

Centennial War Memorial Dedication

November 11, 1986



ABOUT THE MEMORIAL

The Concept

The idea for a war memorial was conceived quite simply out of the need for such a monument.

We now have something visible on which to direct our thoughts about our freedom. The memorial is a reminder that many of our native sons and daughters have paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we enjoy today.

The memorial project began as part of the celebration last year of the City of Mount Airy's 100th birthday. Along with many events that were planned and carried out last year, it was determined that our plans should include some things that would be lasting. We wanted to let future generations know that in 1985, we celebrated our first 100 years as a city, with love, devotion and some thought of the past, present and future.

Two projects emerged—the publishing of a book, "Collections and Recollections", and a campaign to raise more than \$50,000 to construct a Centennial War Memorial. The replacement cost of the memorial far exceeds \$50,000.

What you see here today is the culmination of a lot of thought, time and energy on the part of many individuals. The cost of bringing the dream of the memorial to a reality has been borne by individual donations from many adults and children; from churches, civic clubs, business, industry, and from our city government.

We can be proud that we are leaving a legacy for the generations that will follow.

The Design

The design of the memorial was not easily decided. Many hours were spent thinking and planning. The decision was made that the memorial would recognize those who died in combat, from wounds suffered in combat or from disease contracted during any past wars.

Obtaining the many names appearing on the memorial was a major undertaking. Old records available locally, and at the state and federal level were researched. We are already aware that there are other names to be added. Provisions have been made to add those names once they are verified.

The etching of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima during World War II was chosen as the focal point of the memorial because it is the most symbolic and familiar portrayal of America's commitment to freedom throughout the world known to this generation.

The quote from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was selected because it is an echo to this generation of the affirmation of our forefathers that freedom must never perish from the earth.

The dedication at the front of the memorial is all-encompassing—for names that have unintentionally been left off of the memorial and for any names that may be added in the future.

As you examine the memorial, we encourage you to keep several things in mind. The memorial is unique in that it was conceived, developed and built locally from native granite.

The angled-wings of the memorial are as outstretched arms, seemingly embracing the names of loved ones etched on its surface.

The doves are messengers of peace—the peace we all long for and know can never be if freedom is not preserved. There is no peace where there is no freedom.

The free-flowing water from the fountain is a reminder of the freedoms we have all been endowed with from our Creator. The names remind us that freedom has a price and because the price is so high, we must never take that freedom lightly.

**Barbara Summerlin, Chairman
The Centennial War Memorial Celebration**

PROGRAM

- Musical Prelude** North Surry and Mount Airy High School Bands
- Welcome** Mayor W. Maynard Beamer
- Invocation** Rev. Lee Meadows
- Flag Raising Ceremony** Sgt. James P. Byrd, N. C. National Guard
- National Anthem** David Pruett, Soloist
- Pledge of Allegiance** Led by Patrick Long
- Ceremony Honoring Deceased Veterans** Begins with
Presentation of Colors and Lowering of Flag to Half-Staff
- Placing of Wreath at the Memorial** Mayor W. Maynard Beamer
Jack Reagan, National Councilman for VFW for Tennessee and North Carolina
Harvey W. Hall, Past Commander, American Legion
Larry B. Scott, VFW Commander
Jack L. Leach, American Legion Commander
- 21-Gun Salute** Mondell Hunter
- Sounding of Taps** Christian Hinkle, Eddie Slate, David Hicks
- Introduction of Speakers** Mayor Pro Tem Bowman George
- Dedication** Mayor W. Maynard Beamer
- Musical Celebration** David and Cathy Pruett
North Surry: Sheila Jones, Angela Danley, Cathy Grant, Kelli Cail, Stacey Butcher
Mount Airy: Laura Smith Tina Irvin, Natalie Nester, Andrea Green
- Singing of "God Bless America"** Everyone
- Benediction** Rev. Charles Carter
- Band Music Continues**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mount Airy Centennial War Memorial Committee:

George W. Summerlin, Co-Chairman
C. Richard Vaughn, Co-Chairman
Claude E. Hooker VFW Post 2019
Jessie B. Jones American Legion Post 128

Design Committee

Anthony E. Chilton
Lewis F. Collins
Fred W. Smith
George W. Summerlin
Lacy S. Vernon
C. Richard Vaughn

Centennial War Memorial Celebration Committee:

Barbara Summerlin, Chairman
Mayor W. M. Beamer
Parker Martin
Dot Boyles
Cathy Pruett
Jim Grimes
David Pruett
Farah Hayden
George Summerlin
Tanya Jackson
Norman Webb

The Committee Extends A Special Thank You To The Following:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars
The American Legion
Frank E. Walker and Son, DAV, Chapter 61
The N. C. National Guard
East Surry ROTC
The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
The Bands of North Surry and Mount Airy High Schools
Moody Funeral Services
Airmont Florist
Harold's Lawn and Garden Center
Graham Flowers
Granite City Florist
Utility Trailer Sales
Cox House of Flowers
WPAQ for Broadcasting
Hospital Flower Shop

The cooperation of everyone participating in this celebration is deeply appreciated.