the Armour-Dian Co., Clifton.

Other survivors include a sister, Jane, an 11-year-old pupil at the Stoneybrook School, and two brothers, Mark, 23, and Randy 17. The older brother is a Vietnam veteran and graduate of Southern Illinois University while the other is a senior at Kinnelon High School.

Ironically, the family learned just two days before the death that Dandurand had been recommended for a Distinguished Flying Cross for evacuating a group of Green Beret special forces under fire.

The pilot was reportedly carrying out a similar mission on March 12 when the helicopter he was co-piloting was shot down and destroyed in the jungle about 60 miles northwest of Saigon.

Funeral arrangements, at the present time, are not complete, but are being handled by the Richards Funeral Home in Riverdale.

The borough's other Vietnam victim was Lt. Vincent L. Jacobs, a 22-year-old serviceman who gave his life on January 7, 1969. Jacobs had resided at Fayson Lakes Road.

KINNELON

Sept. 11 Memorial dedicated to fallen

BY DEBORAH WALSH
Staff Writer

Though it is said that time heals all wounds, some wounds may never completely heal. The community will never forget the victims of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 and a plaque has been dedicated in their memory on the grounds of the municipal building.

The plaque installation was a personal project for Greg Carafello, 17. His dad's closest friend, Jimmy Martello, a 1978 graduate of Kinnelon High School, was killed in the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. Carafello wanted a fitting tribute to all three victims, Martello, Seth Morris and Matthew Yarnell, who had lived in Kinnelon and tragically lost their lives in the attack.

"I felt it was the right thing to do," said Greg, who is a junior at

Don Bosco. "I asked the mayor what we could do and it was decided that a plaque would serve as a good memorial."

Greg raised the \$400 for the plaque by soliciting donations from local businesses. Taste of Reality Deli, Famularo's Deli, Kinnelon Country Wines & Liquors, Puddingstone Market and Leoscorp Variety Store made the creation of the plaque possible. The Borough Department of Works installed the plaque at the war memorials on the green at Borough Hall.

At the Dec. 5 dedication service, Greg read a poem from an unknown author that he felt was apropos. The poem was entitled, "The Measure of a Man."

The Measure of a Man

*Not – "How did he die?" But –
"How did he live?"*

*Not – "What did he gain?" But
– "What did he give?"*

*These are the units to measure
the worth*

*Of a man as a man, regardless
of birth.*

*Not – "What was his station?"
But – "Had he a heart?"*

*And – "How did he play his
God-given part?"*

*Was he ever ready with a word
of good cheer?*

*To bring back a smile, to banish
a tear?"*

*Not – "What was his church?"
Nor – "What was his creed?"*

*But – "Had he befriended
those really in need?"*

*Not – "What did the sketch in
the newspaper say?"*

*But – "How many were sorry
when he passed away?"*

The dedication started with a

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prayer from Msgr. Joseph Goode of Our Lady of the Magnificat R.C. Church. Fr. Goode referenced Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 "for everything there is a season." Fr. Goode spoke of remembering Jimmy, Matthew and Seth for their gift of love and said comfort can be taken in the fact that the three are gathered in the palm of God's hand.

Mayor Glenn Sisco said a young man, who wanted a proper place to put the three Kinnelon men's names, where they could be viewed in perpetuity, approached him. There was some brainstorming before the plaque idea materialized, he indicated.

"There is a common sadness. As time goes on, it heals a lot of things. Some healing maybe never takes place. We care and share as a community," said Sisco.

The plaque bears an image of the Kinnelon Colt, which is a symbol all three men had ties to. Yarnell and Martello were both Kinnelon High School (KHS) graduates. The colt is the symbol of Kinnelon public school sports teams and recreation department teams. Matthew Yarnell was on the KHS ski team and was a National Merit Scholar at KHS, a distinction achieved by only the brightest of students. Seth Morris was a Kinnelon Recreation Department soccer clinic coach, inline hockey coach and girl's softball coach. Jimmy Martello was a star linebacker for the KHS football team and received a full scholarship to the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. He also played basketball at KHS.

