

# Spring Grove Area Veterans Memorial



[www.springgroveveteransmemorial.org](http://www.springgroveveteransmemorial.org)



# The Spring Grove Area Veterans Memorial

## Mission of the Spring Grove Area Veterans Group, LLC

The Spring Grove Area Veterans Memorial Group, LLC, is organized exclusively to support the mission of establishing a memorial in Spring Grove Minnesota to honor the service of Spring Grove area veterans, both living and dead, who have honorably served our nation both in peace and in war.

The SGAVMG, LLC was formed in the summer of 2015, and we held our first Board Meeting on September 15, 2015.

The Spring Grove Area Veterans Memorial was dedicated on June 17, 2017 during the 2017 Homecoming.



# Genesis of the Spring Grove Area Veterans Memorial

- The genesis for the memorial occurred in June of 2015 when Charlie Sylling and his wife Candyce were passing through Winnebago, MN, when they discovered a beautiful and moving memorial to that town's more than 400 veterans in the city park. I said to myself, "Spring Grove should have one of these."
- A few weeks later Charlie met with Dean Johnson, USMC, now deceased, to discuss the idea of building a veterans memorial in Spring. We met in the park to to gain a sense of what we could do, and where could we fit it.
- A few minutes later the carillon at Trinity Lutheran Church began to play, and I knew then that Viking Memorial Park was the proper place for the memorial.
- Over the next several months Charlie spoke with more than 80 Spring Grove area veterans and citizens to get their thoughts on building a memorial. I was convinced that Spring Grove would support it and we should go forward with the project.
- On September 15, 2015, we briefed the City Council and received their support, and the next day we formed the Spring Grove Area Veterans Memorial Group. We elected the Board and adopted our bylaws, and we were off and running.
- The Board looked at 11 different designs and examined 15 different potential sites in and around Spring Grove. None could compare to a site in the park. On November 17, 2015, the City Council voted to approve the project at this site.



# Planning

- We began collecting names almost immediately. First, we established the criteria for listing names. Those criteria are:
  - Honorable service in either the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, and also the Merchant Marine during time of war. Honorable service was verified by discharge papers whenever possible.
  - Second, we required ties to the Spring Grove area. The geographical area was defined to include town of Spring Grove, the Spring Grove and Blackhammer townships, and the western half of Wilmington township. It generally aligned with the Spring Grove school district and the zip code. We later expanded the geographical area to include the northern edges of Allamakee and Winneshiek counties, since many veterans from those areas were members of Spring Grove Legion Post 249.
  - Ties included people who grew up in Spring Grove or the surrounding townships, and also those who grew up elsewhere but later settled in Spring Grove.
- We received absolutely invaluable support from Georgia Rosehdahl from the Giants of the Earth Heritage Center, from David Klinski of Caledonia, our Civil War researcher, and Theresa Gavin-Kubitz, of the Houston County Veterans Service Office.



# Researching Names

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# Fund Raising

- The Board developed a schedule and a budget, and we resolved that we would raise all necessary funds through donations. We would not use tax-payer dollars.
- The Board adopted a policy whereby no veteran would be denied having his or her name added to the memorial for lack of a donation.
- Donations are 100% voluntary.
- The board placed hundreds of phone calls and wrote hundreds of letters asking veterans and citizens to make donations in support of the memorial.
- The Board issued Requests for Proposals, received and reviewed bids, and selected local bidders including Four Seasons Construction, Van Minsel Bros. Construction, and LaCrosse Memorials. Bob Gunderson, Robert Gunderson, SGA Group, Inc. provided the plans.
- As of January 2023 the SGAVMG has received more than 400 donations.



# Construction

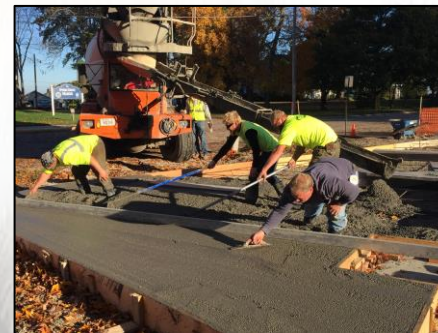
Broke ground on October 3, 2016.



