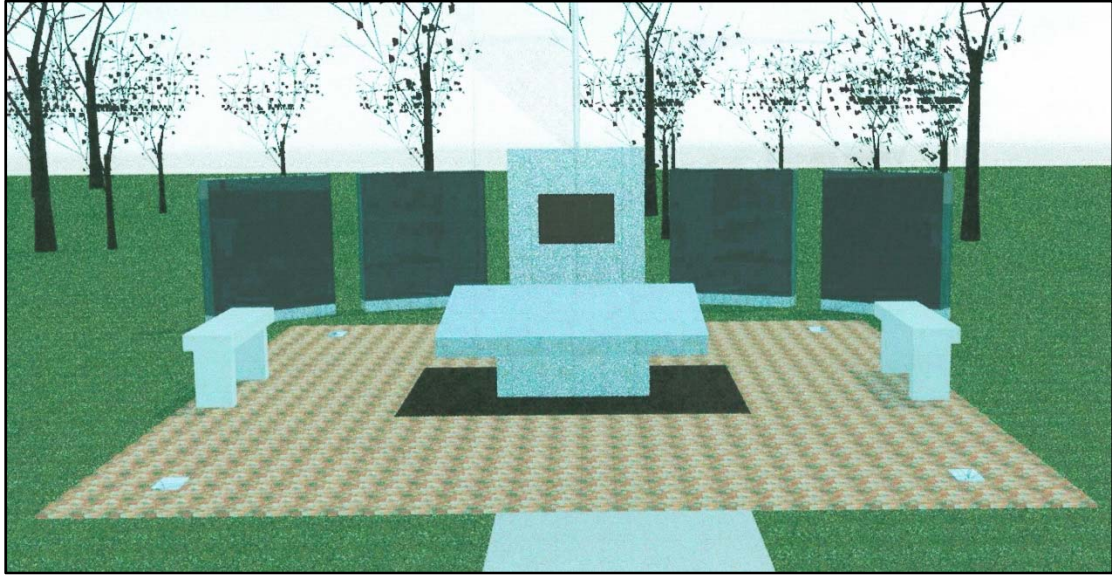


New Veteran's Memorial Wall at Echo Park



In the Fall of 2016, the Burlington Veterans asked me if I would take the lead to help fundraising efforts for a permanent Veterans Memorial Wall in Echo Park. Currently, there are 1,800 deceased veterans whose names have been placed on memorial crosses that are only displayed over Memorial Day weekend in the park. The crosses, placed individually by hand each year by the Veterans, is becoming a harder and harder task. The permanent wall will also enable families to visit this tribute to their loved ones year round.

These past months, after doing research as to what this would take, I committed myself to start the process of bringing a memorial wall to Echo Park. I am doing this not as your Mayor, but as a citizen of Burlington and a widow of a veteran who died as the result of Agent Orange.

Tom Stelling, who is also a veteran, has been donating his time and knowledge for the architectural aspect of this project. As word spread in the community, other local businesses have stepped forward including:

- The Wanasek Corporation – Excavating
- RKW Redi-Mix – Concrete
- Joel Kresken – Forming concrete walls
- Ketterhagen Memorials

Once ordered, the granite will be delivered within four months. Ketterhagen Memorials will be assisting with the granite portion of this project and engraving the 1800 names on the walls. These 1800 veterans did not die in the war or conflicts. Those who did perish during conflict are currently displayed on the wall of the Veteran's Terrace building.

This project will consist of four walls, 6 foot x 6 foot in size, with names displayed on both sides, leaving room for additional names to be added at a later date.

The pine trees that are currently on the site at Echo Park are diseased and will be removed to allow for more bricks to be laid for better wheelchair accessibility. You will not have to walk through the grass to see this expanded memorial. The large beautiful flags will remain around the new memorial.

The cost of this project will be between \$35,000 and \$42,600 when complete. Over and above the original cost, we would also like to establish an endowment fund for the families to have their loved one's names added to the wall. I am targeting Veterans Day 2017 for the unveiling.

I do not know of any family or friend that does not have a connection with a veteran. Veterans never ask for much but we need to give back. I am asking the community to rise up and send your donations as quickly as possible to:

VFW

Attention: Memorial Wall

P.O. Box 106

Burlington, WI 53105

The VFW is a 501(c)(3)