The plaque bears the three men's names and the words:

"To honor the innocent men of Kinnelon, who perished in the sinful acts of terrorist on Sept. 11, 2001. May all you have given to the town be remembered and cherished."

After the ceremony, Matthew's mother, Michele acknowledged that the pain of the loss of her son will never go completely away, but had praise for Greg's efforts.

"Greg did a great job with the plaque. It was a very nice thing to do and what was especially great about it was that a kid did it. It was a well-conducted service. Mayor Sisco did a great job. He has always shown such great interest in the people of this town."

Lynn Morris Piccolo, Seth's wife, also acknowledged Greg's efforts.

"I think it was a lovely tribute to Seth and the other victims. The plaque was beautiful," she said.

Scholarships are named for each of the three victims at KHS. Lynn Morris Piccolo said two KHS graduating seniors are awarded a \$5,000 Seth Morris Heroes Foundation scholarship annually. The scholarships are awarded to students, who demonstrate academic achievement and community service.

"I look for students, who give back to the community in any way. I receive beautiful paragraphs from students who tell me what they have done for their community. I am amazed by the quality of the students at KHS," she said.

Michele Yarnell said many youngsters have benefited by the Matthew D. Yarnell Scholarship and that continued donations are appreciated. Students may check the KHS guidance department for the criteria used to award the scholarship.

The James Martello Memorial Scholarship Fund is awarded to a student athlete that displays the type of drive and dedication Martello exhibited while at KHS.

Marianne Sticker, guidance department supervisor at KHS, said all three scholarships remain active. Donations to all three scholarship funds can be mailed to KHS at 121 Kinnelon Rd., Kinnelon, NJ 07405.

"These scholarships are awarded to students who are involved in community service. The recipients serve as good role models for younger students because all three of these scholarships are named for men who were outstanding community members," said Stricker.

Debbie Walsh's e-mail address is walshde@northjersey.com

◆ WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2013 ◆ northjersey.com/suburbantrends

KINNELON

Remembering those who gave all



PHOTO BY DEBBIE WALSH

The plaque dedicated to U.S. Army Specialist Jonathan Batista.

BY DEBORAH WALSH
Staff Writer

Amid a "Field of Freedom" containing a wave of American flags paying tribute to deceased veterans, many residents turned out for a memorial service to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Although one of the focal points of the service was the dedication of a memorial plaque honoring U.S. Army Specialist Jonathan Batista, who was killed while serving in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom on July 8, 2012, all those affiliated with the Kinnelon community who have been killed in action were honored. These included residents and/or Kinnelon High School (KHS) graduates.

Among those honored were Walter Coombs and Arthur Smyth, who were killed when serving their country during World War II. Vietnam veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice included First Lt. Vincent Jacobs of Kinnelon, who was a member of the KHS Class of 1966, and WO 1 (Warrant Officer) Jay T. DanBurand of Riverdale, who was a member of the KHS Class of 1965.

When addressing the crowd, Mayor Robert Collins recalled a scene from the movie "Saving Private Ryan" when Capt. John Miller (Tom Hanks) lies dying. Capt. Miller tells the young Private James Ryan to "earn it," meaning he should live his life to the fullest and make the sacrifices of his rescuers worth it. Collins challenged those attending to also "earn it."

Email: walshde@northjersey.com



PHOTO BY SANDY STUCKI

The American flags located on the green at the Kinnelon municipal building are part of the Field of Freedom project. The flags were donated in honor of deceased veterans, and the donations went to the America's Vet Dogs k-9 corps, and Reserve Aid.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE WALSH

Kinnelon Mayor Robert Collins addresses the crowd at a May 27 Memorial Day service.

KINNELON

Those who gave all honored at ceremony

Amid a "Field of Freedom" containing a wave of American flags paying tribute to deceased veterans, many residents turned out for a memorial service to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Although one of the focal points of the service was the dedication of a memorial plaque honoring U.S. Army Specialist Jonathan Batista, who was killed while serving in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom on July 8, 2012, all those affiliated with the Kinnelon community who have been killed in action were honored. These included residents and/or Kinnelon High School (KHS) graduates.