## Preparing the Footers



## Pouring the Slab





# Construction

## Moving World War 1 Stone



High School

## Setting the Stones





# Construction

## Completed Minnesota Dedication Stone





# Names on the Memorial

- At the Dedication Ceremony in June, 2017 there were 1030 names on the memorial.
- Each year since the dedication we have added addition names.
- As of February 1, 2023, the Memorial Lists 1084 Names from the Civil War to the Present (subject to change each year)
- Names on the Memorial Include:

– Indian and Civil War	177
– Spanish American War	3
– WW I and the 1910s	183
– WW II and the 1940s	333
– Korea and the 1950s	154
– Vietnam and 1960 - 1975	176
– Lebanon, Grenada and Panama and 1976 – 1989	15
– Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan and Global War on Terror	43
- The Names Include the 60 Veterans Who Gave the Last Full Measure of Devotion.



# The Last Full Measure of Devotion



60 Spring Grove Area Veterans Have Lost Their Lives While in the Service



# Dedication Ceremony

## June 17, 2017



Civil War Ladies



WW2 Veterans



Flag Raising



1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Band



Visitors



Guest Speakers



# God Bless Our Veterans

Vietnam and 1960-1975

CAYLOP  
THOMAS W. ANDREWS  
CHARLES E. ARDINGER SR.  
ROGER D. ASKEKSON  
DAVID L. ASKEKSON  
DONALD G. BAGLEY  
ROBERT F. BAUMBACH  
DAVID W. BENSON  
LARRY C. BENTLEY  
STEVEN S. BERGRUD  
CRAIG P. BERGSGAARD  
ROGER A. BJERGUM  
BRUCE S. BRATLAND  
GERALD W. BRATLAND  
FORDYCE L. BREVIC  
GARY M. BREVIC  
ROBERT W. BREVIC  
JAMES J. BUSTA  
GARY O. BUXENGARD  
LELAND C. BUXENGARD  
VINCENT CAROLAN  
ALLEN "PUD" DETERS  
GERALD A. DETERS  
HOWARD C. DETERS  
RONALD A. DIX  
JOHN O. DOELY  
JOHN ANNE DOERING  
VILAS H. EIKEN  
JOSEPH H. ELLINGSON  
O. CHARLES ELLINGSON  
STEPHEN W. ELLINGSON  
THOMAS A. ELTON  
TOMAS V. B. ON

DAVID I. HOWARD  
JEROME  
ALEXANDER  
DAVID J. JOHNSON  
DENNIS R. JOHNSON  
LENNIS D. JOHNSON  
OWEN S. JOHNSON  
GERALD W. KAMPSCHROER  
DENNIS B. KARLSBROTEN  
ROBERT V. KARLSBROTEN  
RICHARD A. KILLINGSTAD  
ANTHONY KLAPPERICH  
DUANE A. KLEGSETH  
CARLYN G. KRAABEL  
MERVIN D. KROGSTAD  
RODNEY E. KROGSTAD  
GARY B. KROSHUS  
MARK D. KUMPF  
OZZIE M. LANDSON  
LENNIS D. LANGUE  
NEIL R. LARSON  
ARDELL C. LIEN  
DARREL A. MANN  
ADRIAN L. MOEN  
GERALD A. MOEN  
RONALD D. MOEN  
LYLE E. MOREY  
ROGER L. MORKEN  
STEVEN M. MORKEN  
JAMES O. MYHRE  
KEITH "PEANUTS" MYHRE  
MILTON C. MYHRE  
RICHARD A. MYRAH  
DAVID M. MYRAH  
LEONARD C. MYRAH  
JOHN E. NERSTAD  
JOHN P. NEVE  
LARRY C. NIERLING  
LARRY C. NORDSVING  
CA. CRAKES DAHL

