Washington Township Veterans keep busy during special week

BY MARK KITCHIN

WASHINGTON TWP. -- Veterans Day this year is on Wednesday but the members of the American Veterans Association of Washington Township Post 1776 are already making arrangements to visit area schools and talk about the importance of the day and what it means to them.

In some area schools they are holding flag raisings. At others they are doing interviews and talking to the students.

The schedule so far has Post members appearing at Old Farmer's Road School on Nov. 4 for a 9:15 a.m. flag raising ceremony.

They are to visit West Morris Central High School on Wednesday, Nov. 11. They are scheduled to be there from 8-11 a.m. Any further arrangements have not been made as of this writing.

The veterans will be at the Flocktown-Kossmann school on Thursday, Nov. 12 for an 8:15 a.m. flag raising at the flagpole between the schools.

They will be at the Benedict A. Cucinella School on Friday, Nov. 13 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. for a flag raising and later a question and answer session with the fifth graders at the school.

Road Trip

On Sept. 22, many of the veterans took a visit to New Jersey's Vietnam Veterans War Memorial in Holmdel. The Memorial honors the sacrifices made by the 1,566 New Jersey residents who gave their lives while serving in Southeast Asia.

Town veteran Chuck Dauchert serves as a docent at the memorial and held a tour with some fellow Vietnam veterans.

There are 366 black granite panels on a wall depicting the names and dates of death of men and women killed in the Vietnam War from New Jersey.

Stanley D. Pfrommer, was a 1962 graduate of West Morris High School. He was from Budd Lake and went to West Morris prior to it becoming a central high school. He was killed In action on Sept. 6, 1966.

Larry Maysey is listed as missing in action in Laos. Maysey was a 1965 graduate of West Morris Central. His panel gives Nov. 9, 1967 as his date of death.

The panel for Nov. 16, 1967 is for John Lance Lindaberry, the only military person from Washington Township that was killed in Vietnam.

The black granite panels are reflective and Vietnam veterans always say that the names on the wall are telling us to always teach and remember their legacy and never forget.

A group of about 25 veterans and family members took the trip to Holmdel. Along with the wall, the sites included a sculpture designed by Thomas J. Warren and a restored Huey helicopter which served two tours in Vietnam and was restored by other Vietnam Veterans.

"You ask any Vietnam Veteran about what they remember about Vietnam, and the first thing they will say will be the heat, the smell, but the very best thing was the sound of the Huey," Dauchert said in a note to former post commander Thomas McBride. "It has an extremely unique wonk-wonk sound that to this day every one of us stops what we are doing and knows exactly what is coming and its location."

The group, which included members of Post 1776 and the Heath Village retirement community, had a very good day, according to Dauchert.

"It was the very first time one of the Vietnam veterans from Heath Village had ever been to any wall and it was rewarding to him that some of the things from the past could be put to rest," Dauchert said.



Photo courtesy of Post 1776

On Sept. 22, 15 people, some of them veterans of American Veterans of Washington Township took a road trip to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans War Memorial.in Holmdel They are from left to right: George Salamy, Dorothy Dauchert, Chuck Dauchert, Larry Oppel, Gloria Koluch, Linda Oppel, Jim Taylor, Eileen Twomey, Don Cable, Ed Twomey, Charlie Davidson, Bob Rice, Dottie Crossett, Joe Galveo and Mary Ellen Cairo.

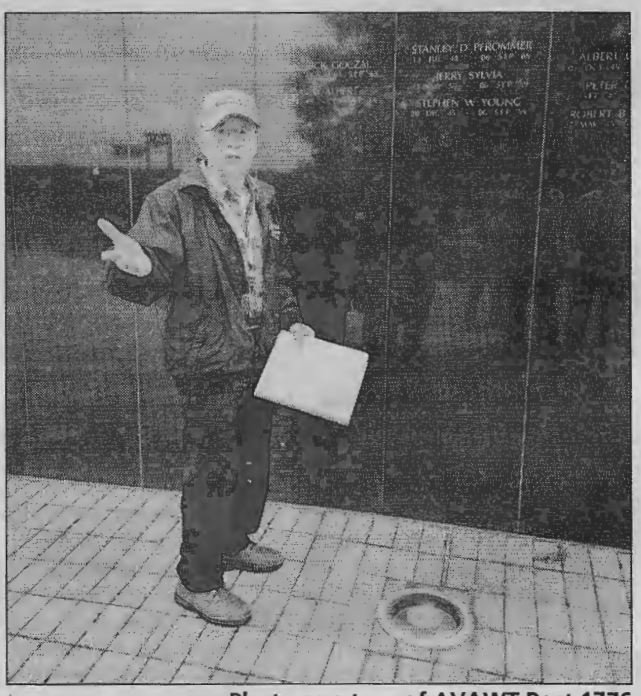


Photo courtesy of AVAWT Post 1776

Long Valley's Chuck Dauchet, a member of American Veterans Association of Washington Township, also gives tours at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans War Memorial. Here he is in front of the Memorial Wall on Sept. 22.