



The Annual Letter to our Elmlawn Community

Elmlawn Memorial Park has accomplished so much this year as we continue to enhance our mission of serving families in the community. We are grateful to all of our supporters.

Highlights of 2022 include:

- Completion of the new Veterans Memorial in the Field of Honor
- Outreach to the community with events such as the annual Fun Run with Kenmore Alliance Church, and our Family Fall Festival in October.
- Continued progress on the arboretum project, now accredited by a national Arboretum Accreditation Association.

Those are just some of the enhancements made possible with the guidance and support of the Elmlawn Memorial Park Foundation. Our Foundation works to secure grants and other funding for the continued beautification and maintenance of the park. The new Field of Honor memorial could not have happened without their good stewardship. Now, as we look toward our plans for 2023 and beyond, we look to community members like you for your help.

Since 1901, Elmlawn has been the place where families, friends and neighbors can honor and remember loved ones who have died. Your donation to the Elmlawn Memorial Park Foundation will help assure this beautiful community asset is here for generations to come.

Donations are tax deductible according to IRS guidelines and by contributing now, your gift can count for this tax year. Any and all contributions are appreciated, and you can use the form here to make your donation. If you have any questions, please call us at 716-876-8131 and our staff can assist you. And visit elmlawncemetery.org for more information.

On behalf of the members of our Foundation and everyone at Elmlawn Memorial Park, thank you for your consideration and best wishes for the new year.

Michael Austin
President
Elmlawn Memorial Park

Richard Adams
President
Elmlawn Memorial Park Foundation

Complete and mail this form along with your support in the enclosed postage paid envelope.

You can also make a donation via PayPal by visiting our web site – elmlawncemetery.com.

Yes, I want to support Elmlawn Memorial Park.

Enclosed is my donation of: \$_____ Please make check payable to Elmlawn Memorial Park Foundation.

I would like my donation to go toward:

☐ Arboretum Fund ☐ Beautification Efforts ☐ Adopt a Flower Bed ☐ Sustaining Fund ☐ Field of Honor

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail Address _____ Telephone (optional) _____

Elmlawn Memorial Park, 3939 Delaware Ave, Kenmore, NY 14217 | 716-876-8131 | www.elmlawncemetery.org



A Newsletter of the **Elmlawn Memorial Park Foundation** | Winter 2022

NEW VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATED AT ELMMLAWN

Ceremony highlights collaboration of many in honoring WNY veterans

Officials from Elmlawn Memorial Park were joined by New York State Senator Sean Ryan and New York State Assemblyman Bill Conrad this past Veterans Day for a special dedication of a new monument installed at Elmlawn Memorial Park's Field of Honor. The dedication marked the latest chapter in Elmlawn's long tradition of honoring those who have served our nation in the U.S. military.

Funding to replace an aging monument with a new memorial – and refurbish the surrounding grounds in the Field of Honor – came from several supporters:

- Senator Ryan and Assemblyman Conrad each secured \$27,000 in state aid for a total of \$54,000;
- Elmlawn Memorial Park Foundation obtained \$13,600 for replacing the monument;
- \$10,700 was provided as a donation from memorial designer and builder Leon Komm & Son in Buffalo;
- \$2,900 was pledged toward labor in support of the project by Elmlawn Memorial Park and the Milton J. Brounshidle American Legion Post 205 in Tonawanda.

"Elmlawn Memorial Park's Field of Honor is a wonderful tribute to our country's fallen veterans," said Senator Ryan. "I thank everyone who had a role in the completion of this enhancement to an already beautiful memorial site."

"I commend Elmlawn Memorial Park and all the donors for their tireless commitment to this project, which offers a poignant tribute to all who've served our country," added Assemblyman Conrad. "It is a special occasion and privilege to join our veterans' groups on Veterans Day for such a meaningful dedication."



See inside for more on Elmlawn Memorial Park

Cover story continued

In addition to the American Legion, the Veterans Day dedication ceremony featured representatives of other key veterans’ groups from across Erie and Niagara counties, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Patriot Guard Riders.

According to Mike Austin, president of Elmlawn Memorial Park, an existing concrete memorial was more than 80 years old and in need of replacement. Crews removed the memorial while keeping a globe that rested at its base. Preserved as the centerpiece of the new monument, the globe is inscribed, "Gratefully dedicated to those who served and sacrificed in all our wars." The beautiful new granite gazebo features built-in seating with areas for inscriptions and a stainless-steel dome with decorative floral work.