GUY  
CUREN  
JEFF C. HALLID  
DENNIS R. HED  
GARY C. SHUB SR.  
TERRY T. SCHUTE  
DEAN R. SCHUTTMEIER  
LEON A. SCHUTTMEIER  
BERT T. SELNESS  
JOEL D. SKAUGE  
ROGER L. SKAUGE  
ODELL M. SOBERG  
ALDEN O. SOBERG  
DAVID L. SOBERG  
GARY L. SOLIE  
MARK J. SOLIE  
GEORGE E. SOLUM  
RICHARD SOLUM  
ROBERT E. STADUM  
ROGER D. STEINHUR  
JUDITH L. STINER  
STEVEN R. STOCK  
DAVID A. STORIE  
LESLIE A. STORIE  
CHARLES O. SYLLIN  
THOMAS J. TEFF  
MARVIN L. THOMP  
STEVEN W. THOMP  
THOMAS TALLESS  
HARLAN S. TWEE  
THOMAS N. TWEE  
DENNIS WESTER  
GORDON W. VOI  
LARRY A. VONGA  
EDWARD D. WALL  
DENNIS R. WALL  
DENNIS C. WAHL



A close-up, slightly faded image of a bald eagle's head and neck, facing right. The eagle has white feathers and a yellow beak. In the background, the stars and stripes of the American flag are visible. A large, semi-transparent watermark with the word "DRAFT" is oriented diagonally across the center of the image.

# Service Histories of Veterans Listed on the Memorial



# Criteria for Placing Names on the Memorial

- Honor Roll, Legion Post 249 membership, and veteran and/or family request.
- DD214 required from non-Legion members.
- If the family cannot locate the DD214 or other discharge papers, burial in a national or state veterans cemetery or proof of a VA gravestone will suffice as proof of honorable service.
- Ties to Spring Grove that can be verified including:
  - Lived in or near Spring Grove to include Blackhammer, western Wilmington (within 55974 zip code and/or Spring Grove School District) and Spring Grove Townships;
  - Or attended Spring Grove school system.
- Veterans who have moved away from Spring Grove or those who have moved to Spring Grove will be included upon their request.
- Living veteran's names will be included with their permission.
- Spring Grove Legion Post 249 members from northern Iowa are eligible for inclusion.
- Veterans from Iowa who are not members of Spring Grove Legion Post 249 need to establish ties to Spring Grove to be eligible.





Year

Highest Rank  
Branch of Service  
Years When He/She Served (YYYY-YYYY)



Year

Space for Text from Veteran or Family

Text must fit on one slide.

Suggested inputs:

Ties to Spring Grove – lived where before enlisting...

Schools ...

Military Specialty –Units, Location, Specialty

Bases of assignments ...

Military Decorations ...

After service ...

Married and family ...

Lives where now? ...

Died ....



# Military Histories of Listed Veterans

- The SGAVMG has begun a program to enable the public to view veterans' pictures, military history and biographies by using existing internet communications in the city park.
- How does this work?
  - The veteran must already have or be eligible to have his or her name on the memorial.
  - Log onto our website at <https://www.springgroveveteransmemorial.org> and navigate to the Veterans Biographies tab at the top of the page.
  - Download the Biographical Information form. Complete the form and return it per the instructions on the form.
  - The veteran or a family member provides needed information including name, photographs, service information, post service, etc.
- The veteran or his family must agree that any information submitted for inclusion will be placed in the public domain and displayed on our website.
- The SGAVMG will add the information to our PowerPoint and publish the information on our website [www.springgroveveteransmemorial.org](http://www.springgroveveteransmemorial.org)
- Visitors can log onto this website with cell or wifi, navigate to Veteran's Biographies, and click a link to open the document.



Picture While  
in the  
Service

Highest Rank  
Years When He/She Served (YYYY-YYYY)

Branch of Service

Contemporary  
Picture Later in  
Life

**Date of Photo**

**Date of Photo**

Space for Text from Veteran or Family  
Font Calibri (Body) no smaller than 18 pt.  
Text must fit on one slide.

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Ties to Spring Grove – lived where before enlisting...

Schools ...

Military Specialty –Units, Location, Specialty

Bases of assignments ...

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Married and family ...

Lives where now? ...

Died ....





Submit questions or comments to  
[charliesyiling@gmail.com](mailto:charliesyiling@gmail.com)

or

Call 360.387.7512 after 10 AM Pacific Time

Highest Rank