Complete story, see Suburban Trends, A1, May 29, 2013

Clipped By:
thomaslkline3
Aug 13, 2025



STAFF PHOTO BY JOE SARNO

Created by an Eagle Scout, a veterans memorial garden was dedicated at the Kinnelon Reformed Church on Sept. 22. A special remembrance for U.S. Army Specialist Jonathan Batista, a Kinnelon resident who was killed in action on July 8, 2012 during Operation Enduring Freedom, was part of the dedication ceremony.

Eight local Boy Scouts recognized for achieving Scouting's top rank

BY DEBORAH WALSH
Staff Writer

With only 7 percent of Boy Scouts earning Scouting's highest rank, it was especially impressive that the mayor and council had a whole flock of Eagle Scouts to honor recently.

When Mayor Robert Collins congratulated the Eagle Scouts at the April 16 Borough Council meeting, he could recall firsthand how difficult it is to attain the pinnacle of Scouting. Collins, along with his four brothers, are all Eagle Scouts.

"Becoming an Eagle Scout is a tremendous undertaking for the Scout and the Scout's family. I thank the parents for their support. Earning an Eagle Scout rank goes beyond the award. You will

carry the skills you learned with you for the rest of your life," he said.

Collins, who worked with his volunteer fire company on public awareness and communication regarding fire safety and spearheaded a project to involve the community in keeping fire hydrants free of snow during the winter months as his project, asked each of the Eagle Scouts to describe his Eagle project.

Ryan Beggs estimated his project entailed roughly 250 hours of work. He built adjustable shelving at the new Boonton Avenue Firehouse and landscaped around the flagpole of the Company No. 2 facility. Beggs said one of the most difficult aspects of his project was to rush to finish it before winter.

Matthew Subliskey constructed

shelving and an entrance ramp for a storage building at Our Lady of the Magnificat. By seeing his project through from start to finish, he said he learned leadership skills in dealing with both adults and fellow Scouts.

Andrew Bertollo constructed a veteran's memorial and reflection area at the Reformed Church in Kinnelon, which was dedicated to U.S. Army Specialist Jonathan Batista, who was killed on July 8, 2012 in Afghanistan.

Batista's family resides in Kinnelon. Bertollo said the military has always been important to him and he was glad to honor Batista. He estimated that 370 hours were dedicated to the completion of his project.

Jarrett McSpirit-Brush installed landscaping beds and a walkway

at the Kinnelon High School football (KHS) field. As a member of the KHS Colts football team, he said he valued being part of the team and wanted to build something that would engender respect among students, his team and opposing teams as they stepped onto the Fred Morse Field.

Maxwell Hofbauer built a paver patio for the snack stand at the Boonton Avenue recreational field. Hofbauer learned how to overcome difficulty, resilience and leadership skills when he realized he had the wrong type of stone for the project and had to make changes to his project.

Griffin Weiss replaced cedar posts and wrought iron fencing at Fredericks Cemetery in Fayson Lakes in Kinnelon. During the 2.5 days working at the cemetery, he enjoyed meeting residents of the neighborhood that he did not know. It was also rewarding that these residents expressed their appreciation for the work that was being done, he said.

Nicholas Summerville renovated pet stalls and constructed a pet food and supplies donation box at the Kinnelon Volunteer Animal Shelter. Summerville said he built most of his project at home so accurate measurement was especially crucial. Summerville said he learned leadership skills in supervising younger Scouts in the use of hand tools.

Historically, Kinnelon has had multiple Eagle Scouts attain scouting's highest rank. In 2010, it had an unprecedented nine Scouts earn their Eagle rank. When that event was celebrated, Ray Crane, who was advancement chairman for Troop 277, said in 2004, Troop 277 had six Eagles; in 2005, five Eagles and in 1990, 1994, 1996 and 2002, the troop had four Scouts achieve the Eagle rank.