“Elmlawn Memorial Park’s Field of Honor is a wonderful tribute to our country’s fallen veterans”
– Senator Ryan

Message from the PRESIDENT

Michael Austin, President, Elmlawn Memorial Park

The completion of our new Veterans Memorial monument at Elmlawn is the result of extraordinary collaboration among our government officials, cemetery leaders and staff, veterans’ groups, and members of the community. I want to take this opportunity to thank so many supporters.

First, thank you to Senator Ryan and Assemblyman Conrad for their assistance with the funding for this memorial. Their recognition of the importance of this project was key to our success. Next, I wish to thank Ted Balbierz, commander of the Brounshidle Post in Kenmore and Elmlawn board member, for his leadership and direction in making this such an important project for our community. Thanks are also extended to Michael Komm and Komm Monuments for their generosity, their work in finding such a beautiful memorial, and their skill in assembling our new feature.

The project would not have been possible without the support of the board of directors of Elmlawn Memorial Park led by Paul Chisholm, and the board of the Elmlawn Memorial Park Foundation led by Richard Adams. Thank you for your leadership on this project and for your ongoing commitment to Elmlawn.

I also must thank Anthony Caruana, former Town of Tonawanda supervisor and retired brigadier general in the Army Reserve. Tony and I began talking about this project a few years ago on a Memorial Day morning, and he was instrumental in bringing this coalition together to turn our discussions into reality.

There are many other community members and supporters who deserve our thanks, but too many to list. Most importantly, I humbly thank the bravest and most selfless among us in whose honor we dedicate the new monument.



Honoring our veterans is our privilege

For more than a century, Elmlawn Memorial Park has honored all of our men and women military members, with several areas dedicated to U.S. veterans. Memorials have been placed for veterans of World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War.

The new monument is centered on the Path of the Genotaphs dedicated to veterans of all wars. The markers surrounding the path are memorials to members of the Kenmore-Tonawanda community

who were killed in action overseas during WWI and WWII, but whose remains were never able to be returned to their loved ones.

Every Memorial Day, Veterans Day and on other special occasions, ceremonies are held in the Field of Honor to remember all those who have served. The ceremonies have become community events, attended by families of veterans, area veterans’ groups, and proud citizens wishing to honor their neighbors and fellow countrymen.

It is our privilege to care for our fallen soldiers in their final resting place.

Elmlawn offers several options for veteran burials including special discounts for veterans and their spouses. Memorial markers are also available for veterans from the Veteran’s Administration that require a foundation and placement fee to the cemetery. However, Elmlawn can order the memorial marker at no charge. elmlawncemetery.org or call our office at 716-876-8131 for more information.

Masons restoring second memorial at Elmlawn



Last year, members of the Masons’ Renaissance Lodge in Western New York stepped in to help repair a unique and historic Freemasons Memorial, thought to have been part of Elmlawn since the beginnings of the park in the early 1900s. Lodge members raised funds and contracted with a professional stone masonry company to perform repairs on the stone altar and surrounding stone chairs once used for services honoring Masons who had passed away.

The local Masons returned this year to help perform a similar restoration on another Masonic altar on the north side of the park. Work is underway and a stone masonry company is making repairs as weather permits. Once work is completed, the lodge members plan to reintroduce services at the memorials for Masons who have passed.

Elmlawn would like to express our appreciation to the Masons for all the hard work and volunteer hours that went into these restorations, enhancing the beauty and history of the park even more.

Family Fall Fest returns to Elmlawn

For the first time in three years, Elmlawn Memorial Park hosted its annual Family Fall Festival in October, drawing nearly 4,000 people from the community. The free event held on park grounds featured horse-drawn hayrides, a petting zoo, kid’s games and entertainment, pumpkins for purchase and decorating, vendors, food and more. Kids were encouraged to come in costume for “trick or treating” fun.



5K Fun Run makes a comeback

After a two-year delay due to the pandemic, the 5th Annual Kenmore Alliance Church 5K and 1K Family Fun Run & Walk returned to Elmlawn Memorial Park this past October. The event was organized by Kenmore Alliance Church and the races took place within the park, with medals presented to the first 250 finishers of both races. Post-race festivities including awards and food were held at the congregation’s newly expanded church campus in Tonawanda.

