



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2021

BROWNSVILLE HONORS VETERANS WITH MEMORIAL WALL

Uniontown, PA – Brownsville residents now have a place to honor their military veterans.

A new honor roll was erected in the middle of the town. Black granite uprights list the names of those killed in action or missing in action, while bricks in the ground feature the names of Brownsville's other veterans.

The Brownsville Area Military Wall was dedicated in November 2020. The ceremony originally was scheduled for Veterans Day, Nov. 11, but had to be delayed until Nov. 14.

Denny Falsetto, who chaired the project, said it was a labor of love stretching back five years.

"Five years ago, I was having coffee with Jack Lawver, who was the council chairman at the time," Falsetto recalled. "He mentioned that we didn't have an honor roll in town. I didn't realize I was going to be elected as chairman of the committee."

Nevertheless, Falsetto, himself a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran, accepted his new role and ran with it. He filed for 501c3 status as a nonprofit and began taking donations to fund the new memorial. Redstone Excavating was called in to clear and level the land, and gravel was put down, as well. Falsetto said most of the work was done by committee members.

"It was something that I felt pretty strongly about, that I thought needed to be done," he said.

Its dedication to its veterans has earned the Brownsville Area Military Wall the title of January "Place" in the Fayette County Public Relations Initiative's Faces and Places series.

Falsetto said Brownsville used to have an honor roll, but it was torn down, and he and many others felt it was time to put up another. So, with the help of his committee of dedicated volunteers, Falsetto began the lengthy research process.

"The research that we had to do, it was just trying to find names," he said.

Falsetto said when the previous honor roll was demolished, the names on it were not recorded or preserved anywhere. So, Falsetto and the others combed through newspaper articles, old yearbooks, and any other records they could find to come up with as accurate a list as possible of every Brownsville veteran, living or dead.

Falsetto said there are currently 300 bricks on the ground portion of the honor roll, with another 125 ordered for delivery in the spring. Seven benches are awaiting installation in the spring as well, and Falsetto said he anticipates that the names also will need to be updated.

“I’m sure we missed some people,” he said. “We have to add three names right now, that we know of.”

Falsetto said it was “unreal” how much help the project drew from the community, both hands-on and through financial donations.

“One guy donated \$3,000, and he didn’t even want us to put his name on a brick,” Falsetto said.

Falsetto said some residents heard about the project only after the honor roll was finished, but they still can include the names of their loved ones. The granite uprights allow for more names to be etched, and bricks still are available.

“People can still purchase bricks. We’re never going to shut that off,” he said.

Falsetto said the project has met with “nothing but positive” feedback from the community, and he is grateful to everyone who had a hand in installing the new honor roll.

“I can’t thank people enough,” he said.

For information on purchasing a brick, email Falsetto at lfalsetto@yahoo.com.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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This communication is part of the Fayette County PR Initiative, which is funded through the 2016 Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) in cooperation with the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, The Redstone Foundation and other partners. This funding has been designated for the continued promotion and marketing of Fayette County, PA.

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