Email: walshde@northjersey.com

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ROLL OF HONOR KINNELON BOROUGH

• Santa, Lucas V. •
• Bauer, John •
• Bott, James A. •
• Bott, John H. •
• Bott, Robert H. •
• Brassell, Jack •
• Burnett, William •
• Bayley, Muriel E. •

• Conklin, Walter •
• Cook, Elmer •
• Cook, Gordon E. •
• Courter, Edmund J. •

• Decker, Richard M. •
• Decker, Russel W. •
• Donahue, James •
• Dougherty, William •

• Foerster, Alfred •
• Foerster, Walter •

• Goodrich, Wilfred •
• Goodrich, Julius •

• Harp, Joseph C. •
• Horn, Raymond C. •
• Hooper, Robert N. •

• Kincaid, Charles O. •
• Kincaid, Richard L. •

• Lozaw, Norman C. •

• Maple, William •
• McEwan, Alexander W. •
• Miller, Denning •
• Miller, Garrie Jr. •
• Miller, Gerald •
• Mohan, Charles •
• Morris, William F. •

• Ramsay, T. A. •
• Ricker, Henry D. •
• Ricker, Lester W. •
• Rood, Charles E. •

• Sanders, Lorraine G. •
• Stephens, Herbert •
• Shea, James R. •
• Saml, Walter •
• Smith, Robert L. •
• Smyth, Arthur J. •
• Struble, Albert •

• Taylor, Ronald •
• Tintic, Delmar C. •
• Tintic, Ernest W. •
• Tintic, Joseph •

• Usinowicz, Frank •

• Van Zile, Morris •
• Van Zile, Clarence •
• Van Zile, Elmer •
• Van Zile, Howard W. •
• Visbeck, Henry •
• Volpe, Alfred •

• Warwick, A. B. •
• Whitmore, Clifford •
• Whitmore, Howard •
• Whritenour, Delmar J. •
• Whritenour, Mark F. •
• Williams, Richard E. •

• Zukowski, Walter •

will meet at 9:30 a.m.

KINNELON

V.F.W. To Dedicate Veterans' Plaque

Members of the George P. Slek Post, V.F.W. will dedicate tomorrow a plaque bearing the names of Kinnelon veterans who gave their lives in service. The service will be held at the Kinnelon School at 1 p.m.

Commander Carl G. Whritenour will dedicate the plaque. The public is invited to attend the ceremonies.

On Monday similar plaques will be dedicated by the post in Butler and Bloomingdale.

Post members will make their annual visits to various cemeteries following the dedication. They will decorate the graves of veterans and conduct services.

tel, of the Paterson Defense Council

Six From Area On Casualty List

Walter R. Coombs, of
Kinnelon, Among Those
Reported Missing

BERGEN RESIDENTS

In its fourteenth casualty list, the Navy today named six men from this vicinity as missing.

One of these is Walter Robert Coombs, yeoman, 23, son of Westervelt Coombs, of Kiel avenue, Kinnelon, whose family had been previously notified.

A graduate of Preakness Elementary school, Coombs moved to Kinnelon in 1936. Prior to service, he was employed by the Pioneer Baking company as a driver. He entered the service two years ago.

The day before notification, the family received a post card from him which, re-routed, did not disclose his location. While in Kinnelon, Coombs resided with his father and eight brothers and sisters.

The following Bergen county

(Continued on Page 12, Col. 7)

is with the Army in Ireland.

War Department Lists Casualties

Seven men, from the Paterson area appeared on the casualty lists of the government yesterday. Three were reported missing, and four wounded in action.

Missing in the European area are:

Sergt. Giovanni Russo, son of Mrs. Anna Russo of 51 Martha place, Passaic.

First Lieut. Arthur J. Smyth, son of James A. Smyth, Kiel avenue, Butler.

Second Lieut. Timothy N. Tarpey, husband of Mrs. Loretta K. Tarpey, 174 Sherman street, Passaic.

Wounded in European and Mediterranean area:

Private First Class James Kay, Jr., brother of Mrs. Isabel Roth of 474 Main street, previously reported wounded in The Call of June 14.

Private Cornelius V. Sweerus, husband of Mrs. Sadie Sweerus of 113 East Eighth street, Clifton.

Tech. 4th Gr., Thaddeus L. Sobota, son of Mrs. Mary Sobota of 5 Sherman street, Passaic, previously reported wounded in The Call of May 11.

